



IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar Updates

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

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Message of IDP Leader, GBPUAT, Pantnagar Liberalizing Agricultural Education

Agricultural education was formalized in India in 1960, with the establishment of the first land grant pattern University at Pantnagar. However, it is now time to extend the purview of agricultural education and liberalize its concept. Liberalization should happen in terms of inclusion of degree programmes from different streams such as from natural sciences, social sciences, art and design, etc., strengthening fundamental research apart from applied research, and enhancing multidisciplinary researches and collaborations. Agricultural universities should no longer restrict their domain merely to agricultural research or agricultural course curriculum. It is time to redefine their scope and take them to the next level of development. The IDP-NAHEP team at Pantnagar has been making efforts in this direction. Various activities, courses, and events are inclined towards inculcating skill sets beyond the technical agriculture dominated skills. Moreover certain facilities and labs have also been developed which will provide the students an exposure to multidisciplinary learning. I hope that these initiatives will further intensify and expand to make Pantnagar a hub of holistic learning.



(Tej Partap)

Eminent Psychologist MS Vignesh Counsels Faculty Members and Students

Critical Aspects of Cognitive Skills Discussed

Mind training is an essential component to have a successful professional life and satisfying personal life. The IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar thus invited an eminent psychologist and mind trainer, Dr. M.S. Vignesh, Professor, University of Agriculture and Horticultural Sciences, Shimoga, Karnataka for conducting trainings for the students and faculty members of the University. For students, a one week training programme was held on the topic *Train Your Mind to be Successful*, from April 10-17, 2021. The inaugural session of the training was held in the presence of Dr. Tej Partap, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Pantnagar University. Speaking on the session, he stated that training one's mind is the key to achieving your goals, remain target oriented and lead a happy life. Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP-NAHEP was also present

in the inaugural session and reflected that being a student we face many turmoils in our life and we need some advice, counselling and help from experienced trainers like Dr. Vignesh to develop effective coping strategies.

The expert Dr. Vignesh while giving orientation to the students stated that the training is meant to sensitize the students in establishing a functional relationship between conscious and sub-conscious mind. The main focus of the training is to help the students develop emotionally, rationally, cognitively and socially as



Dr. M. S. Vignesh
Professor, University of Agriculture
and Horticultural Sciences
Shimoga, Karnataka

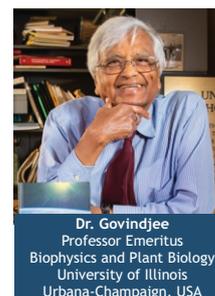
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Professor Emeritus of University of Illinois Inspires University Students

An online guest lecture was organized by IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar on April 25, 2021 on the topic *From Allahabad To Urbana (Illinois, USA): In Search of Photosynthesis*. The lecture was delivered by an enthusiast expert Dr. Govindjee, Professor Emeritus, Biophysics and Plant Biology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA. The lecture started with a welcome note by Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic), IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. The overall lecture was focused on the life and discoveries of Dr. Govindjee's first professor Dr. Robert Emerson. Dr. Govindjee told the students that his interest in photosynthesis began when as secretary of the Botanical Society at Allahabad University he had organized a mock symposium, where the students played the role of discoverers of photosynthesis and he acted as Jan Ingenhousz. He further shared all researches, experiments, statistics, graphs and many

nostalgic photographs of his beloved professor and discussed how he approached him to apply for admission for PhD, so that he could help Professor Robert Emerson in solving 'The Red Drop' problem. Indeed, the insights and experiences shared by him inspired the participating students



to engage in research based careers. The lecture was attended by students and faculty members of different colleges of the University as well as many faculty members of other universities as well. While closing the guest lecture, Dr. Guru shared that how lives of great scientists have been inspiring so many people. He further praised Dr. Govindjee for his tremendous contributions towards science and in nurturing students with his humble heart and dedication.

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well. He stated that mind governs what the body does and whatever qualities a person possesses. Dr. Vignesh emphatically explained that trained and managed mind manifests in the overall personality of an individual. A person with trained and managed mind is optimistic, decision-oriented, rational, practical and problem solver whereas untrained mind leads to development of completely antagonistic personality. Adding to this, Dr. Vignesh explained that being a student it is very important for us to start with practicing all sort of mind management techniques and management of time is one such crucial aspect to it. Giving example of the ideal time allocation schedule especially in the student life, he also elaborated on the gradual tuning technique that is followed in order to align the mind with a specific timetable. He also highlighted on other important dimensions of a healthy personality which includes sorrow, worry and anxiety management, influential techniques, happiness, achievement orientation, activity orientation and sociability. Dr. Vignesh also conducted personal counselling sessions with the students in which students shared their study and life related anxiety and other issues with the expert. More than 300 students got benefited from the training programme.

The training for faculty members was more of an interactive session involving systems and



contemporary trends in students' counselling, held on April 15, 2021. The expert Dr. Vignesh emphasized that the current pandemic scenario has created a lot of pressure on students which is affecting their mental health. It is important for teachers to talk with students and try to resolve their problems. The expert also emphasized that counselling is all about listening. It involves 80 percent of listening and 20 percent of talking. It was discussed in the interactive session that there is a behavioural difference between an adult and child. One should not treat an adult as a child instead respect adults and their privacy. The faculty members asked several questions related to students behaviour pattern and their issues. Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic), IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar gave the concluding remarks and said that understanding students and their specific problems is the key to create a better teaching-learning environment.

Writing Studio Initiated by IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar

A new venture in the form of IDP-NAHEP Writing Studio has been initiated by IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. This Writing Studio aims to nurture the University students in the delicate art and engrossing science of writing. The first event under the aegis of the Studio was a five days workshop on *Identifying and Accessing Authentic Secondary Sources for Professional Writing*. The workshop was held from April 13-17, 2021 and was guided by Dr. Shweta Gupta, Director, Arohana Management Solutions and Fellow, IIM Indore. She is also an alumna of the University and has authored two books and edited several educational books and official books and documents.

The five days workshop was an extensive practice oriented workshop, wherein 60 University students were nurtured. The workshop initiated with understanding the importance of usage of secondary sources into professional writing, followed by

techniques of identifying authentic secondary sources. The expert also mentioned about the how, what, and when of incorporating secondary sources while writing any professional write-up. The issues concerning paraphrasing and plagiarism were also discussed in length.

Regular writing assignments were given to participants in order to provide them a thorough hands on experience, as writing can only be improved when one practices writing. In the closing session of the workshop, all the participants shared their learning experience. Their heartfelt expression of their insights was a testimony that initiation of the Writing Studio is indeed a needful step.



Dr. Shweta Gupta
Fellow, IIM, Indore
Director, Arohana Management
Solution

7 Days Training Conducted on Fundamentals of Agricultural Informatics

The Agricultural Informatics component of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar organized a seven days training for undergraduate students of Pantnagar University. The training was held from April 5 - April 11, 2021 and aimed towards providing an overview and conceptual understanding of the fundamentals of agricultural informatics including artificial intelligence, big data analysis, and robotics in agriculture. The training was mentored by external experts and the post doctoral fellows and research associates of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. Mr. Aayush Shukla, Senior Data Scientist, Brillica Services Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Yogendra Singh Negi, Chief Technical Director, Brillica Services Pvt. Ltd. were the external experts, while Dr. Yeshu Shankar and Ms. Preeti Pandey were from the IDP team.

The training acquainted the participants with first hand information on the fundamentals and advanced topics of artificial intelligence concepts and applications, big data analytics, Python programming, and demonstration of in house designed mobile android application on crop disease detection. Moreover, the training covered the basics of designing, development and deployment of robotics prototype. Mr. Shukla gave emphasis on practical aspects of artificial intelligence techniques in farming world that can be used for predicting the actual situation of crop more precisely with the help of online demonstration



of cloud services such as Collab and Amazon Web Services. A web-based agriculture management information system can be useful in the agriculture sector, as it brings latest updates on weather, prices, fertilizer, sowing of crops etc., to farmers in rural areas. Mr. Negi elaborated basics of cloud computing that can help with real-time computation, data access, and storage to users without having to know or worry about the physical location and configuration of the system that delivers the services. The students expressed enthusiasm to learn data services that can be used for precision farming. They learnt Python programming for designing of algorithms for artificial intelligence based applications in agriculture. The training culminated with an intriguing series of queries and answers. The participants also appreciated the initiative and requested to have more such workshops in future.



Effective Communication Skills Workshop Held: Nurturing Soft Skills of Students

A seven days workshop on *Effective Communication Skills* was organized by IDP, NAHEP, Pantnagar from April 5-11, 2021 under the supervision and guidance of Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture and PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. The workshop was conducted in three major phases, i.e. verbal communication, non-verbal communication, and basic writing skills. Dr. Aman Kamboj, Assistant Professor, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences mentored the workshop along with the post doctoral fellows and e-content developers of IDP Pantnagar team. Dr. Akanchha Singh, e-Content Developer, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar took the lead for initial two days. Through different experiential activities, the participants were sensitized about the different elements of communication. There by, the participants were provided an opportunity to practice on a given topic. This exercise was instrumental in shedding their fear of speaking. The second phase of the workshop was led by Dr. Anjali Chunera, Post Doctoral Fellow, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. Focusing on



the different components of non-verbal communication, such as facial expressions, body language, entry and exit behaviour, etc. several practice sessions were conducted. The last phase of the workshop was coordinated by Dr. Divya Yadav, e-Content Developer, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. The participants learnt about the fundamentals and etiquettes of e-mail writing, curriculum vitae and popular article writing. Overall, the workshop received an overwhelming participation with more than 100 students. The learning experience of the participants was also positive.

15 Days Photography Workshop Organized by IDP Pantnagar Team

The IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar believes in holistic development of every student. To fulfill the same, various workshops are organized which revolve around students' interests and help them to excel in their field of interest. Recently, a photography workshop was conducted from April 5-18, 2021 and was mentored by Mr. Anurag Kumar and Mr. Divye Kumar, both are photography experts and are working with IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. Photography plays an important role in all the fields be it arts, science, manufacturing, mass communication, etc. The photography workshop helped the participating students in understanding the techniques of photography by involving them in clicking photographs. The students were taught basics of photography during initial days. They were briefed about the technicalities like ISO, shutter speed, aperture, composition etc. They were explained how light plays a vital role in photography. Later they were taken to different locations of the University and were engaged in clicking photos of their surroundings. This exercise provided them a hands on experience of advanced photography skills. The queries of the



students were also addressed in all possible ways. Around 60 students from different disciplines of the University including agriculture, fisheries, technology, home science and veterinary joined the workshop. They participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP- NAHEP, Pantnagar interacted with the students and asked them to share their experiences. Students told they learnt so many new things about photography and that they have observed a tremendous change in their clicks. They said that the workshop not only honed their technical skills but also helped them generate a positive perspective towards looking at people and surroundings.

How to Start a Start-Up: One Week Workshop for Budding Entrepreneurs

A one week workshop entitled *How to Start a Start-Up* was organised by the Innovation and Incubation Centre of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. The workshop experts included Mr. Nitin Sharma, Co-Founder of Invitoos and Madtoos, Mr. Abishek Pant, Supply Chain Manager, Bajaj Automobiles Ltd., SIDCUL, Uttarakhand and Mr. Gourvendra Gangwar, Managing Partner, Ambrosia Food Farm Company. The initial sessions initiated by Mr. Nitin Sharma highlighted the need, importance and components of start-ups. He also emphasized on understanding the programming of subconscious mind because subconscious mind controls the behavior, emotions and feelings that ultimately lead to the development



Mr. Nitin Sharma
Co-Founder
Invitoos and Madtoos



Mr. Abishek Pant
Supply Chain Manager
Bajaj Automobiles Ltd.



Mr. Gourvendra Gangwar
Managing Partner
Ambrosia Food Farm Company

of entrepreneurial behavior. He interacted with students and made them understand the concept of MVP (Minimum Viable Product). The next part of the workshop was taken by Mr. Abhishek Pant in which he emphasised on the qualities of an entrepreneur. He also detailed cases of some early successful start ups of India and their co-founders. He also discussed 12 basic steps of idea generation to team generation for becoming an entrepreneur. Finally, the concluding part of the workshop was dealt by Mr. Gourvendra Gangwar. He initiated with the personal experience of his business venture - its journey from beginning till date, future products and problems faced by the company during last three years. He even explained the process of getting funding and the method of registering a startup. The seven days rigorous workshop gave interesting insights to the participants.

30 Hours Remedial Classes on Spoken English: An Effort for Linguistic Development

In the series of offline workshops, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar started 30 Hours Remedial Classes on Spoken English from April 5, 2021 onwards exclusively for Pantnagar University students. The Remedial Classes were conducted by Mrs. Gagan Khaira, English Language expert associated with senior schools of Rudrapur, Uttarakhand. The workshop was also supported by two postgraduate scholars of the University, Mr. Prajwal Singh and Ms. Divya. The 30 hours remedial classes were conducted in 15 Days, with 2 hours of classes per day. For creating a better teaching-learning atmosphere, different activities were inculcated to improve English communication skills and build confidence among the students. Activities like storytelling, show and tell, group discussion, extempore, debating, speech, descriptive drawing activity, etc. helped the students to recognize their grey areas. The remedial classes witnessed



participation of students from different colleges of the University and nurtured the students in creating a greater comprehension for how language works and is used. The fifteen days training programme was an extremely insightful experience for all the participating students. The students had an opportunity to work upon their ability to communicate in a new language.



Faculty from AIIMS Invited for Guest Lecture on Obesity Management

Considering the need of good health and health practices for the human beings in the COVID era, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar organized a guest lecture on *Holistic Approach to Obesity Management* on April 24, 2021. The expert for the guest lecture was Dr. Vartika Saxena, Professor and Head of Department, Community and Family Medicine, AIIMS Rishikesh, Uttarakhand. Dr. Vartika in her talk stated that realizing the importance of immunity in this emergent situation of pandemic, the issue of obesity management is very relevant. Giving an overview of the prevalence of obesity in the world, country and Uttarakhand, she added that obesity is a result of multiple factors and becomes the root cause of many fatal and deadly diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, heart diseases like atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction and many other. Dr. Saxena stated that the concept of obesity management calls for understanding of the factors that contribute to the problem. She stated that increasing automation, static lifestyle, more focus on replacement of regular meals with snacks, intake of high dense food, cultural and societal factors are contributing to obesity amongst the individuals. She also stated that the assessment of obesity in adults is done most commonly using Body Mass Index, Waist Circumference and Body

Fat Assessment. Dr. Saxena very comprehensively stated that being into the field of nutrition they employ holistic management strategies which include diet and physical therapy, emotional management, cognitive strategies, motivational counselling, deaddiction methods, monitoring and support on their clients. She stated that therapy in obesity management initiates with educating the individual on calorie intake, food composition and other essential aspects of nutrition education so that the willingness and motivation of the individual to get an ideal body weight remains for long. Dr. Saxena also responded to the queries of the participants on ideal therapeutic diet, need of taking supplements apart from regular meals and many others. A total of 105 participants comprising of the students, professionals, faculty members attended the session. Dr. Sarita Srivastava, Professor and Head, Dr. Pratima Awasthi, Professor and Dr. Neetu Dobhal, Assistant Professor, Department of Food and Nutrition, College of Home Science, Pantnagar coordinated the session.



New Batch of French and German Language Classes Commenced

A new batch of French and German language classes commenced on April 15, 2021. A total of 91 undergraduate students registered themselves for the A1 Level French Language Course, while 33 students registered for the A1 Level German Language Course. In the first class which was held in offline mode, the students had many different answers when asked why they chose to learn a foreign language. Enhancing one's cognitive skills, pursuing higher studies abroad, career opportunities, value addition for their CV, and learning a new culture were some of the answers from their side. For few students, learning a foreign language is a fun process as the pronunciation varies completely from English or Hindi or other regional languages. Students also saw some English words that have been borrowed actually from the French language. Few words discussed were, rendezvous, cliché, RSVP, crème, vis-à-vis, en route, café, déjà-vu,



Awareness and Plantation Drive Organized Under ESP Action Plan

The Environment Sustainability Plan (ESP) of IDP-NAHEP is a critical component of the project. A tree plantation drive was initiated by members of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar keeping with the mandates of the ESP on April 8, 2021. Dr. Manisha Rani, Nodal Officer (Procurement), IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar visited a government school of Pantnagar and made the students and teachers aware about the importance of plantation of ornamental plants, medicinal plants and fruit trees. A total of 110 fruit trees and ornamental plants were distributed by IDP Pantnagar team amongst the school students, with a motive that each child of the school associates himself/herself with a plant and takes the responsibility for its growth. Trees



are valuable green infrastructure and the IDP Pantnagar team is committed to continue its efforts in ensuring a green environment.

The Main Events of May 2021

S. No.	Event	Proposed Date	Venue	Nodal Unit	Convener
1.	10 Days workshop on 3D Modelling of G.B. Pant University	28-04-2021 to 07-05-2021	Online	Agri Informatics Team	Dr. A.S. Nain, College of Agriculture
2.	Interactive Lecture on Idea to Venture Creation	07-05-2021	Online	Innovation and Incubation Centre	Dr. A.K. Upadhyay, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences
3.	Sensitization Session on Understanding the World of Virus: Threats & Management Strategies in Reference to COVID-19	10-05-2021 to 11-05-2021	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
4.	Online Training on Role of Smart Farming in Indian Agriculture System	10-05-2021 to 14-05-2021	Online	Agri Informatics Team	Dr. A.S. Nain, College of Agriculture
5.	Literary Activities on Diversity of French Language & Francophone Cultures	10-05-2021 to 13-05-2021 and 17-05-2021, 18-05-2021 and 20-05-2021	Online	Language Lab Team	Dr. Alka Goel, College of Home Science
6.	Short Term Course on Mobile Application Development for Agricultural World	20-05-2021 to 02-06-2021	Online	Agri Informatics Team	Dr. A.S. Nain, College of Agriculture
7.	Practicum on Writing a Research Based Review Article	21-05-2021 to 25-05-2021	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities



Broadening the Canvas for Attracting Talented Students

Dr. S.K. Kashyap

Dean, College of Agriculture/PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar

The perspective and outlook of and towards agricultural education requires an evolution. To attract talented students towards agricultural studies, the scenario in agricultural universities must be revamped. A blend of cutting edge technologies with regular classroom based curriculum is needed. Precision technologies, robotics, computing algorithms, and big data analytics must be rigorously incorporated with laboratory and field assignments. Also, the faculty members must be highly trained in usage of artificial intelligence, virtual reality and simulation based educational tools. Strategic inclusion of these aspects and systematic implementation will lead to a massive change in the direction and purview of agricultural education. It will be able to cater to versatile talent as well as different interest areas of prospective and existing students. Through different endeavours of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar we are striving to create a change in the current scenario. Series of training programmes, courses, mentoring sessions, collaborative efforts are ongoing, and I am hopeful that in the time to come, agriculture will surely attract the best of talent.

