

REPORT ON

EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO 'KRISHI UNNATI MELA' AND

'DIVISION OF MICROBIOLOGY', INDIAN AGRICULTURAL

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Educational trips provide an excellent opportunity to students for learning , experiencing and interacting . An educational trip of Botany Hons students was organized on 18 March 2018 to Indian Agricultural Research Institute. The purpose of the trip was to visit annual 3 day fair “ Krishi Unnati Mela “held at Mela ground and Division of Microbiology , IARI. A group of 10 teachers , 4 laboratory staffs and 38 students visited the place . Dr. K. Annapurna ,Head , Division of Microbiology had invited us . She took us around the mela ground and explained in detail.

In the Krishi Unnati Mela , there were more than 800 stalls. We interacted with many farmers and several Agricultural scientists. The main theme pavilion was based on doubling farmers income. Live demonstrations on Micro- irrigation , Waste water utilization ,Fisheries and Animal Husbandry were very interesting We saw cattle of superior breed. Plots demonstrating yield of new varieties of seeds, agricultural innovations and implements suitable for marginal farmers were attractive features. Several varieties of vegetables , fruits , flowers and jute products were on display.

After lunch break (enjoyed milk, lassi etc.) we assembled in Division Of Microbiology where Dr. K. Annapurna , Head, apprised the students with microbiological instruments, techniques and application of microorganisms in increasing soil fertility and plant growth.It was great to know that several farmers visit IARI on a regular intervals to procure microbes consortium to increase

the fertility of their land . They buy biocontrol agents such as *Trichoderma* for the pest control , in place of chemical pesticides. A biofertilizer *Azolla* pond was an added attraction.

It was purely an enriching and memorable experience of life.







