

Report on the Amrit Internship Orientation Program at Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia

The Amrit Internship Program, an initiative by Indian Potash Limited Centre for Rural Outreach (ICRO) in collaboration with Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University (SKBU), aims to bridge knowledge gaps in agriculture and related fields through the empowerment of youth. This program offers interns the opportunity to acquire agricultural knowledge, new skills, and entrepreneurial insights, which are intended to benefit small and marginal farmers. A pivotal element of this program is the ICRO-developed e-learning module, which equips the interns with foundational knowledge before engaging directly with farmers.

On November 12, 2024, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia, hosted the orientation program for the selected Amrit Interns. The event provided interns with foundational training in data collection methods, research objectives, and an overview of their roles and responsibilities during the internship.

Programme Organised by

- **Prof. Subrata Raha** – HoD in Botany, Coordinator IPL Internship program
- **Dr. Gurudas Mondal** - Training & Placement Officer, Co-coordinator
- **Dr. Sanjoy Mondal** - Assistant Professor in Physics

Participants

The workshop was attended by:

- **59 selected interns** who registered to participate in the field data collection.
- **Professors and other students from various departments of SKBU**

Welcome Address:

The program began with a warm welcome address by **Prof. Dhananjoy Rakshit**, the Vice-Chancellor of Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University. He highlighted the importance of agriculture in India's economy and the critical role interns would play in advancing agricultural practices and improving farmers' livelihoods.

The orientation continued with insightful addresses from distinguished guests:

- **Swami Shivapradanandaji Maharaj**, the Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Purulia, served as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the significance of agriculture in both the national economy and in ensuring food security for the future. His address underscored the role of youth in transforming the agricultural landscape of the country.
- **Shri Adityavikram Mohan Hirani**, IAS, ADM(G), Purulia, as the Guest of Honour, spoke about the valuable opportunity the Amrit Internship presents to young interns. He encouraged the interns to take full advantage of this opportunity to enhance their skills, knowledge, and capacity in the agricultural domain.
- **Mrs. Nandini Roy**, Mentor, ICRO, delivered an in-depth Keynote speech. She elaborated on the roles and responsibilities of the interns, providing a detailed overview of the tasks they would undertake. Her address was instrumental in helping the interns understand the expectations and significance of their involvement in the program.
- **Dr. Rajeev Ranjan**, Senior Advisor at IPL Foundation, participated through video conference. He welcomed the interns and shared valuable insights into the critical factors they should be mindful of throughout their internship experience. His guidance was aimed at equipping interns with the necessary tools to succeed.
- **Dr. Subal Chandra De**, Controller of Examinations at SKBU, delivered a special talk on “Education Transforms Lives,” which provided an overview of various educational courses offered by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and SWAYAM. His talk broadened the interns’ horizons on available educational opportunities beyond the internship.
- Address by Dr. Dipak Nayak, Senior Scientist and in-charge, ICAR-CISH Regional Research Station, Malda delivered a lecture on the importance of the traditional and natural farming practices and justified the relevance of age-old farming technology at present time.
- **Dr. Ankit Ghorai**, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Baghmundi, Purulia, presented a lucid discussion on “Government-Sponsored Schemes for the Welfare of Farmers.” His presentation provided crucial insights into the various schemes available to farmers, enhancing the interns' understanding of governmental support in agriculture.
- A beautiful demonstration on issues and challenges of cooperatives and farmer producer organisation (FPO) formation was given by Shri Bibekananda Patra, Organising Secretary (Eastern zone), Sahakar Bharati.

- **Dr Nachiketa Bandyopadhyay**, Registrar, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, address the concluding remarks and delivered vote of Thanks.

Every intern, dignitary, and associated person had a satisfying meal based on their dietary choices.

Workshops and Practical Sessions:

Following the lunch break, a practical workshop was conducted on “Online Registration Portal Management for Interns.” This workshop covered the process of filling out questionnaires, navigating the e-learning modules, and other technical aspects of the internship. The session was led by **Mrs. Nandini Roy** with support from **Prof. Subrata Raha**, PI, **Dr. Gurudas Mondal**, and **Dr. Sanjoy Mondal**. Their expert guidance ensured that the interns were well-prepared for their tasks and responsibilities. In the workshop Handholding registration in the ICRO Portal has been discussed by Mrs. Nandini Roy. The interns get all technical information for the registration process in the ICRO portal. The e learning registration process and e-learning materials are also discussed elaborately.

Help Desk and Formalities:

A session on the help desk and related formalities was held by **Dr. Gurudas Mondal**, Co-coordinator, and TPO, SKBU. He addressed the practicalities and technicalities that the interns would need to complete in the coming weeks, ensuring a smooth internship experience for all participants.

Valedictory Address:

The orientation program concluded with a **Valedictory Address** by **Dr. Sanjoy Mandal**, Assistant Coordinator of the IPL Foundation Amrit Internship Program and NSS Officer at SKBU. Dr. Mandal encouraged the interns to apply their learnings diligently and make a meaningful impact on the agricultural landscape of the region.

Conclusion:

The orientation program marked a successful beginning to the Amrit Internship Program. The session provided the interns with essential knowledge, practical skills, and a deep understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Through the valuable insights offered by

esteemed speakers and practical workshops, the interns are now well-equipped to contribute meaningfully to the development of agriculture and the welfare of small and marginal farmers. This initiative not only empowers the youth but also fosters the growth of a sustainable agricultural future in India for further policy design in the agriculture domain in India.



Banners



Venue: Seminar hall, SKBU



Registration desk



Welcome by coordinator & Dignitaries on the dais



Felicitating chief guest



Felicitating Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor



Felicitating Guest of honour



Felicitating Mentor ICRO



Lighting the lamp



Welcome address by Prof. Dhananjay Rakshit, Vice-Chancellor, S.K.B.U.



Address by chief guest Swami Shivapradanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, RKMV, Purulia



Address by guest of honour, A. M. Hirani, IAS, ADM(G), Purulia



Keynote address by Nandini Roy, mentor ICRO



Address by Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Senior Advisor, IPL Foundation



Address by Dr. Ankit Ghorai, ADA, Baghmundi, Purulia



Address by Dr. Dipak Nayak, Senior Scientist and in-charge, ICAR-CISH Regional Research Station, Malda



Special talk on 'courses offered by NSDC and SWAYAM' by Dr. Subal Chandra De, CoE, SKBU



Concluding remarks & Vote of Thanks, Dr. Nachiketa Bandyopadhyay, Registrar, SKBU



Lunch



Online registration