



IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar Updates

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

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Message of IDP Leader, GBPUAT, Pantnagar

Upskilling Faculty Members through Foreign Exchange Programmes

Pantnagar University has been making tremendous efforts in successfully fulfilling the mandates of the very ambitious World Bank funded IDP-NAHEP project. These efforts have been translated into several unique activities, workshops/trainings which resulted in immense benefits for students and faculty members of the University. In this regard, the proposition of Foreign Exchange Programme for University is a unique activity of NAHEP and 20+ faculty members of the University have already been benefitted. Through the exchange programmes, the faculty members are getting exposure of new technologies, experience of working in advanced laboratories, possibilities of future research collaborations and most importantly a holistic ecosystem of upskilling. Moreover, it is also emerging as a strong opportunity of networking at both individual as well as at institutional level. I am hopeful that such an experience will positively reflect in the academic performance of the beneficiary faculty members.



(M. S. Chauhan)

IDP Pantnagar Offers Opportunity of Global Experience to the Faculty Spreading Wings for Interdisciplinary Learning & Global Exposure

The faculty exchange programs present a unique opportunity for interaction between foreign universities and Indian institutions. IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar invited new applications from faculty members across the colleges under International faculty exchange programme of IDP-NAHEP. Amongst various selected faculty members, four faculty members: Dr Anil Kumar, College of Agriculture; Dr Navin Chandra Shahi, College of Technology; Dr. Aman Kamboj, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences; and Dr. Deepak Kumar, College of Technology completed their one-month training programme at foreign institutions recently and have rejoined their responsibilities at Pantnagar. They shared their diverse



experiences and expressed their gratitude to IDP-NAHEP and Pantnagar University for the precious opportunity. IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar is continuously striving to harness this stupendous opportunity of foreign exchange programme by continuing the process of screening, selection and facilitating the visit of faculty members to foreign universities. Dean College of Agriculture & P.I. IDP-NAHEP, Dr. S.K. Kashyap said, "The international faculty exchange promotes professional growth at international and national levels for faculty, moreover it is growth for the University as well. It promotes cross-disciplinary learning."

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Feedbacks of Recent Visit Under International Faculty Exchange

I visited at the Canadian Wheat Board Centre for Grain Storage Research, Biosystems Engineering Department, University of Manitoba, Canada for training from January 30 to February 28, 2023 under Dr. Digvir S. Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International). I learnt mathematical models of stored grain ecosystems, hyperspectral imaging for grain quality monitoring, energy-efficient drying of grains, oilseeds, & pulses, detection of insects in stored grain with different techniques for minimizing the cost of chemical fumigation. I met high profile scientists working in the area of food quality, grain drying and storage. I really appreciate the efforts of IDP NAHEP, Pantnagar for providing this excellent platform of foreign exposure which should be availed by maximum of the faculty members.



**Dr. Navin Chandra Shahi, Professor,
Post-Harvest Process & Food Engineering, College of Technology**

I visited School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment, Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia under the International Faculty Exchange Programme of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar, from February 01 to March 2, 2023. I worked as Adjunct Fellow and researched on Wastewater Reuse Technology. I also presented a SOEDBE research seminar (February 24, 2023) on the topic *Decontamination of Wastewater Containing Heavy Metals using Zero Valent Iron and Activated Carbon derived from Agricultural By-Products*. I am very grateful to IDP- NAHEP, Pantnagar for providing me with this international opportunity at Western Sydney University. This visit helped me a lot in creating networks and getting exposure to entirely different work culture.



**Dr. Deepak Kumar, Assistant Professor,
Soil & Water Conservation Engineering, College of Technology**



I availed the opportunity of doing research at a world renowned institute by working with Dr. Prateek Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences (NDFS), College of Agriculture, Utah State University (USU), Utah, USA from February 23 to March 24, 2023. I worked on a project titled *Mechanical characterization of dairy foods using visco-elastic and tribological techniques*. I got familiarized with advanced facilities available in the NDFS department at USU. I also explored the possibilities for future collaborations and exchange of students & faculty between Pantnagar and Utah State University. I am really thankful to IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar team for providing this great opportunity.



**Dr. Anil Kumar, Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Food Science & Technology, College of Agriculture**

IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar provided me with a golden chance to conduct research in the advanced laboratory at Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Indianapolis, Indiana, USA from February 24 to March 25, 2023. The research work was based on bioinformatics and computational biology tools for viral transcriptome analysis using SARS-COV2 RNA-Seq data. I also explored new aspects and emerging research areas like artificial intelligence and machine learning in animal genomics and biotechnology. The best thing I observed was the interdisciplinary work culture. I express my gratitude to IDP-NAHEP for bringing this opportunity of new learning and experiences.



**Dr. Aman Kamboj, Assistant Professor,
Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences**

Writing Studio Provided University Students with Mantras for Professional Profile Development

Professional profile development is a systematic, creative, and thoughtful process. Before applying for any job or for higher education, building effective professional profile is utmost important. Looking into the importance of professional profile development, IDP-NAHEP focused the IDP writing studio on the topic *Mantras for Professional Profile Development*. The five-day workshop was held from March 13-17, 2023. The expert of the session was Dr. Shweta Gupta, Fellow, IIM Indore and Director, Arohana Management Solutions. The workshop was focused on creating lucrative LinkedIn profile, designing ATS (applicant tracking system) friendly resume and preparing good introductory emails for seeking jobs/higher education opportunities. The expert facilitated the participants to create/improve their LinkedIn profile by following step-by-step procedure and after careful analyses of LinkedIn profiles of several reputed and high-qualified personalities. Dr. Shweta highlighted that many a times, though applicants have very good credentials but still they do not get interview calls, the reason behind which could be attributed to the resume being not identified by ATS. Applicant tracking system (ATS) is a computer software designed to scan resume based on certain keywords. Thus, it is very important in present scenario to design resume optimized for ATS. In this context, the expert guided the participants for

designing ATS friendly resume. Dean, College of Agriculture and PI, IDP-NAHEP, Dr. S.K. Kashyap; Professor & Head, Plant Physiology and Nodal Officer (Academic Component), Dr. S.K. Guru was also present in the workshop.

Dr. Kashyap stated that a good and effective professional profile could lead a person to a good career prospect, as it is a medium to project one's strength, skills, and caliber in the most suitable and desirable way. Moreover, updating, editing, and changing profile from time to time as per the purpose of application and requirements of the applying institution is also very important. Dr. Guru appreciated the active participation of the students in the five-days workshop and acknowledged their efforts for personal development and inquisitiveness to learn. Dr. Guru also praised the expert for incorporating interesting activities and brainstorming sessions in the workshop which kept the participants engaged and involved in the learning process. Around 60 participants attended the workshop with full enthusiasm. They mentioned in their feedback that they learnt the importance of professional profile development and the key aspects to develop an effective professional profile and also expressed their interest in the future workshops. Participation certificates were awarded to all the participants at the end of the five-day workshop.



Students Learnt Goal Setting Mantras through Activities and Brainstorming

Goal setting is the process of establishing an outcome to serve as the aim of one's actions. Goals are crucial to success, Setting and tracking goals helps students to learn important life skills such as planning, organization, and time management while also building communication skills, self-awareness, and confidence. Creating and tracking goals is a great way to understand your academic standing and it allows you to focus on determining direction for the future. In this regard, IDP Pantnagar organised an offline workshop on the topic *Goal Setting Exercise* on March 25, 2023 for undergraduate students of the university. Mr. Ravi Rautela, Motivational Trainer and Entrepreneur was the expert of the workshop.

The session started with the initial remarks of Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture & P.I, IDP-NAHEP. Mr. Rautela initiated the session with an ice breaking activity. He trained the students through brainstorming exercises to develop the leadership quality. He nurtured the participants



through various group processes based on past experience and future aspirations. The participants were divided into seven groups. Each group had to perform few team building activities, followed by group presentations. These activities were very helpful to brainstorm actionable objectives, identify realistic and specific goals.



Mr. Ravi Rautela
Motivational Trainer & Entrepreneur

The expert elaborated the participants to break down goals into smaller steps, identify possible obstacles, and schedule a time-frame. The expert concluded that the goal should be measurable, achievable and realistic. A total of 82 students participated in the workshop and found that workshop was interactive and eye opening. For concluding remarks, Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal officer (Academic Component), IDP NAHEP said that the session was very useful for students as goal setting teaches the time management and preparedness for future and it provide the clear path for success.

Experiencing 360° Learning through VR Headsets

IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar has been creating efforts to bring out transformation in the undergraduate teaching through the intervention of 3D viewing facility, virtual reality, and augmented reality for enhanced learning outcome. An AR-VR Lab has been established at University Centre with an objective to let students explore and get into immersive content for deeper understanding. The lab also provides the students with the facility to explore immersive content through Virtual Reality headset.

A total of 20 Virtual Reality headsets- Oculus Go Model have been put up in the lab for this purpose. In this context, a workshop on *Experiencing 360° learning through VR Headsets* was organized on

March 29, 2023 to give hands-on training to the undergraduate students on using VR headsets. The session provided training to the students on how to set up the headsets and exploring the inbuilt content. The students learnt to operate the headsets and then explored the open-source material related to Agriculture & Allied disciplines as well as some scientific-cum-adventurous 3D & VR material available online. The session was led by the team of RA/PDF under the mentorship of Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP-NAHEP and Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer, IDP-NAHEP in which a total of 40 students across the colleges attended the sessions and got firsthand experience of using VR headsets.

Guest Lecture Organized on Predictive Microbiology and Risk Assessment Approaches for Food Safety

IDP-NAHEP conducted an offline guest lecture on *Predictive Microbiology and Risk Assessment Approaches for Food Safety* on March 03, 2023. The expert of the session was Dr. Abhinav Mishra, Associate Professor, Food Microbiology, University of Georgia, Athens, USA. The expert discussed the importance of food safety and various risk assessment approaches for ensuring food safety. He stated that, "Predictive microbiology is a potential tool to aid microbial safety and quality assurance." The session was held in interactive mode wherein students asked multiple questions to the expert and satiated their curiosity. Dr. Mishra also explained the use of predictive microbiology and stated that it is based on the idea that the response of microorganisms to environmental conditions is reproducible and therefore if conditions are known then the response of characterized microorganisms is predictable.

The expert also guided the students for applying for higher studies abroad and probable internship options in various foreign universities.

More than 75 students actively participated and interacted with the expert in the session. Professor & Head, College of Basic Sciences & Humanities and Nodal Officer (Academic Component), IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar, Dr. S.K. Guru, was also present during the session and stated that Food Safety is an important issue and predictive microbiology can help in preventing the food-borne illness thus, the topic discussed today seems very important in that context. Project Scientist, IDP-NAHEP and College Coordinator, Dr. Vipul Gupta, Professor, College of Fisheries and Dr. U.C. Lohani, JRO, College of Technology coordinated the session. Dr. Gupta told the students that Dr. Mishra is also a certified lead instructor for Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)-Preventive Controls for Human Food training, so those who are interested may align with the expert for enrolling in the training (minimum 16-hour classroom programme) and attaining the certificate. Dr. Lohani expressed gratitude to the expert for sparing his valuable time for the lecture on a very relevant topic.



Brief Profile of Dr. Abhinav Mishra

Dr. Abhinav Mishra is an Associate Professor of Food Microbiology in the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of Georgia, Athens, USA. Dr. Mishra currently serves on the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) for five years (2023.01-2027.12). His primary research focuses on Food Safety and Microbiology, including predictive microbiology and risk assessments. He has conducted and published his research on several foodborne pathogens in foods, including *Bacillus cereus*, *Campylobacter*, *C. perfringens*, *C. botulinum*, *E. coli* O157:H7, *L. monocytogenes*, *Staph. aureus*, *Salmonella*, and *Toxoplasma gondii*.



Overseas Guest Lecture on Fashion and Sustainability Organized by NAHEP

IDP-NAHEP is continuously making efforts for the development of university students. In the series of overseas lecture, a guest lecture on the topic *Fashion and Sustainability* was organized on March 17, 2023 by IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Geetika Jaiswal, Assistant Professor, Family & Consumer Sciences, North Carolina A & T State University, United States of America. Dr. Geetika is an illustrious alumna of Pantnagar. She did Master in Clothing & Textiles from College of Home Science, GBPUAT, Pantnagar. Dr. S.K Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic Component), IDP-NAHEP gave initial remarks for the session. In beginning of the session, the expert described the term Sustainable fashion and its relation to products, policymakers, brands and consumers. The goal of sustainable fashion is to create flourishing ecosystems and communities through its activity. Sustainable fashion means to achieve a carbon-neutral fashion industry built on equality, social justice, animal welfare and ecological

integrity. She detailed the entire process through which clothing is produced, consumed and disposed: who, what, how, when, where and then the expected useful life of the product before entering landfill. The sustainable movement aims to combat the large carbon footprint that fast-fashion has created by contributing to air-pollution, water-pollution and climate-change. In the question and answer session,

Dr. Jaiswal responded to the various queries of students and said, “Sustainable clothing uses biodegradable components from natural or recycled fibers. These material grow with no pesticide of fertilizer use, consume less energy and water and employ no chemical treatment”. A total of 64 students attended the lecture and interacted with the expert. Dr. Shefali Massey, Assistant Professor, Home Science and Project Scientist, IDP-NAHEP coordinated the session and encouraged the students to participate in such sessions which would improve their knowledge regarding various career prospects.



Brief Profile of Dr. Geetika Jaiswal

Geetika Jaiswal, Ph.D. in Textile and Apparel Management, is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the North Carolina A&T State University. Her expertise lies in teaching apparel supply chain management processes; sustainability issues in apparel production; international sourcing; and retail analysis and merchandising techniques. Her research interest focuses on investigating social responsibility issues in the global apparel supply chain. She uses both qualitative as well as quantitative data analysis techniques such as regression, ANOVA, multivariate, structural equation modeling (SEM). With her research she strives to align, apply, and develop sustainable business practices and solutions for the fashion brands.



Journey from Agrigraduate to Agripreneur: Tenets of Entrepreneurship Development Shared

Agriculturists need to transform into Agripreneurs to harness profit out of agriculture, so that agriculture could emerge as a profitable livelihood option. To transform into agripreneurs it is important for agriculturists to learn the philosophy, principles, and attributes of entrepreneurship. IDP-NAHEP organized an interactive session of the agrigraduates with an agrigraduate turn agripreneur, Mr. Rajeev Tomar, Managing Director, Roshni Agri Information Pvt. Ltd. (Pantnagar Alumnus) on March 31, 2023. In the session, Mr. Tomar shared his journey of experimenting with various entrepreneurial ventures in agriculture. He stated that, “My idea of being an agripreneur was very simple, that I am made to transform my vision into reality, I am not made to work for the vision of someone else.” He discussed the important tenets of

entrepreneurship as having a strong vision, passion for once ideas, risk-bearing ability, good networking. Mr. Tomar answered several queries of the participants and shared his insights on the way agrigraduates can plan for initiating their own startups. A total of 40 students attended the session at University Centre Building. Nodal Officer (Academic Component), IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar, Dr. S.K. Guru was also present in the session and appreciated Mr. Tomar for sharing his journey and valuable insights with the participants and for sparing his time to nurture the present generation.



Mr. Rajeev Tomar
Managing Director
Roshni Agri Information
Pvt. Ltd.

IDP Pantnagar Participated in International Conference on Blended Learning Organized by PIU NAHEP

Blended learning is combination of offline and online learning in a way that the one complements the other. This style of learning provides a way for faculty to engage students through visuals and online interaction. In this context, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP-NAHEP along with team of RA/PDF participated in a three-day international conference on *Blended Learning Ecosystem for Higher Education in Agriculture* held at C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi on March 21-23, 2023. IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar displayed its efforts and initiatives in the exhibition at the conference with respect to creating blended learning ecosystem at Pantnagar University through multifarious ways. The conference was hosted jointly by ICAR and the World Bank under NAHEP. There were five themes related to strategies for blended teaching learning, technologies for blended learning, sustainability in the blended learning ecosystem,

building stakeholders capacities to navigate in a blended teaching learning ecosystem and contemporary curriculum for agricultural education. IDP, Pantnagar team got the opportunity to interact with International Experts, Academicians and blended learning practitioners from 30 countries and students and faculties from different agricultural universities who participated in the conference. The conference has been envisaged as a multi-partner global event to facilitate knowledge sharing, collaborations and partnerships for the development of a state of the art ecosystem for blended learning based higher agricultural education in India. The learning from the conference was to develop a strategy for accelerating the implementation of a blended learning ecosystem which would ensure that the learner is engaged and is in greater control of his or her individual learning experience.





Providing Opportunities is the Key to Student Development: NAHEP a Key Instrument

Dr. S.K. Kashyap

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

In last three years of its functioning in Pantnagar University, the IDP-NAHEP project has become an epitome of opportunities for students. Whether it is soft skill enhancement or technical expertise strengthening or corporate learning experience or foreign exposure or pursuing entrepreneurial avenues or charting untraditional career paths, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar has provided University students with innumerable opportunities for their development. Going beyond the set targets, the IDP Pantnagar tried to establish a culture of exploration and going beyond the periphery for professional excellence. Especially, in context of student development, through each and every activity, the IDP Pantnagar team tried to generate this cultural milieu of professional excellence. I sincerely aspire that this trend of exploring and pursuing opportunities for personal and professional development continues and becomes embedded in the larger context of University's culture.



The Main Events of April 2023

S. No.	Event	Proposed Date	Venue	Nodal Unit	Convener
1.	One-month training at IRRI Philippines: Experience Sharing Session	03.04.2023	University centre - NAHEP Building	Project Team	Dr. S.K. Kashyap, College of Agriculture
2.	Screening and Workshop on Oscar-Winning Documentary The elephant whisperers	06.04.2023	Virtual Lab, NAHEP Building	Project Team	Dr. S.K. Kashyap College of Agriculture
3.	Interactive Session on Career Prospects in R & D organizations, PSUs and Higher Studies	07.04.2023	University Centre - NAHEP Building	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
4.	Two Months Educational Video Making Internship- 2.0 Initiated	10.04.2023 to 10.06.2023	University centre - NAHEP Building	Project Team	Dr. S.K. Kashyap College of Agriculture
5.	Guest Lecture on Data Analysis for Policy Evaluation	10.04.2023	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Science and Humanities
6.	Interactive Session on Agriculture & Allied Financing; Changing Landscape, Career Prospects & Skills Required	11.04.2023	University Centre - NAHEP Building	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Science and Humanities
7.	Interactive Session on Commercial Landscape Designing and Horticulture Planning	17.04.2023	University Centre - NAHEP Building	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Science and Humanities
8.	Writing Studio on Let's Work on Vocabs	24.04.2023 to 28.04.2023	University Centre-NAHEP Building	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Science and Humanities
9.	Experiencing 360° Learning through VR Headsets	27.04.2023	Virtual Lab, NAHEP Building	Project Team	Dr. S.K. Kashyap College of Agriculture

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 Keep visiting the University Centre for updates!