

## **Promoting Mission LiFE on India's G 20 Presidency, UGC HRDC Holds Two-Day Workshop on Eco-Friendly Gardening Practices for Gardeners of Lands and Gardens Dept.**

*Aligarh, 27 August* – In line with the commitment to foster sustainability and environmental consciousness under India's G 20 Presidency, a two-day workshop on eco-friendly gardening practices was hosted by the University Grants Commission Human Resource Development Centre (UGC HRDC) at AMU. As part of the G20 University Connect Events under the theme of Mission LiFE, the workshop was held for the gardeners providing Plantation Services in the D/o Lands and Gardens, AMU.

The workshop aimed to equip gardeners from AMU with the knowledge and skills needed to embrace ecologically responsible gardening practices. With the goal of incorporating sustainability into daily activities, the workshop highlighted the importance of eco-friendly measures for gardening in today's world.

Chief Guest of the Valedictory function, Professor Abdul Alim, Dean of Students Welfare at AMU, commended the participants and emphasized the significance of training support staff underlining the crucial role that the UGC HRDC and the Department of Lands and Gardens played in driving such an important initiative. He specially appreciated the course content in the Participants' mother tongues being Hindi and Urdu which aligns with the aims of the National Education Policy 2020.

Dr. Faiza Abbasi, Director of UGC HRDC AMU, emphasized the pivotal role of continuous professional development in the enhancement of institutional performance. She expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of AMU, Professor M Gulrez; Registrar Mr. M Imran, and the MIC Lands and Gardens, Professor Zaki Anwar Siddiqui, for their patronage towards the workshop. Dr. Abbasi underscored the workshop's positioning with the theme of India's G20 Presidency in September 2023, which places strong emphasis on safeguarding the environment and biodiversity. She highlighted the collective efforts undertaken globally by G20 nations to address the pressing challenges of the 3Cs namely COVID, climate change, and Conflict.

Addressing the participants, Professor Zaki Anwar Siddiqui, MIC Lands and Gardens, acknowledged the participation of 61 gardeners from the Plantation Services of the Department of Lands and Gardens. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to acquire new skills and insights that promote sustainability. He further emphasized that this workshop marked a significant milestone in the careers of the participating gardeners, as they engaged in a training and development program initiated by the University itself. Professor Siddiqui expressed optimism that the eco-friendly practices imbibed during the workshop would translate into a greener and more environmentally conscious campus.

The workshop's curriculum was meticulously designed by Course Coordinator Professor Wazahat Husain, former Chairman D/o Botany. Eminent resource persons, including Professor Masroor A Khan and Professor Anwar Shehzad from the Department of Botany, along with Professor Masroor Alam from the Department of Civil Engineering, ZHCET, facilitated interactive sessions on various topics. These included an introduction to why sustainable gardening and an overview of biodiversity, native and indigenous plant species, the creation of wildlife-friendly habitats, prudent plant selection including drought-tolerant and low-maintenance species, organic pest and disease management, soil health, composting, and water conservation in gardening.

The workshop not only imparted practical skills but also inspired a commitment to sustainable practices among AMU's gardening community. The event was attended by Professor Khwaja Salahuddin, (Retd. D/o Chemistry); Professor Parvaiz Talib, D/o MBA; Professor M Masroor Alam, D/o Civil Engineering; Professor Azra Musavi, Director, Centre for Women's Studies; Professor M Rihan, MIC Electricity; Professor Sheeba Hamid, Provost, IG Hall; Dr Fouzia Nausheen, D/o Botany and Dr Arshad Iqbal, for K A Nizami Centre for Quran Studies.