



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

Brief report on Kisan Goshti organized by Department of Agriculture, IIAST in Palka Village on "Sustainable farming practices to promote soil health, water conservation and crop biodiversity."

(मृदा स्वास्थ्य, जल संरक्षण, एवं फसल जैव विविधता आधारित सतत कृषि अभ्यास)

Sustainable farming practices are essential for maintaining soil health, conserving water, and promoting crop biodiversity, which are critical for long-term agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. By improving soil fertility and structure, these practices ensure robust crop growth and resilience against pests and diseases. In view of this Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, Lucknow organized a Kisan Goshti on 4 May 2024 to sensitize the farmers of the Palka Village on Sustainable farming practices to promote soil health, water conservation and crop biodiversity. Important information was imparted on Utilizing cover crops and crop rotation to enhance soil fertility, implementing drip irrigation systems for efficient water usage, and fostering diverse plant species to mitigate pests and enrich ecosystem resilience.

The Goshti was observed under the guidance of Prof. Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Director, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST. The faculty coordinators Dr. Khalid Habib, Dr. P.N. Verma, Dr Akanksha Singh and Dr. Abhineet, along with supporting staff Mr. Syed Faisal Ahmad Kirmani and students of B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture, contributed to the success of the event. Dr. Khalid Habib discussed the importance of utilizing cover crops and implementing crop rotation to enhance soil fertility. He explained that cover crops, such as legumes and grasses, protect the soil from erosion, improve soil structure, and add organic matter. Crop rotation, on the other hand, helps in breaking pest cycles, reducing soil-borne diseases, and improving nutrient availability. Dr. P.N. Verma elaborated on the implementation of drip irrigation systems for efficient water usage. He highlighted the advantages of drip irrigation, including reduced water wastage, improved water distribution, and minimized weed growth. He stressed that adopting such water-saving technologies is crucial for addressing water scarcity issues and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.

Dr. Akanksha Singh explained about several government programs in India which focuses on promoting sustainable farming practices, soil health, water conservation and crop biodiversity.



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She discussed about **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**, which enhances agricultural productivity with a focus on soil health and resource conservation, the **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** which promotes organic farming and the **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)** which supports sustainable agriculture and crop diversification. Additionally, she also discussed about the **National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF)** and the **National Agroforestry Policy** which encourage organic practices and integration of trees into farming systems, respectively, fostering biodiversity and soil improvement. Dr. Abhineet focused on fostering diverse plant species to mitigate pests and enrich ecosystem resilience. He explained that crop biodiversity plays a vital role in creating a balanced ecosystem, where different plant species support each other and reduce the likelihood of pest outbreaks. He provided examples of companion planting and intercropping strategies that farmers can implement to enhance biodiversity.

The Kisan Goshti on Sustainable Farming Practices successfully educated and sensitized the farmers of Palka Village on the importance of promoting soil health, conserving water and fostering crop biodiversity. The Goshti provided valuable insights and knowledge, empowering farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural techniques. The active participation of 33 farmers and the engagement of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students highlighted the community's commitment to sustainable farming. The Department of Agriculture, IIAST remains dedicated to supporting farmers through such initiatives, fostering a sustainable and resilient agricultural ecosystem.


Glimpses of the Goshti



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GPS Map Camera




Palaka, Uttar Pradesh, India
X2J4+7Q2, Palaka, Uttar Pradesh 226201, India
Lat 26.979725°
Long 81.006914°
04/05/24 11:54 AM GMT +05:30

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Lucknow, UP, India
Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow, 226026, UP, India
Lat 26.980023, Long 81.006575
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