Lokmangal Agriculture College Second-Year Students Gain Hands-On Experience in Advanced Agricultural Technologies Through Educational Visit to Zuari Advanta Agri Innovation Center, Lamboti



On October 15, second-year students of Lokmangal Agriculture College, Wadala operated by the Shriram Shriram Gramin Sanshodhan Va Vikas Pratishthan and affiliated with Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri—visited the "Zuari Advanta Agri Innovation Center" at Lamboti (Solapur) under the subject of "Advanced Irrigation Systems," gaining direct, practical experience with cutting-edge agricultural technology. This study tour was organized with the objective of understanding modern irrigation methods, technological applications, and farm management practices in contemporary agriculture. During the study tour, students visited the center's state-of-the-art soil and water testing laboratory, where they learned modern methods for evaluating soil fertility and water quality. To understand emerging agricultural revolutions, students observed drone technology demonstrations, highlighting the effective use of drones in crop monitoring and pesticide spraying. Furthermore, they visited a greenhouse emphasizing protected cultivation, conducting an in-depth study of controlled-environment crop production practices. During the field tour, students witnessed the operational mechanics of an automated drip irrigation system spread across an expansive 100-acre area, learning firsthand how water is utilized with optimal efficiency. Additionally, by visiting export-quality banana plantations and drumstick (*shevga*) fields established to global standards, students acquired detailed insights into advanced crop management and progressive irrigation techniques.

The educational tour benefited from the guidance and cooperation of company officials, including Dr. Sudhansh Patra (Manager), Dr. Atul Pawar (Manager), Dr. Sagar Sapkal (Consultant), Shri. Ganesh Chavan (Chemist), Shri. Akash Nirmal (Laboratory Assistant), and Shri. Akshay Sawant (Field Officer). They addressed the students' various technical queries and shared practical, field-level experiences. This study tour was organized by Prof. Ajit Kure, faculty member for Advanced Irrigation Systems within the Department of Agricultural Engineering. The initiative received special mentorship from College Principal Dr. Amol Shinde and Department of Agricultural Engineering Head Prof. Sujata Chougule. Valuable cooperation for the organization and success of the tour was provided by Prof. Pooja Chede and NSS volunteer Prasad Shirsat. A notable total of 81 second-year students participated in this educational visit. This field trip significantly enriched the students' practical knowledge, proving highly beneficial for mastering future-ready, advanced agricultural technologies.