

IAUA



NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 10 No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH 2010

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Spot News

Dr Kirti Singh joins IAUA Newsletter Editorial Board

Dr Kirti Singh, Ex-Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, was born on 26 May 1934 in Basgit village of Kerakat tehsil, located in Jaunpur district of U.P. He did his graduation from Government Agricultural College, Kanpur; and M.S. & Ph.D. from University of Florida, USA.

Dr Singh started his scientific career as Vegetable Specialist at Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar. Then he joined as Associate Professor / Vegetable Botanist, PAU/HAU, Ludhiana/Hisar; Dean (Agriculture) and then VC at NDUAT, Faizabad; HPKV, Palampur; and IGKV, Raipur. He became Member (March 1995 to June 1998) and Chairman, (July 1998 to May 1999) ASRB, New Delhi. Presently he is Chairperson (Hon.) of World Noni Research Foundation, Chennai. Dr Singh has been awarded by several national and international organizations. He is still working as Chairman / Member of various technical committees and boards. Dr Singh represented as an expert to 8 countries. He guided 13 Ph.D. students, developed several varieties and established agronomic practices in vegetable crops, and published 100 research papers, 2 bulletins and 5 books.



Dr Kirti Singh

NEW VCs

Dr S.D. Shikhamany joins as VC, APHU, Tadepalligudem (A.P.)

Born on 15 June 1947 at Alampur village in Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh, Dr S.D. Shikhamany completed his primary and higher secondary education at Alampur; obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad in 1968 and 1970, respectively; and Doctorate from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore in 1983. He specialized in viticulture acquiring advanced training in viticulture from University of California, Davis, USA in 1985. He was deputed to Russia (1998), Brazil (1999), Thailand (2000) and China (2004) by Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India to study viticulture and identify areas for research collaboration with them.

Dr. Shikhamany has association with horticultural research since three decades and with research management since a decade. He has contributed greatly to development of production technologies for increasing and sustaining the productivity under adverse situations and quality improvement in grape, pineapple and guava, with major emphasis on quality for export of fresh grapes and wine.

Dr. Shikhamany was Indian Representative on Council of International Society for Horticultural Sciences, Belgium; FAO Lead Consultant in Nigeria; President, Society for Promotion of Horticulture, Bangalore and Vice-President, Horticultural Society of India.

Dr Shikhamany taught a course in viticulture to PG students and also guided 4 PG students. He received Gold Medal for General Merit in Ph.D. from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (1984); Gold Medal from Andhra Pradesh Grape Growers' Association (1992); a silver plaque from Maharashtra Grape Growers' Association (1997) and Late Giridharilal Chadha Memorial Medal (1998) from Horticultural Society of India as recognition of his meritorious contributions to grape research. He published 85 research papers, 30 popular articles and 6 technical reports on grapes. He presented 43 papers at national and international seminars / symposia.

Dr Shikhamany was founder Director, National Research Centre for Grapes (ICAR), Pune; and Director, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore. Currently he is Vice-Chancellor, Andhra Pradesh Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh from 1 March, 2010.

Dr S. B Dandin joins as VC, UHS, Bagalkot

Dr S.B. Dandin joined as VC, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot on 20-April-2010. He was born on 1 June 1949 at Midakanatti village in Belgaum district, Karnataka. He did his B.Sc (Botany) in 1971; M.Sc. (Botany with Cytogenetics) in 1973 and Ph.D. (Cytogenetics and Plant Breeding) in 1977 from Karnataka University, Dharwad. Dr Dandin held many important positions at Central Silk Board, Bangalore and rose from the position of Senior Research Assistant (1977) to Director, CSR&TI, Mysore; Central Silk Board, Bangalore and Special Officer, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot. He developed and released two high-yielding cardamom varieties; four improved, high-yielding mulberry varieties; and evolved three silkworm races. He guided 16 Ph.D. students.



Dr S.D. Shikhamany

He is life member of 13 national and international organizations and Fellow of five academic societies. He published 516 papers. He is working as member expert with advisory committees, task force, peer groups, and member editorial boards of 18 organizations.

Dr. Dandin visited many international organizations, such as Wageningen Agricultural University (Netherlands); University of France (France); South China Agricultural University, Regional Sericulture Training Centre for Asia, China National Institute of Sericultural Research, South-West Agricultural University (China); Sericulture Research Institute (Vietnam); Asian Institute of Technology and Kasaksat



Dr S.B. Dandin

Agriculture University (Thailand); National Institute of Agro-biological Sciences, Kyoto, Japan; and Institute of Technology, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Futchi (Japan).

Dr Dandin received international and national awards like Louis Pasteur Award from International Sericulture Commission, Lyon, France (2008); World Intellectual Property Organization Award by the World Intellectual Property Organization, Rome (2005); National Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, Suwon, South Korea; Maxwell Lefroy Award from Governor of Assam (2008), Award of Excellence from Ministry of Textiles and Directorate of Sericulture, Government of Maharashtra, Title of Father of Bivoltine Sericulture of Tamil Nadu and Gold Medal from Sericulturists of Tamil Nadu; Best Project Award from Japan International Co-operation Agency, and many NRDC, New Delhi awards.

Focus on Universities : Achievements and Events

DEEMED TO-BE UNIVERSITY

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI

48th Convocation

The 48th Convocation of the Post-Graduate School of Indian Agricultural Research Institute was held on 13 February, 2010. Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, was the chief guest. Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture, and Prof. K.V. Thomas, Minister of State for Agriculture, also graced the occasion.



48th Award at convocation of IARI

16th 'Sukumar Basu Memorial Award 2007-08' for his outstanding research contributions in the area of Soil Science. The award carries Rs.10,000 in cash and a Commendation Certificate. Dr K.V. Prasad, Sr. Scientist, Division of Floriculture and Landscaping, IARI, New Delhi received the 14th Dr B.P. Pal Memorial Award for the year 2009 for his outstanding research contributions on "Developing new varieties of chrysanthemum and roses through induced mutation and tissue culture". The award carries Rs.10,000 in cash, Medal and a Commendation Certificate.

40th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture

This series of annual lectures was initiated by Indian Agricultural Research Institute in 1968 in reverence to Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India. Shastri ji symbolises the very simplicity of Indian life, a vast cultural milieu and the triumph of a sovereign nation striving to meet the aspirations of its people. He is the epitome of our national pride. The 40th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr Deepak Pental, VC, University of Delhi on 11 February, 2010 on 'Achieving the elusive second green revolution: can research and development help. Dr Pental emphasized the need to apply modern science and technology for improvement of crops and consolidated multidisciplinary efforts in crop breeding to improve productivity and quality related traits. He pointed out that China has shown phenomenal growth in productivity of important crops during the past decade through application of scientific technologies. He suggested that centers for improvement of each crop should be developed with adequate funding and infrastructure support. More scientists for specific breeding programmes and related sciences should be employed and young scientists should be trained in cutting edge technologies. He also stressed that administrative and political hurdles should not come in the progress of research and development for improving crop production and quality at this particular stage for achieving food and economic security in the country. He expressed that India can and must initiate massive efforts for improving research and development for higher production and improved quality of all major crops for food and commerce.



48th convocation

HE Smt. Patil highlighted the importance of agriculture in India. She said that in our country agriculture provides employment to 60% of the work force and contributes 18% to our GDP. India supports 18% of global population and 15% of livestock on less than 5% of the world's water resources and 3% of global land. She suggested that IARI should strive continuously for excellence, review their own performance constantly through self appraisal, and try to involve organizations like National Innovation Foundation, who are working to support grassroot innovation and traditional knowledge in research activities.

At this convocation 75 M.Sc. and 69 Ph.D. students received the degrees. Shri Mridhul Chakraborti (Genetics) and Shri H.B.Santosh (Genetics) received the 'Best Student of the Year 2009' award for Ph.D. and M.Sc. respectively; besides five students received 'IARI Merit Medals' for their outstanding academic performance in Ph.D. and M.Sc., respectively. Five faculty members, viz Dr A.D. Munshi (Vegetable Sciences), Dr Y.S. Shivey (Agronomy), Dr S.D. Singh (Environmental Sciences), Dr D.K. Singh (Agricultural Engineering) and Dr V.T. Gajbhiye (Agricultural Chemicals) received 'Best Teacher Awards'.

Dr A.K. Singh, Deputy Director-General (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi, received the 10th Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award for his outstanding research contribution in the area of Natural Resource Management (Water Management). The award carries Rs. 25,000 in cash and a Commendation Certificate. Dr Srinivasa Rao Cherukumalli, Principal Scientist, Soil Science, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad received the

Dr S.L. Mehta, former VC, MPUAT, Udaipur, who presided over the function, also emphasized the need for collaborative efforts of scientists, administrators and politicians to improve crops and overall integrated growth of agricultural systems. He gave examples of success achieved in innovations for improvement of horticultural crops production in some parts of Rajasthan.

Dr H.S. Gupta, Director, IARI, welcomed the Speaker, Chairman and other dignitaries present on the occasion. He highlighted the importance of this prestigious lecture and paid tribute to late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri ji, the illustrious son of India, who invoked the reverential slogan "Jai Jawan – Jai Kisan". The Jawan, guarding our frontiers and the Kisan in the agricultural field helping to ensure food security to the countrymen are fundamentally to sustain as an independent sovereign nation. Dr S.L. Mehta introduced the worthy speaker Dr Deepak Pental to the dignitaries present on the occasion. Dr H.S.Gaur, Dean and Joint Director, IARI presented vote of thanks to the Speaker, Chairman and other dignitaries present on the occasion.

UNIVERSITIES

ANDHRA PRADESH HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, TADEPALLIGUDEM (SHORT PROFILE)

The Horticulture in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, is rapidly transforming to an industry. Globalization of horticulture, food safety and environmental concerns envisage at not only increased production but also cost and quality competitiveness, long-duration storage, off-season production and processing qualities of the horticultural produce.



Administration office building

Andhra Pradesh has a strong base in Horticulture and is a leading producer of a variety of fruits, viz., mangoes, citrus fruits, grapes, bananas, cashew and pineapple; vegetables viz., tomatoes, onions, chillies etc. It ranks first in India in the production of mango, chillies, turmeric, sweet orange and papaya. It is estimated that the horticulture sector in Andhra Pradesh will account for 10-15 per cent of the states GDP and would provide livelihood to millions of farmers.

Recognizing the importance of Horticulture and need for new technologies and manpower with reference to the changed scenario and its growth potential in Andhra Pradesh, The Andhra Pradesh Horticultural University was established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh through the G.O. Ms. No.134, dated 26 June 2007 (Act 30 of 2007). The university started functioning with effect from the academic year 2007-08, with headquarters at Venkataramannagudem, Tadepalligudem, West Godavari district A.P. The university runs on the Land Grant pattern followed in the USA, integrating Education, Research and Extension for the growth of Horticulture.

The APHU at present has four horticultural colleges, five polytechnics and 28 research stations, located in 9 agro-climatic zones of the state. The university offers B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture; M.Sc. (Horticulture) with specialization in (i) Fruit Science, (ii) Vegetable Science, (iii) Floriculture & Landscape Architecture, and (iv) Plantation, Spices & Medicinal Crops; and Ph.D. (Horticulture). The course curriculum prescribed by the 4th Deans' Committee of ICAR is being followed for the degree programme. Students, besides course work, undergo Rural Horticultural Work Experience Programme and Hands-on training / experimental learning of 14 weeks duration each in specialized subjects, dealing with commercialization of horticulture in addition to rural training for the award of Bachelor's degree. (i) protected cultivation of high-value crops (ii) post-harvest technology and value addition (iii) nursery production and management and (iv) floriculture and landscape gardening.

For the 2 year diploma programme in Horticultural Polytechnics, the students are trained in commercialisable and rural job-oriented technologies like production of genuine plants and seed material, tissue culture, bio-agents and bio-fertilizer production, vermicomposting, repair and maintenance of plant-protection equipment, disease and pest diagnosis, soil and plant analysis; grading, packaging and storage of fruits and vegetables; quality estimation in horticultural produce and e-extension.

The university is conducting basic, applied, location / region-specific and anticipatory research for the overall development of horticultural crops in the state at 28 research stations located in 9 agro-climatic regions. The research programmes are covered under three categories viz., Non-Plan Projects/University Projects, ICAR Plan Projects under All India Coordinated Research projects, and State Horticulture Mission Projects. The university takes up collaborative research programmes with other organizations like ICAR institutes, State Horticultural Mission, and National Horticulture Board on important national problems of horticulture crops.

Education of rural youth in horticulture and allied areas is the main function of the horticultural extension. The extension activities include technology assessment and refinement, train master trainees and farmers; organize kisan melas, exhibitions, rythu sadassulu etc. Horticultural information centers have single-window delivery, disseminate information through electronic media, conduct on-farm research, demonstrate technologies in the farmer's fields, and supply disease-free quality seeds and planting materials to the farmers.

GOVIND BALLABH PANT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, PANTNAGAR

Media meet and technology showcasing

A 'Media meet and showcasing of technology' was held at Pantnagar campus on 18 March 2010. Large number of media persons of regional and national newspapers and TV channels participated in this event under the subproject 'Mobilizing mass media

support for sharing agro-information' of National Agricultural Innovation project of the ICAR. In the inaugural function, Dr B.S. Bisht, VC was the chief guest, and Dr. T.P. Trivedi, Assistant Director General, ICAR and Principal Investigator of the project, was the guest of honour.

Dr Bisht, in his inaugural address highlighted the major contribution of Pantnagar university in agriculture, human-resource development and development of society. While underlining the importance of agricultural technologies, he informed that out of 32 new technologies selected for display in Rastropati Bhawan this year, 18 were from agriculture. Dr Bisht pointed that the university is laying the form of future thrust on development of varieties as per changed climatic conditions, livestock development and promotion of nutraceuticals, medicinal plants, precision farming, hill farming and help to farmers through Information Technology.

Dr Trivedi briefed about National Agricultural Research System and NAIP project and their achievements. He urged media to play an important role in meeting the information needs of farmers and scientists, and facilitate major achievements in the field of agriculture.

Mr Sudhir Chhadha, a progressive farmer and agri entrepreneur, expressed that besides having a huge potential, India is lagging behind in agriculture. He emphasized the need of collaboration between agricultural scientists and industry to improve our face value at international level.

Dr. S.K. Saini, Director Experiment station, presented a brief account of few selected technologies developed by the university. Dr J.P. Tiwari, Dean (Agriculture) highlighted the contribution of media in promotion of agricultural technologies of the University. A question-answer session was organized, in which media persons asked specific questions about different technologies. A showcasing of selected agri-technologies was also organized, Dr. Gyanendra Sharma, Project Investigator, welcomed the delegates and guests, Dr B. Kumar, Director, Communication, presented the vote of thanks. Dr. Naresh Kumar, Co-PI, anchored the function.

MoU to educate girl students on nutrition and health

The university has signed a MoU with Nestlé India to implement Nutrition awareness programme in Uttarakhand, represented respectively by Dr B.S. Bisht, VC and Shri. Suresh Damodaran, Factory Manager of Nestle at Pantnagar.

The project would reach out to adolescent girls (13-17 years) studying in village schools for imparting health and nutrition awareness through easy-to-learn and interactive sessions. The topics to be covered include balanced diet, nutritive value of common foods, common local deficiencies and the fads and fallacies related to food.

A joint committee of representatives from the two organizations will oversee implementation of the programme. Joint surveys will be carried out to determine the areas in which the project will be conducted. This programme is being launched across locations in India in collaboration with reputed educational institutions after successful completion of a pilot project carried out by Nestle India with Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

Royalty from M/S Syngenta India Ltd

M/S Syngenta India Ltd has paid a royalty of more than Rs 5 lakhs to the university for commercial production and sale of seed of Pant Sankar Dhan-3 variety developed by university scientists, at 5 percent of the seed sold during 2008 and 2009. This disease-resistant paddy variety matures in 126 days and gives 68-72 q/ha yield.



A view of the dias. the media meet and showcasing of technologies



Media person visiting the showcasing of technologies



Pant Sankar Dhan-3

GURU ANGAD DEV VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, LUDHIANA

The GADVASU established a regional research, extension and training centre at Kaljharani (Bhatinda) and organized its first Pashu palan mela on 27 November, 2009. Sardar Prakash Singh Badal, Chief Minister, Punjab while inaugurating it, appreciated

the efforts of the university in setting it up and suggested that exhibitions and melas should be arranged in remote areas of the state to benefit the farmers on latest technologies in livestock production. Dr V. K Taneja, VC, informed that the centre shall maintain Sahiwal and crossbred cows, buffaloes and goats for demonstration and training of farmers and disseminate improved animal-husbandry practices for increased productivity and income from livestock.



Inauguration of first pasu palan mela

KARNATAKA VETERINARY ANIMAL AND FISHERIES SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, BIDAR

National workshop

A national workshop on "Strategies for extension education in fisheries and animal husbandry sector for the next decade" was organised by Directorate of Extension, Bidar Campus during 4-5 September, 2009. Dr Dilip Kumar, Director & VC, CIFE-Deemed University, Mumbai, delivered the keynote address; and Dr A.K. Srivastava, Director & VC, NDRI - Deemed University, Kamal and Dr M.V. Gupta, World Food Prize laureate. Dr H. Shivananda Murthy, Director of Extension & Organising Secretary Coordinated the workshop. Prof Suresh Honnappagol, VC, Dr M.J. Chandre Gowda, Additional Commissioner, Gol; Dr S. Prabhu Kumar, Zonal Project Director, ICAR, and other dignitaries presented lead papers. A compendium containing the lead papers was released on the occasion. The workshop was attended by more than 150 participants from all over the country working in the area of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries from different Veterinary / Animal Sciences / Agriculture Universities, Deemed Universities and Development Departments.



National workshop

MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI

Bio-control and bio-technology laboratory at Pune

Shri. Sharad Pawar, Union Agriculture Minister, inaugurated Bio-control and Bio-technology laboratory at College of Agriculture, Pune on 24 January 2010. Shri Pawar said that the modern technology is the way of future and we have to adopt it to increase the food production at affordable cost. He stated that farmers should get good prices for their produce to ensure the country's food security and to strengthen the economy. Shri. Balashaeb Thorat, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra presided over the function. He emphasized the need to conduct research on upcoming pests and diseases in view of the changing climate. He hoped that the scientists would rise to these challenges through bio-technological research. Dr R.B.Deshmukh, VC gave the introductory remarks, and Dr B.R.Ulmek, Associate Dean, proposed the vote of thanks.



Ingruation of biocontrol lab in pune

23rd national convention

The 23rd National Convention of Agricultural Engineers was organized at Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri in collaboration with Institution of Engineers (India), Maharashtra State Centre, during 6-7 February 2010. The theme of the convention was 'Agricultural Mechanization through entrepreneurial development'.



23rd National Convention

Total 137 papers were presented in 14 concurrent technical sessions. One special session of the Farmers-Industry-Scientist was organized to discuss the problems of agricultural mechanization.

Dr V.M. Mayande, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Dr R.T. Patil, Dr H.G. More and Dr A.G. Powar were conferred with 'Eminent Engineers Award 2010' by Institution of Engineers (India) during this convention for their valuable contributions to the field of agricultural engineering.

Dr M.M. Pandey, DDG (Agric. Engg), delivered Rathindranath Tagore Memorial lecture on "Agricultural engineering for enhanced productivity and employment generation". He pointed out the significant achievements made in the development of

Farm Machinery and Power in the country. He emphasized the need to pay more attention on reduction in drudgery of farm workers especially farm women.

MPKV third in JRF

MPKV, Rahuri achieved the third position at national level in Junior Research Fellowship examinations of the ICAR, New Delhi for 2008-09. Twenty three students of the university achieved success in this examination. Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture felicitated the VC Dr R.B. Deshmukh for this achievement. The University is consistently among the top three positions in JRF exams during the last three years.

MAHARANA PRATAP UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, UDAIPUR

MBA programme in agri business

MBA course in agri business was started by the university as a self-financing programme with intake capacity of 20 students from each discipline of agriculture and allied sciences.

Short course on Computer-aided apparel designing and production pattern making

A 10 day short course on Computer-aided apparel designing and production pattern making was organized during 17 to 26 August 2009 by the Department of Textiles and Apparel Designing, at college of Home Science, Udaipur. Total 13 participants from different states attended the course. The short-course comprises lectures, demonstration, and practical exposure to the use of graphic and PPS softwares and interactive sessions with designers. The participants were given demonstration on apparel designing on computer, development of commercial pattern for production and use of multi-layer cutting in apparel manufacturing unit of the department. A manual was also released on computer-aided apparel unit and production-pattern making.

Dr R.K Mittal, ADG (EQR), ICAR, was the chief guest. Prof. S.S. Chahal, VC, presided during the valedictory session and distributed certificates to the participants.

Varieties

The following varieties were recommended for release by State Seed Sub-Committee for Agricultural and Horticultural Crops at the meeting held on 4 January 2010.

Maize: Pratap Hybrid Maize-2 (EH-1389)

An early-maturing (80 days), white-seeded, single-cross hybrid with bold and semi-flint grains, having yield potential of 50-56 q/ha, suitable for rainfed conditions. It is tolerant to major insect pests and diseases.



Pratap Hybrid Maize-2 (EH-1389)

Sorghum: Pratap Chari -1080

An early single-cut (60-65 days) variety with yield potential of 350-400 q/ha of green fodder and 125-135 q/ha of dry fodder. Per day green and dry fodder production was 5-49 q/ha and 1.93q/ha respectively. The fodder quality is superior, having protein 6.8% with in vitro digestible dry matter (IVDMD) 54.8%.



Pratap Chari -1080

Groundnut: Pratap Raj Mungphali (UG-5)

A spanish bunch early cultivar maturing in 95-99 days, with dry pod yield 22-25 q/ha and kernel yield 15-17q/ha. It contains 49 % oil and 69 % shelling efficiency. The variety is moderately resistant to early and late leaf spot diseases and jassids. This cultivar is developed for kharif (rainy) season.



Pratap Raj Mungphali (UG-5)

Soybean: Pratap Raj 24 (RKS -24)

A high-yielding variety (30-35 q/ha), maturing in 95-100 days and having cremish yellow seed. This variety has 21% oil and 40-41% protein content and shows moderate resistance to collar rot, girdle beetle, stem fly and defoliators.



Pratap Raj 24 (RKS -24)

Ajwain: Pratap Ajwain-1

Pratap Ajwain-1 has seed yield potential of 8-10 q/ha. It is suitable for dryland agriculture. It matures in 150-155 days and contains 3.9% volatile oils. The seeds are bold and greenish. It is moderately resistant to prevailing diseases



Pratap Ajwain-1

like leaf blight and powdery mildew.

Babchi: Pratap Babchi -1

Indeterminate growth habit with a plant height of 164 ± 70 cm, bluish purple-flowered, bold-seeded cultivar, having a test weight of 1.77g. It has high psoralen content (1.37%) with a psoralen-yield potential 38-40 kg/ha.



Pratap Babchi -1

Visit of Scientists

- Dr. P.K. Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Soil and Water Engineering, CTAE, Udaipur, was on visit under the scheme Full Bright Visiting Lecturer Fellowship, at Florida International University, Miami, the USA from 15 September 2009 to 15 January 2010.
- Dr V.P. Saini, Assistant Professor, Department of Fisheries, College of Fisheries, Udaipur, attended international training programme on "Molecular breeding: fish" under NAIP at University of Stirling, the UK, during 15 October 2009 to 14 January 2010.

Fifth convocation

The fifth university convocation was held on 12 March 2010 at Udaipur. Smt. Prabha Rau, HE, the Governor of Rajasthan and Chancellor of the university presided over the programme.

In her presidential address she streamlined the national and global issues of food and nutritional security of the people, the recent spiraling prices of food-grains, the demand-supply gap in oilseed and pulses, etc. She laid emphasis on the need to preserve the bio-diversities; especially in the context of depleting natural resources of the state. Prof. S.S. Chahal, VC presented the university report, covering the major accomplishments in education, research and extension achieved after last convocation on 26 October 2006 and specified the immediate thrust area for strengthening in the university. Prof. G.K. Chadha, Chief Executive Officer, South Asian University, New Delhi, was conferred Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) in absentia. In all, 236 Masters and 110 Ph.D. students of different faculties were awarded the degree. Besides, 27 students were awarded gold medals for their excellent all-round performance in the studies.



Fifth convocation

MARATHWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PARBHANI

17th convocation

The 17th convocation of MAU was held on 19 December 2009 at Parbhani. Dr S.S. Kadam, VC, presided over the function. Dr Mangala Rai, Director-General, ICAR, New Delhi was the chief guest. Shri Vijayrao Kotle, Vice-Chairman, MCAER, Pune, graced the event. During convocation, 2,683 degrees were conferred on undergraduate, post-graduate and Ph.D. students, and 23 gold and 11 silver medals. Cash prizes were awarded to Smt. Dr D. Muri, Dr P.N. Antwal of Home Science for significant contribution in women empowerment and for Dr R.G. Nardre and Shri P.A. Mundhe for fabrication of farmer-friendly implements. In his address, Dr Mangala Rai pointed out drought as the main stumbling block in agricultural production that prevails in 13 states of India. He emphasized the need for proper utilization of water and bringing larger area under irrigation. If water-use efficiency is increased by 10%, we can produce 50 million tones additional food grains. For dissemination of developed technologies, we need to adopt demand-driven extension in place of the present extension system. He appealed the graduates to take agriculture as business for acceleration of farm income and productive employment.



Dr Mangala Rai, delivering the convocation address

Workshop on in-situ soil-moisture conservation

A workshop on in-situ soil moisture conservation was organized on 1 October 2009 by Department of Soil and Water Conservation, College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Parbhani, under the aegis of Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, New Delhi. The participants included Dr S.O. Wani, Regional Co-ordinator (Asia),

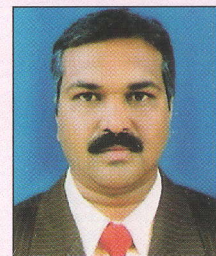


Release of book during workshop

ICRISAT, Hyderabad, and Shri P.K. Parchure, Regional Director, Central; Ground Water Board, Nagpur. Dr S.S. Kadam, VC, presided over the function. He underlined the importance on in-situ soil-moisture conservation in the present scenario of climatic change.

Sanjay Supekar attends international course

Shri Sanjay Supekar, subject matter specialist (Agricultural Engineering.), FRS, Aurangabad attended the international R&D course on Agricultural Engineering Technologies at Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Israel during 3-26 November 2009. The course focused on advanced agricultural engineering technologies like optimization and automatization of irrigation, quality control and production management, geographical positioning system for precision agriculture, monitoring of environment and climate in greenhouse, computerized decision-support system, harvest and post-harvest systems and the application of soil and water-conservation technologies.



Shri Sanjay Supekar, SMS (Agril. Engg.)

PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, LUDHIANA

Chrysanthemum show

A Chrysanthemum show, exhibiting different varieties of chrysanthemum flowers was held on 5-6 December 2009 at Ludhiana. The show was organized jointly by the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping along with Estate Organization and was dedicated to the memory of eminent Punjabi poet Bhai Vir Singh, whose birth anniversary fell on 5 December.



Chrysanthemum show

Inaugurating the show, Dr. Jaspinder Singh Kolar, Member PAU Board of Management said that commercial flower cultivation has great scope for Punjab farmers and offers a good option for crop diversification. He expressed satisfaction that PAU has developed several chrysanthemum hybrids, which should be registered. He urged the PAU scientists to evolve tissue-culture techniques for fast multiplication of flower plants.

More than 150 varieties of chrysanthemum having varied colours, shapes and flower sizes were exhibited at the show. The PAU has developed 50 hybrid varieties of chrysanthemum, of which 15 have been released for general cultivation in Punjab and the remaining are under testing stage. A large number of people in and around the campus came to see the show.

New varieties

The university released five new varieties of vegetables, fruits and mushrooms viz. Punjab Kareli-1 bitter gourd, Punjab Ratta tomato, Punjab Pink guava, Star Ruby grapefruit and Shitake mushroom. The state variety approval committee, gave formal approval for their release for general cultivation in the state. Their salient features are given below:-

Bitter gourd

Punjab Kareli-1: Leaves are green, smooth and serrated. Vines are long. Fruits are long thin, green and ridged. It takes 66 days for first harvest. Single fruit weight is # 50g and average yield 70 q/a.

Guava

Punjab Pink: It is an apple-coloured hybrid. Trees are vigorous with drooping branches. The fruit is medium to large, with attractive red skin in summer season and golden yellow in winter. The flesh is red, having pleasant flavour. TSS is 10.5 to 12.0%. It is a prolific bearer, having average yield 53 kg/tree.

Grapefruit

Star Ruby: Trees medium in size, fruit size small to medium, shape oblate-roundish. Peel smooth, glossy yellow, having distinctly bright red blush. Flesh colour is deep red, fruit seedless (1-2 seeds), juicy, rich in vitamin C and has high TSS, well blended with acidity. It is an early variety that ripens during last week of November and yields 53 kg/tree.

Mushroom

Shiitake Mushroom: *Lentinus edodes* (Shiitake mushroom) has an attractive buff to brown colour, large-sized fruit bodies having characteristic aroma and good shelf-life. It has very good nutritive value (58-60% carbohydrates, 20-23% proteins, 9-10% fibre, 3-4% fat and 4-5% ash). The variety is known for its medicinal value. It can be cultivated during October to end of February (14-24°C) throughout the state of Punjab and plains of north India, and yields 50 kg fresh mushroom/100 kg. dry straw.

Tomato

Punjab Ratta: Plants determinate, foliage cover dense and dark green. It takes 125 days from transplanting to first picking when transplanted during the last week of November. Fruits are oval, medium sized, very firm and deep red (average lycopene content 8/mg/100/g), with average yield 225 q/acre. It is suitable for processing.

Natural nutritive vinegar

The Department of Microbiology is preparing a number of products such as bio-fertilizers, rhizobium culture, mushroom spawn etc. for selling to farmers and other people. Recently it has come up with natural vinegar made by fermentation of sugarcane juice. According to Dr Maninder Arora, Head of the Department, the vinegar is blend of vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants. It is of yeast origin and is good for health.

Endeavour Research Fellowship-2010

Dr Surinder Sandhu, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, has been selected to receive a 2010 Endeavour Research Fellowship. The Endeavour awards are the Australian Government's internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship programme, providing high-achieving individuals with a unique opportunity to undertake study, research



2010 Endeavour Research Fellowship

or professional development. Ms Julia Gillard, Minister of Education from Deputy Prime Minister's office, Canberra, congratulated her for the award. Ms Melissa Sheehan, Director, Scholarships, Exchanges and Alumni Section of Department of Education, Australian Government informed that the award is valued at A\$ 23,500 with establishment allowance A\$ 4,000, travel allowance A\$ 4,500 and monthly stipend A\$ 2,500 per month for up to 6 months on pro-rata basis. Ms. Sandhu passed M.Sc. and Ph.D with distinction and fetched the prestigious Jawahar Lal Nehru Award (1996) for her doctoral research.

The research would relate to the expression of genes involved in the control of lignin biosynthesis and alter the cell wall of sugarcane. The project envisages the identification of a lignin-path way promoter with high expression in sugarcane. This will help improve the ethanol production from sugarcane efficiently.

Visit of international delegation on Education



Visit of International delegation

A six-member international delegation paid a visit to PAU to discuss matters relating to education. The members were, Dr Mort Neufville, Executive Vice-President (Retd), Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Washington DC; Dr Pradip Mukerji, Center Director, Pacific Asia R & D, Abbott Nutrition, Research and Development, Singapore; Dr David Hansen, Senior Fellow, Association of Public Land Grant Universities, Washington DC; Dr William B. DeLauder, Higher Education Consultant and President Emeritus, Delaware State University, Bear; Dr Sammy Comer, Director, International Food and Agricultural Development, School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, Tennessee State University, Nashville and Dr K.G. Raghothama, Professor and Associate Director, International Programmes in Agriculture, Purdue University, West Lafayette.

Dr Hansen said internship programmes of 8-10 weeks with focus on agro-business would be worth-while where PAU could supervise students from other universities and vice versa. He said that a concept paper on the setting up of University Consortium should be prepared to specify the background goals and objectives, strategy, structure, system and support, as well as the participation of the private sector of both India and US.

Regarding curriculum development, the programme, dual-degree system, curriculum making, distance education etc. were discussed from various angles. Dr Raghothama suggested a tripartite arrangement of students learning from PAU and working in industrial sector. Dr R.S. Sidhu, Dean, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities suggested the adoption of online system of imparting instructions to the teaching faculty as per the system terms followed for international students of

executive business masters under the South-Asian modules.

The discussion led to setting a stage for identifying areas for curriculum development and internship programmes that include agri-business, bee-keeping for honey production, food engineering, integrated pest management, bio-technology, medicinal and aromatic plants, nursery production in horticultural crops, seed technology, agro-ecology etc.

National award for excellence in technology transfer

Punjab Agricultural University received the first International Potash Institute (Switzerland) and Fertilizer Association of India (IPI-FAI) Award-2009 for promoting balanced and integrated fertilizer use with emphasis on potassium.

The award of Rs 25,000 along with a certificate and a crystal souvenir was presented by Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr M.K. Alagiri to Dr. Manjit Singh Kang, Vice-Chancellor, PAU, at the inaugural function of the FAI Annual Seminar-2009 in the Convention Center, Hyderabad Marriott Hotel, Hyderabad.



National Award for Excellence

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

New Varieties

Sunflower: RSFH-130 hybrid is recommended for north-eastern transitional zone (Zone 1) and north-eastern dry zone (Zone 2) with yield potential 22-25 q/ha and maturity 95-100 days. It has high oil content and tolerance to bud-necrosis disease.



Sunflower RSFH-130

Paddy: IET 9926 is recommended for hilly zone, with 18 per cent higher yield than the check Intan. It has yield potential of 55-60 q/ha and maturity of 160-165 days. It is tolerant to submergence and blast disease, and is suited for puffing.



Paddy IET 9926

Sesame: DSS-9 is early maturing (90 days), bold-seeded and high-yielding (6-8 q/ha), recommended for Zones 1 and 2.



Sesame DSS-9

Ginger: Humanabad Local identified for north-eastern transitional and dry zones (Zones 1 and 2), and northern dry zone (Zone 3) is high yielding (28 t/ha). The rhizome has less fibre and high essential oil.

Crop production

- In cotton-based intercropping studies, growing of cotton + onion (1:5), cotton + chilli/ beans (1:5), cotton + groundnut/ greengram/ soybean (1:3), cotton + coriander (1:2) were found remunerative (Zone 8).



Crop production

- Sowing of pigeonpea seeds in polybags (5 x 4) during second week of May in Zones 1 and 2 and transplanting seedlings at 25-30 days in main field soon after receipt of rain increased the yield of pigeonpea.

- Pre-emergence application of Butachlor @ 1.5 kg/ha (3ml/l) effectively controlled the weeds in maize + soybean (1:2) and sorghum + pigeonpea (4:2) intercropping (Zones 1 and 2).

Crop protection

- Insect-pest management in Bt cotton was achieved by growing 1 row of lady's finger as trap crop after 25 rows of Bt cotton to encourage predatory insects, and growing one row of maize and cowpea on bunds of Bt cotton field (Zone 8).
- Seed treatment with *Azospirillum* @ 25 g + *Trichoderma harzianum* @ 6 g/kg seed was effective in controlling blight disease in maize (Zone 3).
- Spray of neem oil as plant based pesticide @ 10 ml/liter water effectively controlled rust disease in soybean (Zone 8).

Bt brinjal

Cultivation of brinjal (*bangan*, eggplant) is often input intensive, specially under insecticide application. The fruit-and-shoot borer (*Leucinodes orbonalis* Guen) is its



Manjari Gota

Udupi Gulla

Malapur Local

most serious and destructive insect, accounting for 70% losses in commercial plantings. The UAS, Dharwad selected six local cultivars of eggplant, Manjari Gota, Hdupi Gulla, Malapur local (S), Kudachi local, Rabakavi local and GO-112, (having high local consumer preference in Karnataka and southern Maharashtra) to transfer **Cry 1Ac** gene in them.

A clear advantage of the technology in terms of negligible shoot infestation (0.00%) and significantly reduced fruit infestation (<5%) in all the Bt brinjal varieties compared with their non-Bt counterparts was observed. More than 96% of the fruits were marketable in Bt varieties compared with those in non Bt varieties. Requirement of insecticide sprays reduced to 3-4 in Bt varieties compared with 30-35 in respective non-Bt varieties. Overall, 49.02 to 74.90% yield advantage was observed over respective non-Bt variety besides reduced sprays of insecticides and higher benefit-cost ratios.



Rabakavi Local

Go 112

NAAS Fellow

Dr Basavaraj M. Khadi, Dean (Postgraduate Studies), UAS, Dharwad was elected as Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences-2010, with effect from 1 January, 2010.



Dr Basavaraj M. Khadi



Dr Mukanagouda S. Patil

Visits abroad

Dr Mukanagouda S. Patil, Professor, Plant Pathology, ACD, participated and presented a research paper entitled "Integrated management practices for tomato leaf-curl Disease in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicon (mill.) Wettst*)" at the 4th International Congress of Chemistry and Environment (ICCE, 2009) held at Ubonrathathani University, Thailand during 21-23 January, 2010.

Nomination

Dr D.P. Biradar, Professor (Agronomy) and Editor, Publication Centre, UAS, Dharwad was nominated as member of Laboratory Committee of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Bangalore, for the tenure of 1 year.



Dr D.P. Biradar

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR

ISO Certification

The College of Agriculture, Raichur under UAS, Raichur received three ISO 9001:2008 certification by Bureau Verita Certification (India) Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai. The Certificate is valid for 3 years from 31 December 2009 to 30 December, 2012. This is the first College in the country under ICAR-SAU system to obtain ISO certification. The certificate was awarded for imparting quality education in agricultural sciences both at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES, BAGALKOT

(SHORT PROFILE)

The university was established by Government of Karnataka through Special Ordinance No. 2 of 2008, dated 22 November 2008 at Bagalkot. It is the third horticultural university in the country. Dr S.B. Dandin, the first VC, was appointed on 20 April 2010. Five Horticulture colleges which were functioning already at Arabhavi (Belgaum district), Mudigere (Chikkamagalur district), Bidar (Bidar district), Bagalkot



University Building

(Bagalkot district), were associated with the university. One new college was started at Kolar (Kolar district) in 2009. Four more new horticulture colleges were announced by the CM in 2010-11 budget. The UG and PG educational programmes being offered at UAS, Dharwad and Bangalore were also brought into this university from academic year 2009-10.

Consequently, 12 Horticultural Research Stations and 10 AICRP's were transferred from UAS, Dharwad and Bangalore along with the assets and employees, with effect from 1 April 2009. The university caters to education, research and extension in the field of Horticulture with following mandates:

1. To impart quality education in all branches of horticulture and allied sciences;
2. To conduct applied, strategic and basic research in all branches of horticulture and related disciplines.; and
3. To facilitate transfer of technology to the farming community through extension system and outreach.

There are three Directorates viz. Education, Research and Extension with integrated functioning.

LOCATION

University headquarter is situated at Navanagar, 6 Km from old Bagalkot town on Belgaum – Raichur State Highway. Bagalkot is well connected by railway and nearest air port Hubli (100 km) and Belgaum (120 km). The Bagalkot district is located in the northern part of Karnataka. The most elevated portion of the district lies between 450 to 800 m above the sea level, extending over 6,593 km².

EDUCATION

Imparting quality education and training in horticulture to the students to develop human resources to match the changing needs is the main objective of the university. The university offers courses in Horticulture at undergraduate level, B.Sc. in Horticulture and post-graduate level M.Sc. (Horticulture) and Ph.D (Horticulture).

Under-graduate Course in Horticulture

B.Sc.:4 year programme in Horticulture

Post-graduate (M.Sc.) courses in Horticulture

Vegetable Science, Fruit Science, Post-harvest Technology, Floriculture and Landscape Architecture and Plantation, Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

Ph.D. Programmes in Horticulture: (from 2010-11 onwards)

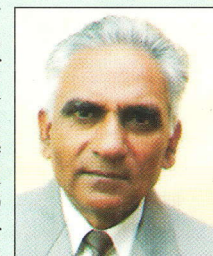
Vegetable Science, Fruit Science, Post-harvest Technology, Floriculture and Landscape Architecture and Plantation, Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

In addition, the university is offering certificate courses of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months duration and diploma course of 2 years for the needy persons, rural youths, in-service officials and entrepreneurs.

AWARDS

Dr P.G. Pandey Oration Award to Dr M.P. Yadav

The Indian Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and Specialists in Infectious Diseases (IAVMI) has conferred its Dr P.G. Pandey Oration Award Lecture for the year 2009-10 on Prof. (Dr) M.P. Yadav, former Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar and former VC, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut, for his outstanding contributions in the field of Veterinary Microbiology and Animal Health. The Award was given on 27 January 2010 at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) during the international



Dr M.P. Yadav

conference on "Protecting animal health: Facilitating trade in livestock and livestock products". Dr Yadav delivered the Award lecture on "Synergism of conventional and molecular diagnostic assays". The Oration Award was instituted by IAVMI in the memory of late Dr P.G.Pandey, who did pioneering work on livestock diseases such as amphotomiasis, hump sore and fluorine toxicity, besides his valuable contributions for laying the foundation of higher standard for Veterinary Education and Research in India in his capacity as Research Officer, Director of IVRI and Principal, Veterinary College, Mathura.

DR B.S.KONKAN KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, DAPOLI

Eminent Engineer Award

Dr A.G. Powar, DEE, DBSKKV, Dapoli, received Eminent Scientist Award 2010 at 23rd annual convention of Institution of Engineers, Kolkatta (India) for outstanding contribution in the field of Agricultural Engineering on 6 February, 2010 at MPKV, Rahuri (Maharashtra).



Dr A.G. Powar

Other Awards

- DBSKKV, Dapoli secured gold medals in men kho-kho and kabaddi in 11 All India Inter Agricultural Universities sport competitions, 2009-10, held at MAU, Parbhani. The men's kho-kho team of this university consistently secured the gold medal for the last 3 years at national level. Shri Pravin Sawant of this university also received gold medal in Javelin through.
- Dr Nayansingh Thakor, Professor and Head, of Agricultural Processing Engineering, CAET, Dapoli received Fellow Award, 2010 from Indian Society of Agricultural Engineering, New Delhi, for his notable contributions in the field of agricultural engineering.
- Miss Rajashri Manjrekar, post-graduate student received Reddy Award, 2010 from Indian Society of agricultural engineers, New Delhi for the best PG thesis in agricultural engineering.
- Total 23 students of DBSKKV, Dapoli passed the JRF examination, 2009, and ranked third at national level.



Dr Nayansingh Thakor



Miss Rajashri Manjrekar

MAHARANA PRATAP UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, UDAIPUR

International award to Dr (Mrs) Suman Singh

Dr (Mrs.) Suman Singh, Senior Scientist and Associate Professor in All India Coordinated Research Project, FRM Department College of Home Science, Udaipur received IEA/Library Mutual Medal-2009. The award was given for excellence in research in Ergonomics and Occupational Safety at Beijing, China on 12 August, 2009 during-triennial Congress of International Ergonomics Association. The award carries a cash prize of US\$ 10,000 along with medal and citation. Dr Singh is the first Indian to bag this-International award.



Dr (Mrs) Suman Singh

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

National award

Dr (Mrs) Rama K. Naik, Dean (Home Science), College of RHSc, UAS, Dharwad, received National Award for Women's Development

through application of Science and Technology for the year 2008 on 26 February 2010. The award was presented at the function organized on National Science Day by Government of India, DST, Seed Division, New Delhi. Her outstanding contributions over three

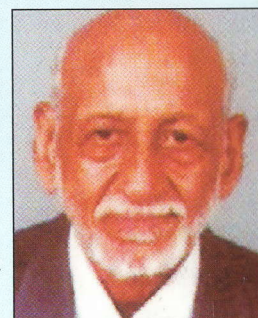


National award

decades are an economic and social empowerment of women in rural areas through structured radio lessons on health, food and nutrition, sanitation, reproductive rights, non-communicable diseases and reduction of drudgery for women.

OBITUARY

Padma Shri Dr J.S.P. Yadav, former Chairman ASRB and Member Editorial Board of IAUA, left for his heavenly abode on 3 April 2010. Born on 30 July 1922, he had a brilliant academic career throughout, and occupied important positions including Chairman, ASRB; Vice-Chancellor, HAU, Hisar; Coordinator and Director, CSSRI, Karnal and Senior Research Officer (Soils), Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. Dr Yadav made outstanding contributions, especially in the areas of soil and water management for crop production.



Dr J.S.P. Yadav
(30.7.1922-03.04.2010)

In view of his significant contributions, Dr Yadav was conferred Padma Shri by Government of India. He received, singly or jointly, several awards such as Guinness Award of Commonwealth Scientific Association, Hari Om Trust Award, Dr Rajendra Prasad Award, Brandis and Schlich Memorial Prize, Honorary Member of Indian Society of Soil Science and Soil Conservation Society of India, Golden Jubilee honour of Indian Society of Soil Science, USAID award for superior performance, All India Pensioners' Association appreciation for meritorious ICAR service, Samaj Gaurav Samman National Award, Indira Gandhi National Award, and D.Sc. (h.c.) from GBPUAT, Pantnagar. Dr Yadav was elected honorary member of International Union of Soil Sciences in 2008.

In Dr J.S.P. Yadav's demise, the country has lost an eminent Soil Scientist and IAUA an able philosopher guide. The Secretary-General IAUA on his personal behalf and on behalf of all VCs of member Agricultural Universities pays homage to him and prays for peace in the Heaven to the departed soul to rest.

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From:	
Indian Agricultural Universities Association # 1G-2, CGIAR Block, NASC Complex, D.P.S. Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi 110 012	