



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

Brief report on Kisan Goshti organized by Department of Agriculture, IIAST on "Watershed management and government schemes supporting irrigation facilities"

Watershed management involves the sustainable management of water and land resources within a watershed (an area of land that drains to a common point). Effective watershed management ensures the availability of water for agricultural and domestic use, while also maintaining the ecological health of the watershed.

During the season of Zaid and onset of kharif season, the Department of agriculture, IIAST recognized the need of awareness amongst farmers about Watershed management development in local areas and various schemes related to irrigation facilities provided to the farmers. The Department of Agriculture and the Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST) arranged Kisan Goshthi in Achramau village on 2nd May, 2024. The Goshthi was addressed by Er. Ashfaq, Assistant Professor, Dr Ayush, Assistant Professor and Dr Setu Ratnam, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture. The Goshti was observed under the guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Director, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology.

Er. Ashfaq explained about Rainwater harvesting as an important technique, involving the collection and storage of rainwater for Agricultural and domestic use. This can be achieved through methods such as rooftop rainwater harvesting and the creation of ponds or tanks. Sustainable agriculture practices are vital for long-term soil health and productivity. These include crop rotation and intercropping to maintain soil fertility, and organic farming to reduce chemical use and promote soil health. Dr. Ayush explained about practicing afforestation which enhances watershed development by improving soil stability, water retention, and overall ecosystem health. Planting trees, fibrous rooted grasses in watershed areas helps control soil erosion through their extensive root systems, which bind the soil and prevent it from being washed away by rain. Dr Setu created awareness about various schemes, financially supporting farmers to develop more watersheds and catchment areas and also helped to attain the "more crop per drop" campaign of Government of India. Various government schemes in India support irrigation facilities and promote sustainable water management practices. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) aims to ensure comprehensive irrigation coverage through initiatives like the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for expediting irrigation projects, and the "Har Khet Ko Pani" component, which focuses on providing water to every field. The Command Area Development Programme (CADP) enhances water use efficiency in irrigation command areas through better water management practices. The National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) supports sustainable farming practices, including efficient water management adapted to climate change. The Jal Shakti Abhiyan is a campaign emphasizing water conservation and rainwater harvesting, especially in water-stressed regions.

Kisan Goshti organized, effectively conveyed the significance of rainwater harvesting, sustainable agriculture, and afforestation as key practices for improving water management, soil health, and ecosystem stability. Government schemes like PMKSY, CADP, NMSA, and Jal Shakti Abhiyan provide financial and technical support to farmers. A total of 25 farmers were actively engaged in the Kisan Goshthi.



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Glimpses of Kisan Goshthi

