



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

**A brief Report on "Idea Hunt for Small Agri-preneurship" organized at
Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and
Technology (IIAST)**

Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IIAST), Lucknow, organized an innovative program titled "Idea Hunt for Small Agri-preneurship" aimed at nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among students pursuing BSc (Hons.) Agriculture, B. Tech. Agricultural Engineering, different disciplines of M.Sc. Agriculture, MBA (Agribusiness) and PhD in Agriculture. The event took place on 13th August, 2024 at Seminar Hall, IIAST and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members.

The primary objective of the "Idea Hunt for Small Agri-preneurship" program was to provide a platform for students to present their innovative ideas related to Agri-preneurship. It was also aimed to provide knowledge about generating funds to run enterprise as well as to establish the market. The program sought to encourage students to think creatively and develop viable business solutions that could address challenges in the agricultural sector, particularly focusing on small-scale Agri-preneurship.

The program commenced with an inaugural session where Dr. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department, IIAST, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of Agri-preneurship in transforming the agricultural sector. Participants were invited to present their innovative ideas for small Agri-preneurship. The ideas ranged from new agricultural practices, value-added products, Agri-tech solutions, and sustainable farming methods. Each participant was given a specific time slot of 7 minutes to present their entire business plan from idea generation to idea implementation, followed by a Q&A session with the panel of judges. To support the participants in refining their ideas, the program included mentorship sessions with experienced professionals from the agriculture sector. These mentors provided valuable feedback, guidance on business model development, and strategies for overcoming potential challenges.

The ideas were evaluated based on innovativeness, feasibility, scope, implications on society, and presentation skills. The panel, comprising Prof. Alvina Farooqui, Head, Department of



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Bioengineering, Dr. Deepti Srivastava and Dr. Salman Ahmad, Associate Professor, IIAST, awarded prizes to certificates of recognition.

The "Idea Hunt for Small Agri-preneurship" program was a resounding success, with innovative ideas being presented by the students. Around 20 students participated individually as well as in team. The first and second position was secured by Mr. Sreyansh Kumar, B.Tech. Agricultural Engineering 1st year and Mr. Owais Jalil Khan, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture 3rd year. Around 50 students attended the program. The event not only motivated the participants to pursue Agri-preneurship but also provided them with the necessary tools and guidance to transform their ideas into successful ventures. The program highlighted the potential of small-scale Agri-preneurship in driving sustainable agricultural development and empowering the next generation of agricultural leaders.

The "Idea Hunt for Small Agri-preneurship" aligns with the objectives of Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme (REDP) by encouraging students to develop innovative agricultural solutions and providing them with mentorship and guidance to turn their ideas into viable businesses. The REDP aims to promote and support rural entrepreneurs by providing them with the necessary skills, resources, and financial support to start and manage their own businesses in rural areas. The program focuses on enhancing the livelihood opportunities for rural youth and women through the development of small and medium enterprises in agriculture and allied sectors. This program has made a significant contribution to fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among agriculture students. The institute's efforts to promote Agri-preneurship will undoubtedly play a crucial role in addressing the challenges faced by the agricultural sector and in driving economic growth in rural areas. The program's success has set a benchmark for similar initiatives in the future, ensuring that the spirit of Agri-preneurship continues to thrive among young minds. B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture 3rd year students, Ms. Pragya Singh and Ms. Sakshi Thakur, anchored the whole program successfully. The program was successfully coordinated by Dr. Mustafa Hussain, Associate Professor, IIAST and Dr. Ruqaiya Bano, Assistant Professor, IIAST.



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Glimpses of the program





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