

## G20 University Connect Programme at SKUAST-Jammu



SKUAST Jammu organised G 20 Lecture series for engaging Young minds. The agenda for lecture series was on G 20 India's Presidency, Agriculture issues in G 20 and sustainable agriculture for resilient Agri Food System with Climate Smart Approach, Prize distribution of Pre event activities. The event marked a significant gathering of dignitaries, experts, and students, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas aimed at advancing global understanding in areas crucial to sustainable development.

The event was honored to have Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra as, a distinguished figure in the field, as the chief guest. Dr. Mohapatra delivered a captivating lecture on the theme of "Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient food systems." His insights shed light on the importance of climate-smart approaches in ensuring the future of agriculture and food security.

Dr. B N Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST Jammu and Chairman of G 20 University Connect Programme at SKUAST Jammu, concluded the series of eminent speakers by reflecting on the occasion. Dr. Tripathi expressed pride in the university's pioneering role in hosting this significant event. He underscored the need for sustainable agriculture and tapped into the region's potential as a top producer of walnuts, apples, and saffron. His speech resonated with the audience, emphasizing the importance of a collaborative approach.

Sanjay Bhattacharya, the former Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, India, gave a special lecture on G20 Indian presidency. Mr. Bhattacharya delved into the transformative era India is undergoing, positioning the country as a key player in the global economy. He provided intricate details about the G20's evolution from addressing economic crises to shaping a multitude of global initiatives. Bhattacharya's insights underscored the significance of G20, which represents 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the

world's population, 85% of the GDP, and 75% of trade. He emphasized the G20's pillars, including energy transition, digital transformation, climate funds, and accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Smita Sirohi, Joint Secretary (G-20) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, contributed to the discourse by discussing the moral obligations that accompany G20 commitments. She highlighted India's vital food programs like the POSHAN scheme and advocated for fortification, reducing food losses, and a comprehensive "one health" approach.

Dr. RC Agarwal, Deputy Director General (Education) ICAR, in his address, lauded the significance of youth in shaping the future and acknowledged the increasing engagement of girls in the agricultural sector.

Prof Rajinder Peshin, the coordinator of the G20 programme, welcomed and presented a report on Pre event student activities during the G 20 University connect Programme by SKUAST Jammu. An awards function recognized student achievements in various pre-event activities, including poster-making, essay writing, quiz, ideation, and rangoli competitions. The winners showcased their creativity and dedication across these diverse categories. In the poster-making competition, Yashvi Sharma, a student from the Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-Jammu secured the first position, while in the essay writing competition, Gurner Kaur a student from GDC RS Pura claimed the top spot. GDC for Women Bhagwatinagar emerged as the quiz champion, and in the Ideathon, a veterinary student from SKUAST Jammu secured the first prize. Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-Jammu triumphed in the rangoli competition.

Following the lectures, Dr. Rohit Saini, Fellow Research and Information System for developing countries, initiated a dynamic question-and-answer session, providing students an opportunity to interact directly with the esteemed guests and deepen their understanding of the discussed topics.

The event drew to a close with a heartfelt vote of thanks, extended by Dr. S K Gupta, Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu expressing gratitude to all participants, dignitaries, and contributors who made the event a resounding success. The closing note was marked by a spirited rendition of the national anthem, symbolizing unity and shared aspirations.