

## **World Food Day 2023 celebrated at IUST**

World Food Day, celebrated on October 16th each year, is a global event designed to raise awareness and inspire action towards ending world hunger. In IUST, the Department of Food Technology celebrated this year's world food day on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 with the theme of "Water is life. Water is Food. Leave no one behind" with special emphasis on the international year of Millets. This event was aimed to foster innovation, encourage dialogue, and inspire solutions to the complex challenges surrounding food security and sustainability. This event featured various competitive events which include quiz and product development in which a total of six teams of various universities and colleges of the valley participated.

The proceedings of this daylong event started with the University Tarana. The welcome address was given by Dr. Tariq Ahmad Ganaie, Head, Department of Food Technology. This was followed by the address by Dr. Rumaan Bashir, Dean, School of Engineering & Technology, IUST who gave an overview of the theme of the event and exemplified the SDGs set by UN. Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, IUST who was the guest of Honor of the event focused on the importance of such events and the contribution of the Department at large. The chief guest of the event Prof Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo, VC, IUST elaborated upon the important aspects concerning the water and the food and the responsibilities of all. He also focused on the industry academia partnership for better results in the field of food processing. The inaugural session also witnessed the felicitation of the guests and sponsors and ended with the cultural program performed by the students of IUST. Dr Farhana Mehraj proposed a vote of thanks.

One of the major highlights of the World Food Day celebrations was the competitive quiz among the students of these six institutes. The quiz featured a diverse range of questions covering topics such as global food systems, technology, and nutrition. Teams of enthusiastic students participated in the intense competition, showcasing their knowledge in the field of food technology. In conjunction with the quiz, the event also hosted a product development competition, providing a platform for students to showcase their innovative food products. This competition was aimed in nurturing entrepreneurial spirit and promoting solutions-driven research in the field of food science. Moreover, a panel discussion was conducted, featuring experts, researchers, and industry professionals. This session delved into crucial topics such as sustainable food production, waste management, and the role of technology in processing. The discussions facilitated meaningful exchanges of ideas and fostered a collaborative approach to tackling pressing food issues.

The event ended with the valedictory session in which Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Dean Academic Affairs of IUST was the chief guest and Prof. A H Moon, Dean Research, IUST was the Guest of Honor. They appreciated the department for organizing this successful event and felicitated the winners of the competition. In Quiz competition, team from SKUAST-K was the winner while IUST and University of Kashmir were First and second runner-up, respectively. In Product development competition, team from SKUAST-K was the winner while IUST and Govt. Polytechnique for women, Bemina secured second and third, respectively.