

Brief report on Kisan Goshti organized by Department of Agriculture, IIAST on "Sustainable Farming: Nurturing our Land, Livestock and Livelihoods" "सतत खेती: भूमि, पशुधन, और आजीविका का संरक्षण"

The Department of Agriculture, IIAST, plays a crucial role in supporting farmers by providing financial, technical, and market assistance, as well as promoting sustainable and innovative agricultural practices. It provides training and extension services to farmers, educating them on modern farming practices, efficient resource management, pest control, and other relevant skills to enhance productivity and sustainability. IIAST makes efforts to ensure the welfare and prosperity of farmers. In view of the same, the Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IIAST), organized a Kisan Goshthi on 04th May 2024 to sensitize the farmers of the Basaha village on "Sustainable Farming: Nurturing our Land, Livestock, and Livelihoods". Important information was disseminated to farmers about effective and efficient sustainable farming practices.

The faculty coordinator, Mr. Nadeem Khan, informed farmers about adopting sustainable agricultural practices to nurture land health. He emphasized that practices such as crop rotation, reduced tillage, and organic farming can improve soil health, increase water retention, and enhance nutrient cycling. Moreover, implementing these sustainable practices can mitigate environmental concerns, reduce dependency on chemical inputs, and prove economically advantageous for farmers. Dr. Zeeshan Ahmad Khan, addressed the farmers and shared his insights on integrating sustainable practices in livestock management. He highlighted that sustainable livestock farming, including proper pasture management, rotational grazing, and integrating livestock with crop production, can improve animal health, enhance productivity, and reduce environmental impact. Dr. Khan encouraged farmers to adopt these practices to ensure a balanced ecosystem and a steady income stream from livestock operations. Dr. Rugaiya Bano, provided information about the economic benefits that can be earned from sustainable farming. She informed farmers that the government provides various incentives, subsidies, and support programs to encourage sustainable agricultural practices. Participating in such programs can result in financial benefits for farmers. She also emphasized that sustainable farming practices can lead to cost savings, improved productivity, and additional income streams.

The Goshthi was observed under the guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology, and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The Goshthi witnessed participation from over 35 attendees, comprising students and farmers. The farmers of Basaha showed great interest in learning about sustainable farming practices and contributing to a more sustainable and economically viable agricultural system. They were delighted to know that these practices could achieve cost savings, enhance productivity, and create additional income streams while promoting environmental sustainability. They actively engaged with expert faculty members, seeking guidance and clarifying their doubts.

To gauge their satisfaction levels, students conducted feedback sessions, which revealed that the majority of farmers who participated in the Kisan Goshthi were highly content with the well-organized event and the valuable information shared during the sessions. The positive feedback indicated that the event successfully delivered high-quality content to the farmers. Glimpses of the Kisan Goshthi











