

Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) Integral University, Lucknow

Brief report on Kisan Pathshala on Integrated Pest Management (एकीकृत हानिकारक कीट प्रबंधन) organised by Department of Agriculture, IIAST on 29th July 2019 in Sadamau Village

Kisan Pathshala also popularly known as Million Farmers School, is an extension programme that the government of UP has initiated in 2017 with a view to encouraging the use of modern farming techniques, to make farming more profitable, sustainable, and resilient. Unlike traditional extension services, Kisan Pathshala integrates various facets of Agricultural knowledge into a packaged format and delivers it through village-level training to farmers. Keeping the above objective in mind, a Kisan Pathshala was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) to sensitize the natives of the Bhagat Purva Village

The Programme was observed under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The faculty coordinators Dr Md Abu Nayyer and Dr Salman along with the supporting staff Mr. Anupam Singh accompanied students of B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture to the Sadamau village where the Pathshala was organised.

The pathshala aimed to educate farmers on about integrated pest management and adopt sustainable agricultural practices and methods to enhance the value of their produce. Dr Salman Ahmad shared valuable insights into the principles and benefits of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), stressing its importance in reducing the reliance on harmful pesticides. Farmers learned about the use of natural predators, bio-pesticides, crop rotation, and other eco-friendly techniques to manage pests effectively while minimizing environmental impact. The session emphasized the significance of IPM not only in pest control but also in maintaining soil health and biodiversity. In addition to IPM, the pathshala focused on the value addition of vegetable and fruit crops grown during the Kharif season. Dr Md Abu Nayyer introduced the farmers to various techniques such as grading, sorting, packaging, and processing that add value to their produce. These value-added practices not only increase the marketability of crops but also fetch better prices, ultimately boosting the income of farmers. Practical demonstrations were conducted to showcase simple yet effective methods of post-harvest handling and processing.

By the end of the "Kisan Pathshala," farmers expressed enthusiasm and eagerness to implement the knowledge gained. The event proved to be a significant step towards promoting sustainable agricultural practices and empowering farmers with the tools to enhance the value of their vegetable and fruit crops during the Kharif season. It served as a platform for the Department of Agriculture, IIAST to support the farming community in Sadamau village towards a more prosperous and sustainable agricultural future. The Programme was concluded after taking the feedback of farmers and students for assessing their level of satisfaction, which revealed that the majority of people attending the Programme was delighted with the way Kisan Pathshala and awareness campaign was organized and the quality of contents which were delivered.

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Glimpses of the event

