



Report
on
Guest Lecture on Health and Wealth from Horticultural Waste
Organized by
Department of Agriculture
March 8, 2025

The Department of Agriculture, IIAST, successfully organized a guest lecture on “**Health and Wealth from Horticultural Waste**” on **8th March 2025**. The event featured **Dr. Neelima Garg**, Former Acting Director of **ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow**, as the distinguished speaker. The session aimed to highlight the potential of horticultural waste in promoting health benefits and generating economic value. The session commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head of the Department of Agriculture, IIAST. She emphasized the significance of exploring innovative ways to manage horticultural waste efficiently, reducing environmental impact, and creating new economic opportunities for farmers and entrepreneurs.

Dr. Neelima Garg, an eminent scientist in post-harvest technology and waste management, provided insightful knowledge on utilizing horticultural by-products effectively. She emphasized sustainable approaches to converting waste into valuable products such as organic fertilizers, bio-enzymes, essential oils, and nutraceuticals. She discussed the hidden potential of peels, seeds, and pulp residues from fruits and vegetables in developing functional foods and nutraceuticals.

The lecture elaborated on various commercial opportunities in processing waste into marketable products, such as biochar, compost, and eco-friendly packaging materials. She highlighted modern technologies such as **fermentation, bio-extraction, and enzyme-based degradation** for waste valorization. The importance of reducing waste accumulation through efficient utilization techniques was emphasized, aligning with the principles of circular economy and sustainable agriculture.

The session was highly interactive, with students, faculty members, and researchers actively participating in discussions. Dr. Garg addressed queries on practical applications, policy support, and entrepreneurial opportunities in waste management.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture, IIAST, expressing gratitude to Dr. Neelima Garg for her valuable insights and contribution to sustainable agricultural practices. The lecture provided a significant learning opportunity for all attendees, inspiring innovative approaches to horticultural waste

utilization. This lecture was successfully coordinated and moderated by Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed Khan, Assistant professor, IIAST.

Glimpse



