



Brief Report on "International Women's Day Training Program on Value Addition and Processing of Tomato" organized by the Department of Agriculture, IIAST

(महिला दिवस प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम: टमाटर के मूल्य संवर्धन एवं प्रसंस्करण)

International Women's Day is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, while also highlighting the ongoing need for equal rights and opportunities. In accordance with this the Department of Agriculture, IIAST, Integral University, Lucknow organized a specialized training program for women farmers on "**Value Addition and Processing of Tomato**" in celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March 2025. This year's theme, "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment," resonates deeply with the objectives of the training program, as it highlights the importance of empowering women especially women farmers to enhance their skills and entrepreneurial potential. By focusing on value addition and processing of tomato, the training program not only advances agricultural innovation but also promotes gender equality in traditionally male dominated sectors.

The program was observed under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Mohd Haris Siddiqui, Dean Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology and Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, Integral Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Integral University. The faculty coordinators, including Dr. Faria Fatima, Dr. Deepti Srivastava, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. P. Smriti Rao, Dr. Srishti Thakur, Dr. Akanksha Singh, Dr. Ruqaiya Bano, Dr. Pallavi Srivastava, Dr. Muzeev Ahmad, Dr. Kalpana Bisht, Dr. Munny Chinyo, and Dr. Devi Darshan along with supporting staff Mr. Mohd. Mued and Mr. Syed Faisal Kirmani played pivotal roles in facilitating this empowering session. The training program brought together 42 women farmers from Bhakamau and Chetanpurwa villages and 54 B.Sc. Agriculture students, thereby creating a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange.

The program commenced with an inspiring address by Dr. Neelima Garg, Former Acting Director of ICAR-Central Institute of subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow, and visiting professor at the Department of Agriculture, IIAST. She elaborated on the significance of value addition by explaining how processing various agricultural commodities such as sugarcane, potato, onion and tomato can extend its shelf life, reduce post-harvest losses and

transform raw produce into marketable products. Following her session, Prof. Saba Siddiqui, Head, Department of Agriculture, IIAST emphasized women empowerment and the critical role women farmers play in modern agriculture.

The highlight of the event was the hands-on training on tomato ketchup preparation, skilfully demonstrated by Dr. Devi Darshan, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture, IIAST along with his students. They detailed the required materials, step-by-step procedures, and shared practical tips for successful processing. This interactive training not only provided technical know-how but also reinforced the International Women's Day theme by equipping women with the skills to transform their produce, gain financial independence, and assert their rights in the agricultural sector truly embodying the spirit of equality and empowerment.

The training program concluded on a highly positive note, with enthusiastic participation and overwhelming appreciation from the women farmers. They expressed their joy in gaining practical knowledge about tomato processing and value addition, which they found highly beneficial for improving their farming practices and exploring new income opportunities. Many shared their excitement about applying these techniques in their daily lives and even considering small-scale entrepreneurial ventures. The hands-on training, interactive discussions, and expert guidance made the learning experience engaging and effective. Encouraged by this session, the women farmers eagerly conveyed their interest in attending similar training programs in the future, reinforcing the impact of such initiatives in empowering them with skills for self-reliance and economic growth.

Glimpses of the Training Program





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