



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

A brief reports on Parthenium Awareness Rally and Poster Presentation of same theme at the Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University

The **Department of Agriculture at IIAST, Integral University**, organized two impactful events in September 2024, aimed at raising awareness about the dangerous effects of *Parthenium hysterophorus* (commonly known as Gajar Ghas) and promoting its eradication to protect biodiversity, agricultural productivity, and public health. These events reflected the institution's commitment to addressing environmental challenges and engaging both students and the wider community in proactive action.

These events were held under the guidance of **Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Haris Siddiqui**, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology, and **Prof. (Dr.) Saba Siddiqui**, Head of the Department of Agriculture, with strong institutional support from **Prof. Aquil Ahmed**, Advisor to the Honorable Chancellor, Integral University. Faculty coordinators **Mr. Nadeem Khan**, **Dr. Shipra Yadav**, and **Dr. Nitish Kumar** provided expert insights on weed management strategies, discussing **mechanical, chemical, and biological control methods**. They emphasized the importance of an **integrated approach** to effectively manage the spread of Parthenium.

Poster Presentation Competition (September 4, 2024)

On **September 4, 2024**, a **poster presentation competition** was held with the theme “**Say No to Parthenium: Protect Our Environment and Health.**” Thirteen student groups participated, each showcasing their deep understanding of the topic and creatively expressing their ideas. The posters highlighted the destructive impact of Parthenium, including biodiversity loss, reduced agricultural yields, and severe health issues like skin allergies, respiratory problems, and asthma. The participants also illustrated methods for eradicating and controlling the weed, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and community engagement.

The posters were evaluated based on criteria such as **Presentation, Originality, Theme Relevance, Artistic Technique, and Presentation Skills**. The judges selected **Mr. Shivam (2200100880)** and **Ms. Smriti (2200100476)**, both from the **B.Sc. Agriculture 3rd year program**, as the winners for their exceptional poster.

Parthenium Awareness Rally (September 6, 2024)

Following the competition, the **Department of Agriculture** organized a **Parthenium Awareness Rally** on **September 6, 2024**, to further highlight the dangers posed by this invasive weed. Parthenium, known for causing severe allergic reactions such as dermatitis and respiratory



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disorders, poses a significant threat to human health, livestock, and agricultural ecosystems. It invades pasturelands, competes with native plants, and reduces crop yields, thereby disrupting biodiversity and damaging agricultural productivity.

The rally aimed to educate farmers, students, and the general public about these dangers and emphasized the need for urgent action to eradicate the weed. Participants were informed about its harmful effects on livestock, as *Parthenium* reduces grazing areas and causes poisoning when consumed by animals. The event also stressed the economic losses faced by farmers due to diminished crop yields and land productivity.

The rally began at **Instructional Farm Unit 1** of the Department of Agriculture, traversed through other farm units, and then proceeded through the **Integral University campus**. The **Agriculture Department students** actively participated, taking an oath to raise awareness about harmful weeds like *Parthenium* and to work toward their eradication through community engagement and direct action.

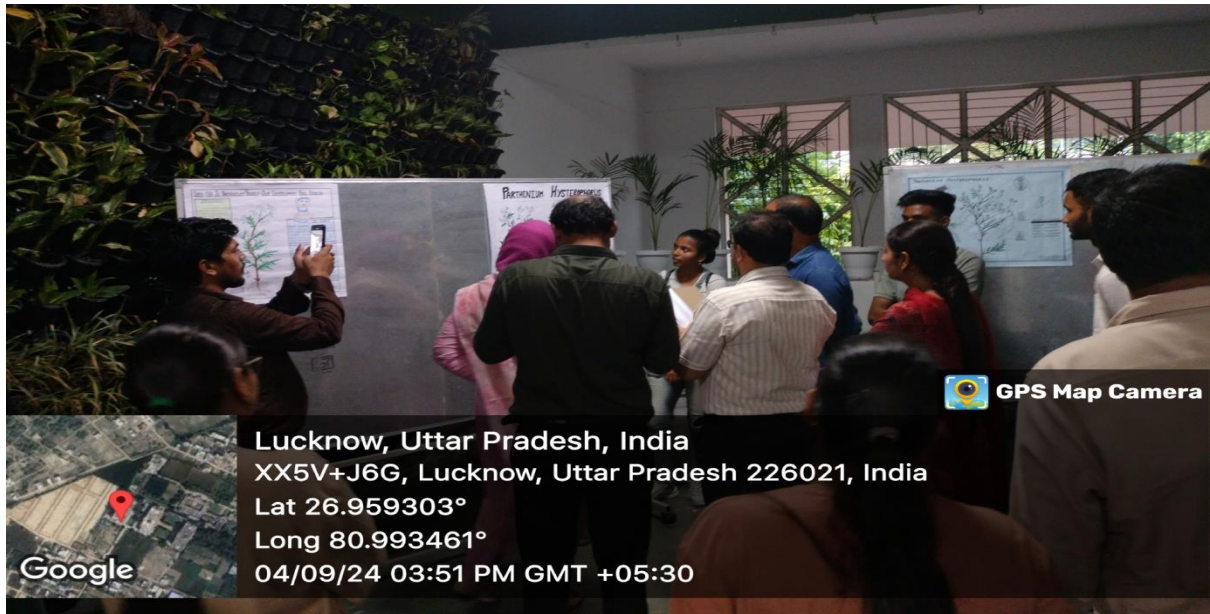
These two events—the **poster presentation competition** and the **Parthenium Awareness Rally**—were instrumental in raising awareness about the **environmental and health dangers** posed by *Parthenium hysterophorus*. By combining education, action, and community involvement, **IIAST** continues to address this serious agricultural threat, playing a pivotal role in fostering awareness and promoting practical solutions to mitigate the impact of *Parthenium* on agriculture and public health.

Glimpses of the poster competition





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Glimpses of the rally

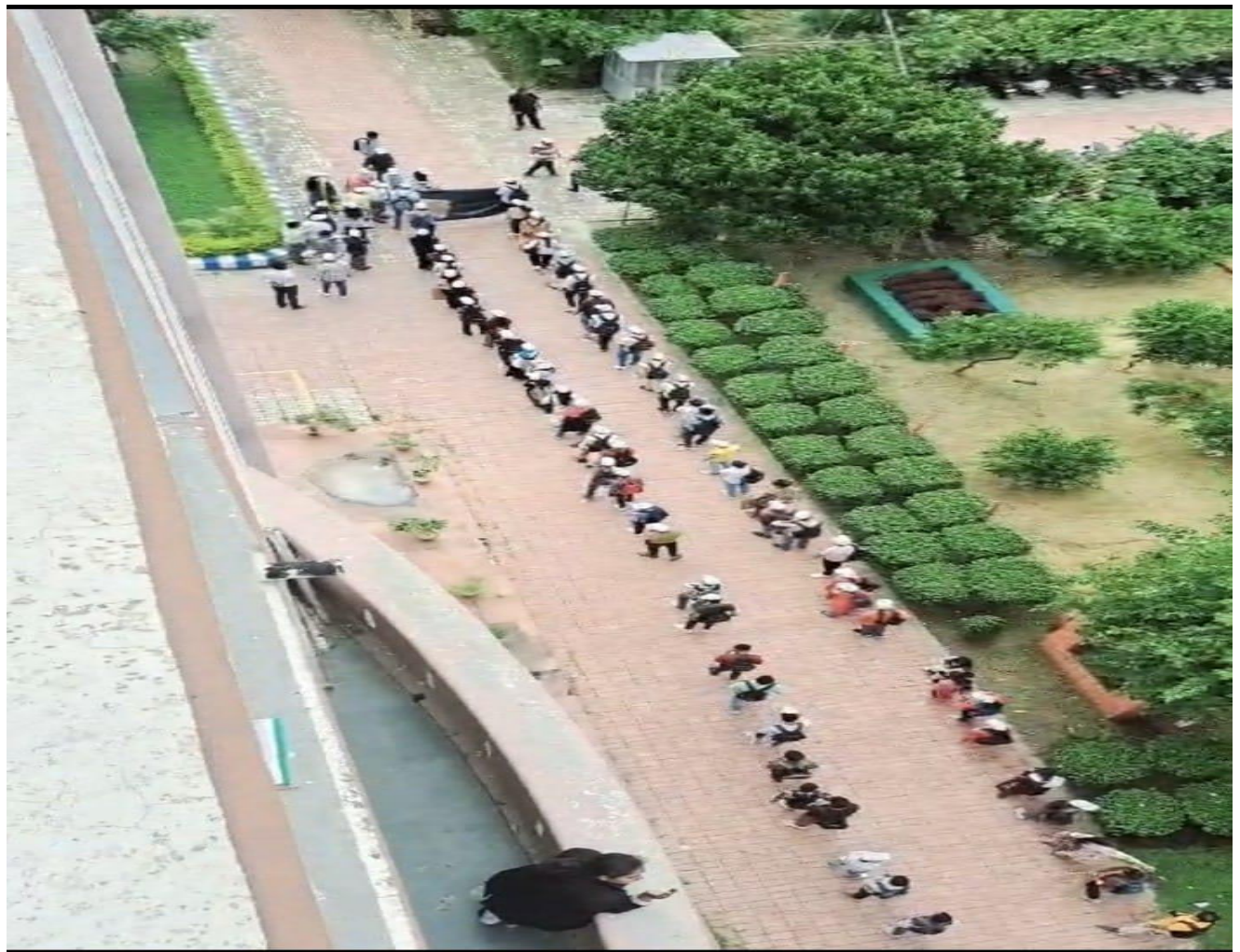


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