

Cooperation on Water Security at GD Goenka University

GD Goenka University is strongly committed to advancing water security through active cooperation with local, regional, and national agencies, aligning its initiatives with Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The University's School of Agricultural Sciences regularly collaborates with government bodies, scientific organizations, and community partners to promote water conservation, sustainable agriculture, and climate-resilient practices. These collaborations strengthen awareness, build student capacity, and contribute to community-level water security strategies.

As part of its experiential learning and outreach efforts, the University organized a student visit to Radio Mewat, where B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students engaged with community broadcasters on issues related to water conservation, sustainable farming, and environmental stewardship. This platform provided an opportunity for students to understand how community media supports local water security campaigns. Similarly, through expert-led programs such as the event on "Opportunities in Horticultural Entrepreneurship" featuring Principal Scientist Dr. S. S. Sindhu, the University facilitated knowledge exchange on water-efficient horticultural systems and modern protected cultivation technologies.

The University also commemorated Biodiversity Day, highlighting the role of ecological balance and natural ecosystems in sustaining water cycles. Activities conducted under the International Year of Millets (IYOM 2023) strengthened awareness on climate-resilient crops like millets, which require significantly less water and support sustainable food systems. Additionally, an expert talk by Prof. (Dr.) K. C. Bansal, former Director, ICAR-NBPGR, provided deeper insights into the role of biotechnology in enhancing human welfare, including innovations that improve crop water-use efficiency and promote sustainable resource management.

Through these diverse collaborations, GD Goenka University fosters a holistic approach to water security—integrating education, research, outreach, and partnerships—thereby contributing meaningfully to both regional and national sustainability goals.

Visit to Radio Mewat, GD Goenka University

On 10th May 2023, a visit to Radio Mewat at Nuh, Haryana was held with 35 students of B.Sc Ag. Hons 1st year and 2nd year agricultural journalism (elective) under the guidance of Dr. Anwesha and Dr. Harendra. Back in 2010, Radio Mewat started as a community radio under the leadership of Ms. Archana Kapoor, the CEO of an NGO SMART with an objective of providing a platform to the local people to get their voice heard. The radio station regularly organize awareness programmes on social issues like dowry, domestic violence, education for girl child, different beneficial schemes provided by government, etc. The radio station regularly host shows on social issues, education, agriculture, entertainment. There is a separate studio room with a recording facility and an editing room.

Mr. Sohrab Khan welcomed the students and narrated the story since the inception of this idea and the where it stands today. He also stressed on the social causes they are serving since its initial days and how the radio is successful in voluntary participation of rural women in their programmes. He and Mr. Imran then, with utmost responsibility took care of the students and explain every details of important features of a radio and its components. They also detailed out how a radio script is developed also conducted a demo interaction session with the students to give them a real-time experience at the radio station. After that, Mr. Imraan showed them the editing softwares that are used by them for editing and also gave a small hands-on experience to the students on editing.

Concluding the day's visit at the radio station, they requested the students to share their experience and also recorded them. The students were extremely happy and content as they got a real experience of a radio station, different components, recording and editing of shows in practice rather than being only limited to books. The students requested for more such exposure visits as retention and learning occurs more when we experience it rather than only reading.



Fig 1: Mr. Sohrab explaining how the recording in radio happens to the students



Fig 2: A demo studio recording session of the students with Mr. Sohrab



Fig 3: Students learning the editing in radio



Fig 4: Students sharing their experiences with Radio Mewat 90.4 MHz



Fig 5: Community radio station visit at Radio Mewat 90.4MHz by B. Sc. Hons. Agriculture students, SoAS, G D Goenka University

Workshop on Opportunities in Horticultural Entrepreneurship: GD Goenka University Hosts Event Featuring Renowned Principal Scientist Dr. S.S. Sindhu

On 04/04/2024, the School of Agricultural Sciences (SoAS) at GD Goenka University played host to a captivating event centered around the theme of "Opportunities in Horticultural Entrepreneurship." Welcoming esteemed guests, faculty, and students alike, the event aimed to shed light on the burgeoning prospects within the realm of horticulture.

The distinguished presence of Dr. S.S. Sindhu, a stalwart in the field of horticulture renowned for his expertise in floriculture, added an exceptional dimension to the event. With a career steeped in pioneering research and practical applications, Dr. Sindhu's insights promised to illuminate the paths of aspiring entrepreneurs to students of agricultural/ horticultural sciences.

The event commenced with a warm welcome extended to Dr. Sindhu by Dr. Shiv Singh Tomar, the esteemed Dean of the School of Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Tomar's gracious introduction set the tone for an engaging and enlightening discourse on the intersection of horticulture and entrepreneurship.

Approximately 80-100 students, researchers and faculties have participated in the program. The event began with the powerful lecture by Dr. Sindhu. In which he covered every inch of Horticulture entrepreneurship. The workshop covered a range of topics including Horticulture, Polyhouses, Floriculture, Landscape, and opportunities within the branch, which sparked thoughtful discussions and collaborative learning opportunities. The speakers and facilitators were instrumental in making the workshop both informative and engaging. Also, he emphasizes that much current work should be continues to be experimental and always be considered, encouraging further research to develop better products for human use.

At the end of the Programme, he shared the list of some promising private firms. Which can help the budding entrepreneurs for further development.

The event's organizers i.e., Dr. Sachi Gupta, Dr. Harendra and other SoAS faculties expressed her gratitude to the speakers and attendees for making the event a resounding success. GD Goenka University's School of Agricultural Sciences remains committed to nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders and innovators, paving the way for a brighter and more sustainable future in horticulture and beyond.



Student Awareness Program On Millets under IYOM 2023

A Student Awareness Program on Millets under IYOM 2023 was organised on 11-10-2023. An informative talk, by SDM (IAS) Pradeep Singh in presence of Dean School of Agricultural Sciences Prof. (Dr.) S.S Tomar for the celebration of Millets Year has underscored the importance of promoting traditional crops like millets for enhancing agricultural sustainability and addressing nutritional challenges. The event was Coupled with the information deciphered about schemes under the Kisan Vikas Yojna, Soil health card, Meri fasal mera byora, mera pani meri virasat, Natural farming and Crop residue management schemes, these initiatives have contributed towards empowering farmers, improving agricultural productivity, and fostering holistic rural development. Moving forward, continued efforts and investments in promoting millets cultivation and implementing farmer-centric schemes are essential for building a resilient and inclusive agricultural sector. After the informative session the eminent speaker were taken for a visit to SOAS Agriculture Research Farm where the longest variety of bottle gourd 'Narendra Shivani' of 6 feet 6 inches, grown for research purpose. The production of 'Narendra Shivani' has also been cultivated in many places of the country and people who grow this variety claims it to be 7 and 8 feet tall. The day was concluded with the motivational and career oriented information by the speaker.





Biodiversity Day Celebration at School of Agricultural Sciences G.D. Goenka University

The celebration of Biodiversity Day at School of Agricultural Sciences G.D. Goenka University dated 22nd May 2024 was a significant event aimed at raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation among students, faculty, and staff members. The event provided a platform to educate the college community about the value of biodiversity and the need for collective action to protect and preserve it.

Activities and Events:

1. **Awareness Workshops:** The celebration began with a series of interactive workshops conducted by environmental experts and faculty members. These workshops covered various topics related to biodiversity, including its significance, threats, conservation strategies, and the role of individuals in promoting biodiversity conservation.
2. **Poster and Art Exhibition:** A poster and art exhibition was organized showcasing the beauty of biodiversity and the importance of its conservation. Students were encouraged to create artwork, posters, and multimedia presentations highlighting different aspects of biodiversity, such as species diversity, ecosystem services, and the impact of human activities on natural habitats.
3. **Field Trips and Nature Walks:** Guided field trips and nature walks were organized to nearby natural areas, such as parks, forests, or botanical gardens. These excursions provided students with first-hand experiences of biodiversity in its natural habitat and fostered a deeper appreciation for the richness of life on Earth.
4. **Tree Planting Campaign:** As a practical initiative to contribute to biodiversity conservation, a tree planting campaign was organized on the college campus. Students, faculty, and staff members participated enthusiastically in planting native tree species, thereby enhancing the campus greenery, and promoting habitat restoration.

Outcomes and Impact:

The Biodiversity Day celebration at School of Agricultural Sciences G.D. Goenka University was highly successful in achieving its objectives of raising awareness and promoting action for biodiversity conservation. The event fostered a greater understanding of the importance of

biodiversity among the college community and inspired individuals to take proactive steps to protect the environment.

Conclusion:

The celebration of Biodiversity Day at School of Agricultural Sciences G.D. Goenka University served as a testament to the college's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. By engaging students, faculty, and staff in meaningful activities and discussions, the event contributed to building a culture of conservation on campus and empowering individuals to become ambassadors for biodiversity conservation in their communities.

Acknowledgments:

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants, volunteers, speakers, and organizers who contributed to the success of the Biodiversity Day celebration at School of Agricultural Sciences G.D. GOENKA University.





Expert talk on Biotechnology for Human Welfare

An Expert talk was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) K. C. Bansal, former director, ICAR-NBPGR and Secretary (NAAS) on "Biotechnology for Human Welfare" at GD Goenka University on 05.09.2023 to motivate the new batch of fresh minds in the Orientation Program 2023-24. The lecture aimed to provide an in-depth understanding of the applications and potential benefits of biotechnology in different fields to address the challenges of human health and welfare.

The talk started with an overview on historical evolution of biotechnology and its fundamental principles. Gradually it covered different aspect of DNA technology and revolutionized multiple scientific disciplines, including genetics, medicine, forensics, agriculture, and environmental science. He also discussed its application in healthcare including the biotechnological advancements in medicine and pharmaceuticals; in Agriculture highlighting GMOs and its role improving crop yield and food security through sustainable agriculture practices. Further, he stressed on how biotechnology can be a potential tool for environmental cleanup, waste management and pollution control, biodiversity conservation etc. In addition, he also answered different ethical dilemmas related to biotechnology research and application.

To conclude, the session was encouraging and enriching and would definitely be useful for the students in their future course of life.



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**ORIENTATION
WEEK SERIES**



Prof. (Dr.) K. C. Bansal
Former Director, National Bureau of
Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR); Secretary,
National Academy Agricultural Sciences,
New Delhi

Topic: Biotechnology for
Human Welfare

5th September 2023
01:00 - 02:00 pm
at Auditorium
GD Goenka University

