



IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar Updates

**G. B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology
Pantnagar 263145, Uttarakhand**

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International Student Exchange Programme Completed at IRRI Philippines 30 Days of Intensive Learning Experience for 20 UG Students

The one-month international student exchange programme of IDP NAHEP Pantnagar came to a closure on September 30, 2022, for the 20 undergraduate students from various degree programmes of GBPUAT, Pantnagar. A valedictory function was organised for the students by the host institute i.e. International Rice Research Institute, Philippines. The programme was graced by the presence of Dr. Jun Correa, Senior Manager, Ziegler Experiment Station IRRI; Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean Agriculture & P.I., IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar and Dr. Gopesh Tewari, Head-IRRI Education (South Asia). The students shared their learning experiences of the internship journey and were presented with a programme completion certificate by Dr. Correa.

The visit to International Rice Research Institute, Philippines was scheduled for a month from September 1-30, 2022. The main objective behind the international visit was to provide the students of multiple disciplines, an opportunity of exposure to the setup and working culture of a renowned international institute. During the one-month international exposure

visit, the students had the opportunity to observe and explore scientific institutions such as the University of Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), Los Banos and other institutions within Laguna. They also experienced a trip to Munoz, Nueva Ecija and visited Philippine Rice Research Institute and Rice Mills. In their trip to Banaue, they observed the terrace rice farming practices and even met indigenous farmers who shared their ancestral agricultural stories.

The students had the privilege to interact with the students of UPLB pursuing different degree programmes like B.Sc. Agriculture, B.Sc. Forestry, B.Sc. Computer Science etc. Students at UPLB were provided the liberty to opt for elective courses each semester. The students pursue a major course in the 3rd and 4th year of their graduation, to get in-depth knowledge and advanced skills. The university is spread in over 13,400 acres of land which also has Makiling Forest Reserve. It was a great chance to learn from the peers and hear their perspective towards education.

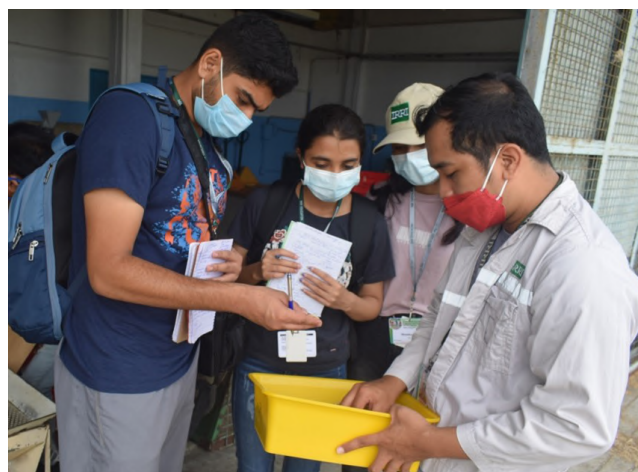


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A tremendous amount of cultural exposure was provided to the students during the visit through local interaction, tasting national delicacies of Philippines including buko pie, kutsinta, puto, Jollibee food chain, etc. and relishing the traditional dance. Tours were organized to some of the well-recognized heritage sites including Makiling Botanical Garden - a recognized ASEAN Heritage Park on the north-eastern slope of Mt. Makiling (a place that displays a great diversity of the flora of Philippines), Rizal Park - dedicated to the memories of their national hero - Jose Rizal, Food Authority Exhibition which displayed specialties of various provinces of the Philippines, Ifugao Rice Terraces situated in Banaue - a UNESCO World Heritage Site which symbolizes harmony between man and nature, Tam-Awan Heritage Village, Igorot Stone Kingdom and National Museum of the Philippines.

Being a group of multi-disciplinary students, ample amount of learning opportunities and related visits were scheduled for students from all the concerned disciplines by the IRRI team. Visits to various prestigious institutions were scheduled, including iCrops, Institute of Plant Breeding, Zeigler Experiment Station (ZES), Seed Harvesting Unit, National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory, Bureau of Plant



Industry, Laguna Lake Development Authority, International Rice Gene Bank, Bureau of Fisheries and Natural Resources, various CCO (Cross Cutting Operations) units, visit to Water Hyacinth Factory, visit to biotechnology laboratories, animal, and agri-tourism farms etc. On the request of students, special individual/group appointments with leading scientists including senior scientists were also scheduled. Students got the exposure and guidance in their field of interest from the eminent scientists. Students were also given guidance on preparation of reports and presentations closing under the guidance of the scientists of IRRI, Philippines.

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In a nutshell, students had a diverse exposure from cultural to academic, the magnificent heritage sites, glorious history, heroes, learnings on sustainability, waste segregation and management being a few names. The international visit gave the students colossal opportunities to learn and enhance their technical, soft skills and broaden their perspective. Other learnings include digitalization, centralization of various working units, preservation of indigenous knowledge in agriculture, social responsibility and resource utilization. The trip gave students an idea of



functionality of international systems and living requirements abroad while also acquainting them with possible areas of research. IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar is making continuous efforts in creating and arranging more such opportunities for the undergraduate students in the coming days. This unique proposition of NAHEP to send UG students for foreign exchange is indeed remarkable.

Students' Verses : Learnings & Experiences of IRRI, Philippines

As an undergraduate student who wants to pursue her masters abroad, this trip was helpful to give me an idea of functionality of international systems and living requirements abroad while also acquainting me with possible areas of research. I heartily thank IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar for blessing me with this precious opportunity.



- Swechcha Tiwari, Id. No. 54569, B.F.Sc. Final Year

Being a biotechnology undergraduate with a keen inclination towards transgenic and tissue culture, IRRI visit provided me a lifetime opportunity to witness the golden rice at hand which ignited the spark to pursue my career ahead in transgenic technology and become an asset to my nation in arena of research. The flourishing culture and myriad natural beauty of Philippines with vastness in heritage motivated me to preserve my lucrative cultural heritage. My gratitude to IDP-NAHEP for assessing me worth the opportunity to visit a foreign institute



- Anubhav Rana, Id. No. 54710, B.Tech. Biotechnology Final Year

The opportunity of IRRI visit provided by IDP-NAHEP was full of hands-on learning and exposure to international arena of agriculture. I came to know more about the opportunities lying in the field of agriculture. I also witnessed the overwhelming work culture and administration of an international organisation that is going to add to my skills.



- Ravi Kumar Jha, Id. No. 54455, B.Sc. Agriculture Final Year

IDP Pantnagar Organized a Webinar on Financial Planning Enhancing the Financial Literacy of College Graduates

A good financial planning and financial literacy helps to obtain a better financial understanding, set reasonable financial goals, and helps to make wise decisions when it comes to financial matters. Looking into the importance of the topic, under the Academic Component of IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar, an insightful webinar on the topic *Financial Planning for College Graduates: A Path towards Financial Literacy and Better Future* was organised on September 08, 2022. The speaker of the session was Mr. Rajeev Saraswat, Founding Director, Solvera Consulting Pvt. Ltd. Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic), IDP-NAHEP formally welcomed the expert of the session and stated that financial planning and financial literacy are two important aspect which should be stressed to gain knowledge at an early age, as this will help students in making financial decisions (financial planning, education loans) that can have lasting consequences, if not well managed.

Addressing 'finance' to be an integral part of one's life, Mr. Saraswat gave detailed information on how to maintain finance in daily aspects, key components of financial management, important investment mantras and different options available in investing while on job as well as a student. He also

touched upon the importance of financial security of individuals. He emphasised that an investor should first think and ensure adequate life insurance, reasonable medical insurance cover and an emergency fund before embarking upon the journey of wealth creation through sustained investments which is most essential for prosperity. He then made a plea for regular savings and an increase of savings every year minimum by 10%.



Mr. Rajeev Saraswat
Founding Director
Solvera Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

He also shared basic information on various investment avenues available in the market viz. Government/RBI bonds, corporate bonds, Government schemes (Post Office schemes, PPF, NPS etc.), real estate, gold, and securities market. He stated that all these avenues are different and have distinct features and investors should invest their hard-earned money according to his/her risk appetite and time horizon of investment. A total of 44 participants attended the session. The session was very insightful and helped the students understand the intricacies of capital market and investment strategies which is now one of the best methods to raise money for future security.

Making Virtual Reality a Reality for UG Students of the University More than 50 hours of Training Organized Till Date

A virtual laboratory has been established under IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar with a purpose to incorporate the concept of AR-VR into the undergraduate teaching. The team IDP is working to provide materials related to 3D, animated videos and AR-VR materials aligning with the agriculture and allied disciplines. Several sessions have been conducted to sensitise the University students on the concept of 360° learning, 3D videos and Virtual Reality (VR) technology through AR-VR lab and VR headsets. To strengthen the utility of VR technology into the undergraduate teaching, NAHEP Component-2A has provided a set of 04 Oculus 2.0 VR headsets with some pre-loaded VR material.

The two sessions were conducted on 9th and 15th September, 2022 in which the interns of NAHEP Pathshala IX were given first-hand experience of VR



technology. The basic operation procedures of Oculus Go and Oculus 2.0 VR headsets developed by meta were told to students and they explored the educational content available in both the devices. This awareness cum skill development session is proving to be extremely beneficial for the cognitive development of undergraduate students.

IDP Hydroponic Unit Initiates Second Year of Its Operation

Mass scale skilling programme under IDP Hydroponic Unit is entering into its second year of operation. After successfully running the unit for 12 months, this year also the unit is put in place for B.Sc. Agriculture second year students. The proposed objective of these units is to introduce students to the latest trends of emerging agriculture at their early stage of education along with polyhouse management, teamwork, marketing strategies leading to create future entrepreneurs. Students will work on Hydroponics-Aeroponics Unit, Plant Propagation Unit and Vegetable Cultivation Unit for this Academic Year.

The units are being coordinated by Dr. V.P. Singh, Professor, Department of Horticulture; Dr. J.P. Purwar, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology; Dr. Lalit Bhatt, Junior Research Officer, Department of Vegetable Science with technical assistance from professionals of Indo-Dutch Horticulture Pvt. Ltd. Data collection, analysis, interpretation, and impact evaluation of these units



will be managed by the team of IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar. An orientation and training programme was conducted on September 27-28, 2022, by Dr. S. K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture and Principal Investigator, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar where he discussed the experiences and learning of previous batch and how this hands-on training will help them in enhancing the competency and eventually help agriculture graduates in building confidence in the continuously changing agricultural world. The IDP Hydroponic Unit has gradually imerged as a hi-tech skilling unit for under graduate students.

Alumnus Entrepreneur Mr. Dinesh Rawat Mentored University Students Learning from Entrepreneurial Experiences of a Founder

Founder's journey focuses on the whole process of building an entrepreneurial venture. How do you assemble, motivate and lead a team when you have big ambitions, limited resources and a compass instead of a map? The Academic Component of IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar organised a webinar on *A Journey of Passion and Perseverance: Entrepreneurial Experiences of Founder of Simply Natural Foods* on September 15, 2022 in which the speaker of the session was Mr. Dinesh Rawat, Founding Director, Simply Natural Foods Pvt. Ltd. The objective of the session was to encourage students to build an entrepreneurial mindset, skillset, resilience, and help make better business decisions to achieve their goals. Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic) formally welcomed the expert of the session and further stated that it is a wonderful opportunity for students and young entrepreneurs to listen and learn from an expert with more than 22 years of experience, who has contributed tremendously to entrepreneurship development. He urged students to understand the opportunities and challenges of starting a business and get motivated to start some enterprise and become job creators.

The expert stated that entrepreneurship is the buzzword in India today with many startups creating new businesses almost every day. He spoke about the various opportunities that came his way, how the idea for this business came to his mind and the numerous challenges that he faced in his journey of entrepreneurship. Mr. Rawat hoped that many students will get motivated to come up with ideas and start their own businesses. Mr. Rawat then opened the session for questions from the participants. Several questions were put up by the students, most of which were related to idea recognition, idea development, generating idea execution plan and other aligning aspects of entrepreneurship. To each of these questions, the distinguished speaker provided the most convincing answers. He also shared his future plans and advised students to apply for internships in the company to gain a first-hand experience of the working of a startup. It was an interactive session with valuable takeaways for all.



Mr. Dinesh Rawat
Founding Director
Simply Natural Food Pvt. Ltd.

Quiz Contest Organized in NAHEP Building Nurturing the Instincts of Curiosity and Analytical Skills

Pantnagar Museum has a compilation of the entire journey of Pantnagar from past to present. The achievements, technology developments, words of wisdom from eminent personalities, roles, and contributions of university and much more, the museum symbolizes a vast ocean. Hence, the onetime visit to this place would never suffice the cause. Therefore, to generate an instinct curiosity and analytical skills, Pantnagar Museum Quiz was organized on September 30, 2022, at Pantnagar Museum, University Centre.

The quiz had overwhelming participation of about 100 students. The participants were provided with an objective question paper comprising of 25 questions and were given 30 minutes to search the answers to the questions inside the Museum. Dr. S.K.Kashyap, Dean, Agriculture and PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar graced the valedictory session of the Museum Quiz and appreciated the participation of students in such a large number. He encouraged students to be aware of all the facts about their University and feel the spirit behind its genesis. While putting forth their reflection, students revealed that, everytime they visit the Museum they learn something new, and it makes them

eager to visit again. The event concluded with the announcement of results. Mukul Giri Goswami won first prize, followed by Arpit Jain and Mukul Singh Parihar at second and third positions respectively. Three Special Recognition Prizes were awarded to Atul Gaur, Priya Sinha and Aakash Sharma. The enthusiastic participation of all the students was appreciated and they were encouraged to participate again.



Students Gained Knowledge on Innovative Technologies for Agribusiness Risk Management

Farming is an inherently risky business; bad weather, pests, credit constraints, and unexpected policy changes threaten farmers of all sizes. However, with the usage of innovative technologies the risk has been shrunk. The Academic Component of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar organised an insightful guest lecture on the topic *Innovative Technologies for Agribusiness Risk Management* on September 21, 2022. The speaker of the session was Mr. Nalin Rawal, Head-Crop Weather Intelligence Group, National Collateral Management Services Ltd.

Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic), IDP-NAHEP greeted and welcomed the expert and stated that the agriculture industry has radically transformed over the past 50 years. Advances in technology have expanded the scale, speed, and productivity of farms, leading to more efficient cultivation of more land.

Gaining knowledge on contemporary issues related to agriculture will help students to broaden the horizon of knowledge, he added.

The expert gave detailed information on how to reduce pre/post harvest losses, market and transportation risks and increase productivity using latest technologies like big data, machine learning, robotics etc. Mr. Rawal stated that artificial intelligence, analytics, connected sensors, and other emerging technologies could further increase yields, improve the efficiency of water and other inputs, and build sustainability and resilience across crop cultivation and animal husbandry. A total of 40 participants attended the session who were also given introduction on various



Mr. Nalin Rawal
Head-Crop Weather Intelligence Group,
National Collateral
Management Services Ltd.

Professional Resume Writing Workshop Held under IDP Writing Studio

Learning to Create Positive First Impression through Effective Resume

The students of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology picked up the tricks of designing a resume and acing an interview with confidence at a five-day offline workshop. The Academic Component of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar organised a 5-day workshop on the topic Learn to Design and Defend your Resume under IDP-NAHEP Writing Studio from September 26-30, 2022.

Seeking an internship or a freelancing opportunity or a 9-5 job, no matter what an applicant is planning to apply for, the resume must stand out. It is as important as brushing up on interview skills. The expert of the workshop was Dr. Shweta Gupta, Fellow-IIM Indore, Director Arohana Management Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Dr. Gupta discussed the pre-requisites, steps, and methods of designing an effective resume which comprised of learning to differentiate personal and professional traits, compiling, and arranging the testimony to one's skills, traits and virtues, articulating and structuring the profile in resume, creating resume for different purposes etc. The expert also made the participants to learn to defend their

resume through different activities. The common mistakes one should avoid were also discussed.

Dean, College of Agriculture and PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar, Dr. S.K. Kashyap guided the workshop with his vast experience. Describing the importance of resume building he stated that a resume is the first document which grabs the attention of employers and recruiters. It shows how you're a match for a position or project and most importantly, gets you a job interview. A total of 35 students enthusiastically participated in the workshop, reflected positively on the learnings and insights, and developed a wonderful resume as an outcome of the five-days efforts.



Workshop-cum-Interactive Session Held on Unconventional and Lucrative Career Options

To provide students the opportunity to get aware of paths followed by fewer people but having a huge scope, a two-day workshop-cum-interactive session was organised from September 24-25, 2022, at the NAHEP building.

The experts for the workshop were the two distinguished alumni of the University: Mr. Ramanuj Mishra, Founder, Avid Education and Mr. Pranav Kumar, Senior Manager, Tata Steel. Mr. Ramanuj Mishra has been associated with the education management sector for more than 10 years and has been actively providing career counselling to students and guiding them in preparations of various competitive examinations. Mr. Pranav Kumar was the gold medalist of his batch at IIM Raipur and has nurtured many students and professionals in soft skills. Mr. Mishra highlighted the importance of passion in choosing a career option. Quoting his own example, he stated

that he was immensely passionate about building his career in the education sector, that is why he left Praxair as a Process Engineer and entered into a completely new world. Similarly, he quoted several other examples of people who chose distinct career options like that of Mr. Kaushlendra Kumar, MBA graduate of IIM-A who later became renowned as MBA Sabziwala; Ms. Divya Rawat popularly known as The Mushroom Lady of Uttarakhand and many more.

Mr. Pranav Kumar encouraged students to develop highly demanded skills as it would help them to excel in all careers they choose and even if they wish to translate the skill into a career. He emphasised that these skills could be easily developed through various online courses. The workshop was full of dialogues between experts and participants. Participants presented their positive and overwhelming feedback at the end of the two-day workshop.



The Main Events of October 2022

S.No.	Event	Proposed Date	Venue	Nodal Unit	Convener
1.	Orientation cum see-off session for faculty members selected for 7-days leadership programme	04-10-2022	University Centre-NAHEP Building	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
2.	Session on Experiencing 360-degree learning through VR Headset	07-10-2022	University Centre - NAHEP Building	Project Team	Dr. S.K. Kashyap, College of Agriculture
3.	Workshop on Professional Writing Etiquettes for Academic Purposes	09-10-2022 to 13-10-2022	University Centre - NAHEP Building	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
4.	International exposure experience sharing by Students	10-10-2022	University Centre - NAHEP Building	Project Team	Dr. S.K. Kashyap, College of Agriculture
5.	Orientation Programme for University Freshers	10-10-2022 to 15-10-2022	University Centre - NAHEP Building	Project Team	Dr. S.K. Kashyap, College of Agriculture
6.	Interactive Session on International opportunities for higher education and foreign internships	15-10-2022	University Centre-NAHEP Building	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
7.	Guest Lecture on Science for Common Good	16-10-2022	University Centre-NAHEP Building	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities

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