



IAUA



NEWS

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Spot News

Dr H.S. Gupta joined IARI, New Delhi as Director on 1 April 2009. Dr Hari Shanker Gupta, born on 1 July 1953, did his B. Sc. (1971) from University of Gorakhpur; M. Sc. (1974) from GBPUAT, Patnagar; Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology (1981) from IIT, Kharagpur; and Post-Doctorate (1987) from University of Nottingham (U.K.). He was a Visiting Scientist (1993) to Washington State University, USA. Dr Gupta is Expert, Department of Biotechnology for evaluation of R & D projects; Member of Editorial Board of *Development Science*; and Member, Committee for Formulation of Agricultural Policy of Government of Uttaranchal. He developed nine varieties of rice suitable for northern India. He was invited to address the plenary session of Rockefeller Foundation's annual meeting on Rice Biotechnology, held at Chirag Mai, 1993. Dr Gupta has a number of publications to his credit and is recipient of ICAR Team Award for Outstanding Research in Crop Improvement for the triennium 1994-96; and Dr Rajendra Prasad Puraskar for the Best Book in Crop Sciences (2004); NRDC's Meritorious Invention Award (2006); Hari Om Ashram Trust Award of the ICAR (2007); and NRDC's Societal Innovation Award (2008).



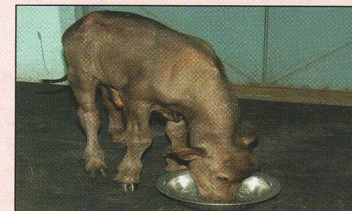
Dr H.S. Gupta

Promising Technology

National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal

Hand-guided cloning technique for buffalo reproduction

The scientists of Animal Biotechnology Centre have developed a landmark technique, i.e. Hand-guided Cloning Technique and produced the world's first cloned buffalo calf Garima on 6 June 2009. This technique is simpler and faster and is an advanced modification of conventional Cloning Technique that was used for the production of the cloned sheep Dolly.



Garima (12 days old) drinking water

This new technique is less demanding in terms of equipment, time and skill. In this technique, the oocytes isolated from abattoir ovaries were matured *in vitro*, denuded, and treated with an enzyme to digest the zona to obtain zona-free ova. These ova were further enucleated with the help of hand-held fine blade. Somatic cells from ear of a donor buffalo and were propagated to be used as donor-nuclei. The enucleated oocytes and donor-nuclei were electro-fused, cultured in the laboratory, and the resultant embryos were transferred to the recipient buffaloes for the production of the calf. Its major advantage is that the calf of desired sex can be obtained.

The world's first buffalo calf through this hand-guided cloning technique was born on 6 February 2009 at NDRI, Karnal. The team members were Dr S.K. Singla, Dr R.S. Manik, Dr M.S. Chauhan, Dr P.Palta, Dr R.A. Shah and Shri A. George.

NEW VCs

Prof. S.S. Chahal takes over as new VC, MPUAT, Udaipur

Prof. S.S. Chahal joined as VC, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur on 11 June 2009. He served as Director of Research and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Born on 6 April 1947, he graduated and obtained Doctorate from Punjab University, Chandigarh. He joined as Assistant, Department of Plant Pathology at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in 1975, became Professor in 1990 and rose to the position of Dean, Post-graduate Studies.

Prof. Chahal distinguished himself in carrying out basic and applied research in the fields of disease resistance, epidemiology, histopathology, risk analysis, disease cycle and management of several serious diseases of cereals and sunflower. He contributed in the development of three downy mildew-resistant varieties and ergot-resistant lines of pearl millet, and in establishing the mode of action of alkyl phosphonate fungicides against phycomycetous plant pathogens. As Principal Investigator of five externally-funded research projects, he was leader of International Working Group on Karnal Bunt of Wheat. He published 130 research papers in Indian and foreign journals, 15 books or manuals, 18 book chapters and 20 popular articles besides editing 5 volumes of *Plant Disease Research*.

He was recipient twice of Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Merit Academic and Pesticides India Award, and was twice



Dr S.S. Chahal

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Visiting Scientist to International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics and Danish Government Institute of Seed Pathology, Copenhagen, Denmark. He received the PAU Meritorious Teacher Award and B.B. Mundkar Memorial Lecture Award. He is Member of 10 and fellow of 4 professional societies, and also Honorary Fellow of Punjab Academy of Science and Indian Society of Plant Pathologists. Prof. Chahal is mentor to 14 post-graduate students.

Prof. Chahal has been President, Society of Indian Pathologists, Indian Society of Mycology and Plant Pathology; and Chairman, Steering Committee of Asian Congress of Mycology and Global Conference II. He is the serving President of Indian Phyto-pathological Society and has attended 15 international and more than 80 national conferences.

Prof. P. Murugesha Boopathi takes over as new VC, TNAU, Coimbatore

Prof. (Dr) P. Murugesha Boopathi joined as VC of TNAU for 3 years on 4 June 2009. He was born in 1950 at Thiruvandipatti (dist. Salem) and graduated in Agriculture at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore in 1972.

Dr Murugesha Boopathi is an eminent researcher, who developed Decision Support System for Integration of Fertilizer Recommendation software and Soil Health Card. He is responsible for formulating fertilizer prescriptions for major field crops such as rice, *chulam*, *ragi*, maize, cotton, tobacco, groundnut and wheat, and for horticultural crops such as potato, carrot, cabbage and cauliflower. He has



Prof. P. Murugesha Boopathi

handled 19 research projects funded by international and national funding agencies worth several crores. He developed modern technologies for Integrated Plant Nutrient Supply System. He is a pioneer for undertaking nitrate-pollution studies in the soils of intensively cultivated areas in Coimbatore district. He published more than 20 research articles in international and 45 in national journals, and also published and compiled more than 25 books.

Prof. Boopathi is a good extension worker. He was responsible for extending facilities to farmers for soil and water analysis at concessional rates. He prepared several technical bulletins, pamphlets and leaflets on Soil Test Crop Response for creating awareness among the farming community about the importance of soil health. He prepared and distributed TNAU Soil Health Card to farmers at the cost of Rs.10 per card for the past 4 years, and distributed nearly 33,000 Leaf Colour Charts to Department of Agriculture for distribution among the farmers for nitrogen management in rice.

Dr Boopathi made invaluable contributions to institutional development of TNAU. He was instrumental in obtaining Agricultural Research and Information System Project funded by ICAR worth Rs. 50 lakhs, and in establishing Soil Testing Laboratories in Southern Regional Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

He worked as Director, Planning and Monitoring in TNAU and served as Liaison Officer between the Government and TNAU in making government policies. He is a life member for more than nine professional societies. He visited 11 countries, viz. Israel, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, the USA, Australia, France, Thailand, Japan, China and South Korea, on various official assignments.

Focus on Universities : Achievements and Events

DEEMED UNIVERSITIES

ALLAHABAD AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ALLAHABAD

National conference on antimicrobial resistance

The Department of Microbiology and Microbial Technology, Allahabad Agricultural Institute, organized a National Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance: from Emerging Threat to Reality during 23-25 March 2009, funded by ICMR, WHO, ICAR, DBT, NABARD, DST, CSIR, and CST (U.P.). Total 180 scientists participated in its deliberations.



The technical sessions were divided into six themes, viz. Antimicrobial therapy and drug resistance, Agriculture's role in managing antimicrobial resistance, Resistant pathogens in food, Environmental aspects of antimicrobial resistance, Computational aspects of discovery and Development on antimicrobial resistance, Regulatory initiatives on drug resistance.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr V.M. Katoch, Secretary, Department of Health and Research, Government of India and Director-General, ICMR, New Delhi. The invited speakers were from JALMA, ICMR, ICAR, Piramel Life Sciences, Panacea Biotech, IGIB, Pantnagar, Kurukshetra University, BHU etc, who are actively involved in this field. The following recommendations emerged out of the conference.

- With increasing rate of emerging antibiotic resistance, phage therapy has emerged as a plausible alternative to antibiotic therapy.
- Improved integrated pest-management practices and organic farming will help in efficient use of chemical pesticide molecules, for averting antimicrobial resistance.
- Assessment of resistance risk before a fungicide is introduced for commercial use forms a proactive approach for resistance management. Active participation of public and private agencies is useful for it.
- In farm animals, the use of antibiotics should be limited to disease control and not for growth promotion, and hence a strong regulatory initiative should be undertaken in India.
- Regulations and guidelines laid down by Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005), International Food Safety Authority Network (INFOSAN), WHO, FAO and OIE should be implemented for diminishing this problem.
- Blue-green algae found in every conceivable habitat can exert a significant effect on their immediate environment. Some of these Cyanobacteria are resistant to various weedicides without limiting their biological activity, and hence, can be introduced in rice fields to reduce the toxicity of various pesticide residues and

heavy metals, with simultaneous benefit of nitrogen fixation.

- Greater emphasis is needed on understanding molecular interactions to tackle the chemical problem for effective drug designing.
- New alternative intellectual property strategies such as placing medical innovations in the public domain (open innovation system), sharing bundles on IPRs, patent pools, patent clearing-houses, public databases and non-rival access to knowledge must be further studied and implemented.

INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IZATNAGAR

Farm school on AIR

A prize distribution ceremony of two farm schools on All India Radio (Krishi Pathshala Karyakram) was organized on 28 January 2009 at Joint Directorate of Extension Education. This programme was organized in collaboration with All India Radio, Bareilly and All India Radio, Rampur in which 30 episodes were broadcast by the former and 21 by the latter. In this programme various farmers and livestock owners from Bareilly, Rampur, Moradabad, Shahajahanpur and Badaun participated. Prizes were given to the winners of farm school by Shri R. Ramesh Kumar, District Magistrate, Bareilly.

Gene based techniques for research in biotechnology

A three-week international training course on Gene-based Techniques for Research in Biotechnology, sponsored under India Millennium Fund, Government of India and Colombo-Plan Secretariat, Sri Lanka, was held during 7-28 March 2009 at Izatnagar. There were 11 participants from different developing countries, viz. Iran, Afghanistan, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam. The training course was inaugurated by Prof. Satya P. Gautam, VC, MJP Rohilkhand University, Bareilly. Prof. M.P. Yadav, VC, SVBPUAT, Meerut, was the chief guest at valedictory function.



Dr M. P. Yadav, awarding prizes

NATIONAL DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KARNAL

Seventh convocation

National Dairy Research Institute (Deemed University), Karnal held its seventh convocation on 21 April 2006. On this occasion, the degrees of Bachelor of Technology and Master of Technology (207); Master of Veterinary Science, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy (109); were conferred upon 408 students who

completed the requirements during the biennium 2003-04 and 2004-05. Among meritorious students, 12 gold medals and 12 merit certificates were awarded.

Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman, UGC, the chief guest, gave the degrees and delivered the convocation address. The function was presided over by Dr Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE, and DG, ICAR.



Prof. Sukhadeo Thorata awarding degrees

Prof. Thorat informed that the XI Plan has envisaged to boost higher education, in which 30 new central universities, 30 medical and engineering colleges, 8 IITs, 20 NIIT, and 7 IIMs are proposed to be established. During 1950 and 2008, the number of universities has increased from 20 to 431, colleges from 500 to 20,677, and teachers from 15,000 to nearly 5.05 lakhs. Consequently, the enrolment of students has increased from 1 lakh in 1950 to 116.12 lakhs now. He also emphasized that in comparison with the world average value of 23%, the gross enrolment index (based on Selected Education Statistics) in India is only 11%, despite manifold increase in our institutional capacity since Independence. Prof. Thorat exhorted the universities to strive for NAAC accreditation and take steps to increase the enrolment to 22 per cent in XII Plan.

Dr Mangala Rai highlighted the outcome of green, white and blue revolutions, which have made India self-sufficient in food. Since 1950, the production of horticultural crops increased by 6 times, fish by 9 times, milk by 6 times, and egg by 27 times. In 2008, there was record production of 230 million tonnes of grain and over 100 million tonnes of milk in India, with similar achievements in production of fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs and fish. The livestock sector (animal husbandry and dairying) accounts for 35% of total agricultural income in the country. The total estimated income from milk alone is Rs 1,000 billion. The per-head (caput) milk availability has gone up to 248 g from 114 g day in 1950. However, India still shares less than 1% global milk trade, despite producing 15% of world's total milk production.

Dr A.K. Srivastava, Director, NDRI, presented a report on the research and academic achievements of NDRI on areas like stem-cell technology, wireless-sensor network for herd management, nanoparticle, nutraceutical and health foods, digital dissemination of agricultural information (agroweb), e-learning, buffalo cloning and reproduction, proteomics and semen cryo-preservation.

World Milk Day

The FAO has declared 1 June as the World Milk Day. NDRI celebrated it by organizing an exhibition on scientific rearing of dairy animals, milk processing, and marketing of milk and dairy products. A large number of women dairy farmers (more than 500), voluntary agencies, feed and pharma companies, social workers, financial institutions, and the dairy and veterinary professionals attended the programme.



Prof. R.B. Singh inaugurating exhibition on Scientific Dairy Farming

Padma Bhushan Prof. Ram Badan Singh, the chief guest, inaugurated the exhibition organized by Agriculture Technology Information Centre (ATIC) and Communication Centre of NDRI. In his keynote address, he observed that demand for milk and dairy foods is increasing with increase in the urban population. India needs to conserve the genetic potential of its livestock and crop varieties. A policy has to be developed on Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India. He laid emphasis on Genomics of Buffalo and policy on Animal Breed Protection.

Dr R.P. Singh, Executive Secretary, IAUA, New Delhi; Shri Parathibhai G. Bhatol, Chairman, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, Anand; and Dr Geeta Patel, Chairperson, Udaipur Milk Union, Rajasthan, graced the occasion. Dr A.K. Srivastava, Director and VC, NDRI, Karnal, presided over the function.

Dr A.K. Srivastava in his presidential address gave practical tips to farm women on care of pregnant animals and neonatal calves, and management practices to prevent the diseases like mastitis.

Dr R.P. Singh laid emphasis on nutritive value of milk for infants and adults, ancient socio-cultural value of dairy farming, and modern dimensions of milk production, processing and marketing. He lauded the role of women in milk production. He reminded that the federations in the co-operative sector have done a good job in improving the infrastructure for milk processing in the country, which however needs to be increased sufficiently to process more than 50% of the milk produced in the country.



Participants at World Milk Day

Shri Parthibhai G. Bhatol informed that milk sector in India is strong enough and was not affected due to the current global economic recession. He called upon the

government to frame a healthy milk-pricing policy to protect the dairy farmers.

Dr Geeta Patel informed that more than 16,000 dairy co-operatives are being managed by women, through which they get an opportunity of doing outdoor activities, thereby enhancing their confidence and inner strength to be successful leaders. She pointed out that women co-operatives are punctual, efficiently managed, fairer and more hygienic in comparison with other co-operatives.

Shri Rajendra Prasad Singh, Chairman, Vishal Patliputra Milk Union, Patna (Bihar), urged all the concerned authorities to give top priority for promoting the welfare of dairy farmers. He said that dairying may be a subsidiary profession of big farmers, but is the primary source of livelihood for the marginal and landless farmers. He appealed that similar to the other commodities, milk subsidy should be provided to the farmers to help the dairy sector.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, IMPHAL

North East Agricultural Fair - 2009

The university organized North East Agricultural Fair-2009 and National symposium on 'IPM strategies to combat emerging pests in the current scenario of climate change' at its College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh) in collaboration with Entomological Society of India, IARI, New Delhi; CAU, Imphal and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (North East Chapter) during 28 to 30 January 2009. It was sponsored by National Horticulture Board and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.



Dr Mangala Rai and Dr S.N. Suri at symposium

The Fair was inaugurated Dr. Mangala Rai, DG, ICAR. The proceeding of the symposium was released by Dr S. N. Puri, Director.



Dr Mangala Rai inaugurating the NEA Fair 2009

UNIVERSITIES

ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND

Fifth annual convocation

The Vth Annual Convocation of AAU was held at B.A. College of Agriculture on 31 January 2009. Shri Naval Kishor Sharma, H.E. the Governor of Gujarat and the Chancellor, conferred 318 degrees on successful graduate and post-graduate students, and distributed 16 medals to candidates with academic excellence. Mr Arun Singh, a student of College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, was awarded 6 medals, whereas Mr Nikhil Surendrakumar Vaidya, a student of Sheth M.C. College of Dairy Science, received 9 medals. Dr P.L. Gautam, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India, Chennai, was the chief guest, whereas Shri Dileepbhai Sanghani, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Government of Gujarat, was the guest of honour.



Fifth annual convocation

Shri Sharma in his presidential address said that despite rapid agricultural development, 60 percent of Indian population which is yet dependent upon agriculture, which is not getting sufficient remuneration. He emphasized the need for food production to surpass the actual requirement and leave enough for export purposes. Though India possesses greater share of agriculture land than America, it lags behind due to static productivity.

In his welcome address, Prof. M.C. Varshneya, VC, enunciated that besides strengthening the existing 3 colleges, AAU has added 3 new faculties, 3 post-graduate institutes, 3 centres of excellence, and 5 polytechnics to cope up with the huge demand of the specialized human resource in new frontier areas. The university has also established five centres of experiential learning, to develop infrastructure for imparting hands-on training to the students. To enhance the sustainability of farming, AAU has recommended 11 technologies in crop production, 7 in crop protection, 6 in animal production, and 4 in dairy and food processing for the commercial use of farmers and the industry. Under the programme EMECW-15, a MoU has been signed by AAU with European Union, in which 12 universities from Europe and 8 from India including AAU will participate.

Dr P.L. Gautam commended AAU for attaining e-governance, (e-Krishi Kiran), aiming to transfer technology to the farmers.

New variety

Dr S.M. Khanorkar, MMRS, AAU, Godhra, received ppv and FR Registration Certificate for Gujarat Makai-2, a maize extant variety, from Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, on 12 February 2009 at NASC Complex, New Delhi.



EM-ECW 15 mobility programme

STARS OF ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY SELECTED FOR EM-ECW EUROPEAN UNION'S MOBILITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



From left; Dr JB Prajapati, Dr KK Dakhore, Dr CK Borad, Ms Ami R Patel, Ms Akruiti R Joshi, Ms Rachna Pandey, Dr VS Suthar, Mr Arpit S Patel, Ms Gayatri Hagavaniya, Ms Darshna H Dave (Mr Paresh Rathod and Mr UG Sharma are also selected but photographs are not available)

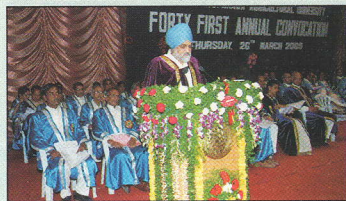
The AAU is a partner in Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window 15 (EM-ECW15) mobility programme, sponsored by European Commission to have structured cooperation between Europe and India. Through this euro 10 million programme, successful applicants are awarded a scholarship that will cover travel, insurance, tuition fees and living expenses. AAU was chosen for this programme from India, and 12 applicants from AAU have been selected for mobility of various cadres in Sweden, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands and Lithuania, with sanction of €(euro) 4,18,225 euro. Prof. Olle Holst from Lund University, Sweden will join AAU as exchange staff under the project.

The following scientists were awarded scholarships: Dr J.B. Prajapati, Dr Chandresh K. Borad, Dr Kailas K. Dakhore, Dr Vishal S. Suthar, Miss Ami R. Patel, Miss Rachna Pandey, Miss Akruiti R., Mr Paresh Rathod, Miss Darshna H. Dave, Mr Arpit S. Patel, Mr Gayatri Hagavaniya and Mr U.G. Sharma.

ACHARAYA N.G. RANGA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD

41st Annual convocation

The 41st annual convocation of ANGRAU was held on 26 March 2009. Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India, was the chief guest. Shri Ahluwalia in his convocation address laid stress on the need for diversity of crops and bio-engineering activities to avert the food crisis, and suggested improvement in pest resistance of crops through bio-engineering. He pointed out that the value chain in agriculture will expand with market linkage due to improved farming practices. Dr P. Raghava Reddy, VC, presented a report of university activities. In this convocation, 487 undergraduate students, 137 postgraduate students and 33 doctoral students were conferred degrees. So far, 31,240 students have graduated from the university.



Release of new varieties

The university has recently released 24 new crop varieties, including 7 of rice, 3 of maize (hybrids), 4 of groundnut, 2 of redgram, 2 of blackgram, and 1 variety each of sorghum, finger millet, greengram, soybean, cotton and sesame. Some of these are described below.

Rice

1. *Nellore Mahsuri*: It is non-lodging, fertilizer-responsive (160-200 kg N/ha) and

photo-insensitive variety, suitable for early *kharif*, *kharif* and *rabi* seasons, with very good suitability to *rabi* (Oct-Nov) sowings. Its duration is 125 days, with yield potential 65 q/ha.



Nellore Mahsuri

2. *Taramati*: It is tolerant to gall midge and moderately resistant to sheath rot. It is non-lodging, non-shattering and suitable for both *kharif* and *rabi* seasons with good milling (71%) and cooking qualities (24-27 amylose) and cold tolerance. Its duration is 130 to 135 days, with yield potential 57 to 70 q/ha.



Taramati

3. *Ramappa*: It is resistant to gall midge biotypes 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, non-lodging, non-shattering, with medium grain type and is suitable for both *kharif* and *rabi* in early and late-sown conditions. Its duration is 125 to 130 days, with yield potential 60 q/ha.



Ramappa

4. *Amara*: It is non-lodging, semi-dwarf, long-duration variety, suitable for cultivation during *kharif*, under both early and late-sown conditions. It is resistant to BPH, and tolerant to bacterial leaf blight as well as flood and leaf blast. It has 3 weeks dormancy and low grain shattering (<3%) on harvest. The grains are fine with good cooking quality and consumer acceptability. Its duration is 145 to 150 days, with yield potential 65 q/ha.



Amara

Maize

BH 1620: It is tolerant to maydis leaf blight, turicum leaf blight and brown-stripe downy mildew disease, and is non-lodging with orange semi-dent kernels. It can be recommended as baby corn hybrid also. Its duration is 112 to 120 days, with yield potential 66 q/ha.



BH 1620

Fingermillet

Srichaitanya: It is suitable for both rainfed and irrigated conditions. It is moderately resistant to blast and lodging. Its duration is 110 to 115 days in *kharif* and 105 to 110 day in *rabi*, with yield potential 30 q/ha.



Srichaitanya

Greengram

Madhira Pesara-347: It is early maturing with tolerance to yellow mosaic virus (YMV), *Cercospora* and thrips as well as to stemfly and moisture stress. Seeds are bold and dark green, top bearing with synchronous maturity. Its duration is 60 to 65 day in *kharif* and 65 to 70 days in *rabi*, with yield potential 12 to 14 q/ha.



Madhira Pesara-347

Blackgram

Lam Minumu-752: It is resistant to YMV disease, and escapes terminal moisture stress in rice fallows due to early maturity. It is photo-insensitive and suitable for *kharif*, *rabi* and also summer after *rabi* rice in delta areas. Its duration is 75 to 80 days, with yield potential 15 to 18 q/ha.



Lam Minumu-752

Groundnut

Greeshma: It is suitable for early *kharif* and *rabi* cultivation. It matures in 95-100 days and is tolerant to drought and late leaf spot, and is less susceptible to rust, PBNB and PSND. The seed is medium bold with 48 to 50% oil content. Its duration is 95 to 100 days, with yield potential 20 to 25 q/ha in *kharif* and 40 to 47 q/ha in *rabi*.



Greeshma

Sesame

Sarada: It is resistant to *Macrophomina* stem rot and root rot, *Cercospora*, *Alternaria* leaf spot and phyllody. Its duration is 80 to 85 days, with yield potential 10 to 15 q/ha.



Sarada

CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR

Training for unemployed SC youth

Training for the unemployed SC youth of Haryana was conducted by Department of Animal Nutrition, from 26 February to 4 March 2009 on Importance of balanced ration and mineral mixture in livestock feeding. Twenty participants from all over Haryana registered for the training. The trainees were made aware of various aspects of livestock feeding and preparation of various products like urea molasses, mineral mixture lick blocks, complete feed blocks, mineral mixture formulation and preparation etc, so that each can start these activities as an entrepreneur. They were imparted knowledge of various feed-stuffs, their quality assessment, processing of feed ingredients for improvement in nutritional value, feeding for profit etc. To enable them to set up their own business, bank-loan facilities were also introduced to them.



G.B. PANT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, PANTNAGAR

Krishi Kumbh

The 85th All India Farmers' and Agro-industrial Exhibition, Krishi Kumbh (Kisan Mela) was held on 6 March 2009 at Pantnagar. About 456 agribusiness firms put up their stalls, showcasing the latest and best agricultural technology. About 7,500 farmers and 7,500 visitors came to this exhibition. Seeds worth Rs, 20,000 were sold by the university.

Dr M.P. Yadav, VC, SVBPUAT, Meerut, the chief guest, advised the farmers to adopt new agriculture including its diversification, and go organic, as the excessive use of fertilizers and chemicals is adversely affecting the soil health. Even the availability of micronutrients has been negatively affected. He reiterated that farmers should be the focus of all policy and planning in agriculture.

Dr B.S. Bisht, VC, in his address reiterated the university's resolve to help the farmers in the best possible manner. He thanked the farmers for showing confidence in the seeds of Pantnagar university. Dr Bisht also informed that in future, we are planning to install information kiosks at strategic points, which will have information about the seeds of different crops and varieties available for sale.

Vegetables varieties for polyhouse cultivation

The scientists in the Department of Vegetable Sciences have developed four purelines (PTP-1, PTP-2, PTP-3 and PTP-4) and two hybrids (PTPH-1) and (PTPH-2) of tomato, which have extra indeterminate plant growth habit (15-20 feet height), and are resistant to LCV and TLCV diseases.

Dr S.K. Singh informed that the parthenocarpic cucumber has high value and is well suited to off-season crop, and that its more than 300 germplasm lines have been collected from India and abroad.



INDIRA GANDHI KRISHI VISHWA VIDYALAYA, RAIPUR

Promotion of potato cultivation in Chhattisgarh

A state-level workshop on Promotion of potato cultivation in Chhattisgarh was organized during 29-30 January 2009 at College of Agriculture, Raipur. Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu, Minister for Agriculture, Government of Chhattisgarh, was the chief guest; Shri Serjius Minj, VC, was the Chairman of the inaugural function and Dr S.K. Pandey was the special guest. All the officers of the university, students, and about 150 progressive farmers and company representatives participated in the function.

The workshop recommended that seed production of potato should be tried in this state, particularly in the Mainpat area of Surguja district.



Shri Chandra Sekhar Minister for Agriculture with exhibits at workshop

KARNATAKA VETERINARY, ANIMAL AND FISHERIES SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, BIDAR

Silver jubilee year

A technical workshop was organized on 13 November 2008 to commemorate the beginning of silver jubilee year of Veterinary College, Bidar. It was inaugurated by Shri Revu Naik Belamagi, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences. More than 150 field veterinarians along with teaching and scientific faculty attended the workshop. Prof. Suresh S. Honnappagol, VC, presided over the function. Dr C.S. Prakash, Director, Directorate of Disaster Management, delivered a talk on Role of veterinarian in disaster management, and Dr Pampapathi, practising Surgeon, Bangalore, delivered a talk on 'Veterinary profession: global scenario'.



Silver jubilee function



Shri B.S. Yedyurappa laid the foundation stone for Fisheries Research and Information Centre (Inland) on 7 December 2008, being established at Alamatti in Bijapur district under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

National convention of ISAR

The 24th national annual convention of Indian Society of Animal Reproduction, and a national symposium on Recent trends and future strategies for improved reproduction of livestock, companion and wild animals, was organized by Department of Animal Reproduction, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Veterinary College, Bangalore from 11 to 13 December 2008, commemorating its Golden Jubilee. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Revu Naik Belamagi, Minister for AH & VS and Pro-Chancellor of the university. Prof. Suresh S. Honnappagol, VC, presided over the function. The conference was graced by Dr Bujurbaruah, DDG, Animal Sciences, ICAR and Ms Shameem Banu, Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Government of Karnataka; Dr Manmohan Singh (IAS), President, ISSAR and Secretary, Department of Infrastructure and Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh; and Dr S. Yathiraj, Dean, Veterinary College, Bangalore. During the conference 19 lectures were delivered by invited experts, and nearly 300 research and clinical papers were presented.

MAHARASHTRA ANIMAL AND FISHERY SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR

Honours to VC

Dr A.S. Ninawe, VC, received fellowship from Zoological Society, Kolkata in 2007-08 for his work in the field of biotechnology and fisheries. He was also appointed Life Member of Environmental Zoological Academy of Hamdard University, New Delhi.

MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI

25th Convocation

The 25th convocation of the university was organized at Rahuri. On this occasion Krishi Ratna was conferred on Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. It was conferred by H.E. Shri S.C. Jamir in appreciation of his distinguished public service and outstanding achievements, and in recognition of his very special support and contribution to agricultural research, education as well as upliftment of the farm communities across the country. He stated that Indian Agriculture has made tremendous progress since Independence. We had record foodgrain production of 230.67 tonnes this year and this growth in agriculture has contributed significantly to the food security of the nation.



Krishi Ratna award at 25th Convocation

H.E. Shri S.C. Jamir, Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the university, presided over the function. He said that the challenge today before us is to insulate our crops against biotic and abiotic stresses. In this context, the modern science of biotechnology, molecular breeding and marker-aided selection have become very critical. He awarded degrees to 1,866 candidates of different faculties. Medals and cash prizes were also awarded to the successful students.

Dr R.B. Deshmukh, VC, reviewed the progress of the university. He said that ultra-modern research facilities will be created for PG, Ph.D. and Post-doctoral fellows for working to mitigate the ill-effects of climate change and improve the productivity of dryland farming systems in western Maharashtra.

Bust of Dr Annasaheb Shinde

Shri Sharad Pawar, unveiled the bust of Dr Annasaheb Shinde, great freedom fighter and former Union Minister of State for Agriculture, in the premises of the university.

Shri Pawar hailed the great contribution of Dr Shinde to Indian agriculture. He said that this great visionary was one of the architects of Green Revolution and a great parliamentarian. Shri Balasaheb Thorat praised Dr Shinde as a true motivator for the young generation. Shri Diliprao Valse Patil, Minister of Power, hoped that his statue will be motivating the farming community. Advocate Shri Raosaheb Shinde, Executive President, Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, shared the experiences of Dr Shinde, and Dr R.B. Deshmukh, VC, delivered the introductory address.



Unveiling bust of Dr Annasaheb Shinde

MARATHWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PARBHANI

International Norman Borlaug Fellowship

Dr G.P Jagtap, Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, MAU, Parbhani, was nominated for the award of International Norman Borlaug Fellowship under Indo-US Bilateral Education Programme. Dr Jagtap received training during 20 January to 27 February 2009 at Plant Disease Diagnosis Laboratory, Texas. Under the guidance of Dr Kewin Aung, he learnt latest techniques to diagnose plant diseases caused by fungi, bacteria and viruses.



Dr G.P. Jagtap

Dr Jagdish Jahagirdar on Syria visit

The ICAR, New Delhi nominated Dr J.E. Jahagirdar, Senior Scientist, Agricultural Research Station, Badnapur, dist. Jalna, among 12 other scientists all over the country for undergoing training on Marker-assisted selection at ICARDA, Syria. He attended this training from 22 February to 5 March 2009. The training would help him in development of drought-tolerant and *Heliothis*-resistant chickpea varieties



Dr J.E. Jahagirdar

Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar to Dr A.S. Jadhav

Dr A.S. Jadhav, Associate Professor of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Parbhani, was honoured with Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar by Disha Charitable Trust, Nagpur on 28 December 2008 at Umred, Nagpur, for his notable contributions in agriculture.



Dr A.S. Jadhav

Sargent Prakash Shinde becomes Flying Officer

Shri Prakash Shinde, NCC cadet and a final year student of B. Tech. (Agricultural Engineering), College of Agricultural Engineering, was selected as Flying Officer in the UPSC examination conducted by Combined Defence Service Board, New Delhi. He would soon join intensive training of IAF at Hyderabad.



Prakash Shinde

NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, NAVSARI

Fourth convocation

The fourth annual convocation of the university was held on 6 February at Navsari. Dr M.V. Rao, President of Agri-Biotech, Foundation, ANGRAU, Hyderabad, delivered convocation address as the chief guest. Shri Dileep Sanghani, Minister of Agriculture, Gujarat, was the guest of honour. H.E. Shri Naval Kishore Sharma, Governor of Gujarat and Chancellor, presided over the ceremony and awarded the degrees to 143 graduates, post-graduates and recipients of honours or medals. Dr Rao urged the graduates to keep abreast with recent developments all over the world, and work with dedication, zeal and determination to build a strong, modern India as a land of hard working, innovative people with enormous entrepreneurial skills.



Food-quality testing laboratory

India is the largest producer of milk, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables, and food grains, but its share is only 1.6% of the world food trade. To help their export the government has planned to set up food-testing laboratories all over the country.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries, GoI, has also approved the grant for Navsari Agriculture University, and Rs 60 lakhs have been sanctioned towards expenditure of infrastructure (building) by Gujarat Agro-Industries Corporation Ltd, Ahmedabad. The laboratory was inaugurated by H.E. Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma on 6 February 2009. Shri Dileep Sanghani, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat and Dr R.P.S. Ahlawat, VC, were also present.



PT DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA PASHU CHIKITSA VIGYAN VISHWAVIDYALAYA, MATHURA

First convocation

The first convocation of PDDUPCVV was held on 24 February 2009. It was presided over by H.E. Shri T.V. Rajeswar, Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Chancellor of the university. Dr T. Ramasami, Secretary to Government of India, Department of Science and Technology, delivered the first convocation address, and Shri Awadh Pal Singh, Minister of State for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of Uttar Pradesh, was the guest of honour. Prof. M.L. Madan, VC, presented a glimpse of the university, its activities and progress report. During this convocation 12 students were awarded Ph.D, 141 MVSc. and 77 students BVSc AH degrees, and 21 students received different medals for their excellent and outstanding scholastic performance in different examinations.



Dr Ramasami in his convocation address on Economic and ethical sense of caring for livestock' emphasized the importance of livestock in rural Indian economy, and educare and livestock care along with the spiritual value of educare for livestock. He expressed his confidence that veterinarians can play a pivotal role in addressing poverty alleviation, social justice and women empowerment in the country. The Governor expressed happiness and satisfaction over the progress of the university, and congratulated all the degree recipients and medal winners.

Experiential referral super-speciality veterinary clinic

Prof. M.L. Madan inaugurated the recently upgraded and renovated erstwhile Kothari Veterinary Clinic of Veterinary College on 31 January 2009. With the financial assistance from the ICAR, New Delhi, the hospital has attained the virtual status of a Referral Super-speciality Veterinary Clinic and is rendering the best diagnostic and treatment services for the ailing animals in neighboring states. It is equipped with ultrasound machines, minimally invasive diagnostic endoscopy, 500 mA X-ray machine, 100 mA single-phase X-ray machine, 9 C-arm image intensifier, inhalation anaesthesia machine, pulse oxymeter, haematology analyser, ophthalmology surgery equipment, ECG, solid-state diathermy etc. It is also an excellent centre for experiential learning for students regarding hands-on practical clinical training and practice.

RAJASTHAN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, BIKANER

Ninth convocation

The university organized its ninth convocation on 2 May 2009. Dr Pratap Narain, VC, highlighted the salient achievements of the university over the past 1 year. Prof. Shankar Acharya, a leading Policy Economist and presently Member, Board of Governors, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, was the chief guest. In his convocation address, Prof. Acharya indicated that India's economy has demonstrated considerable resilience, mainly on the strength of its agricultural sector. In his presidential address, H.E. Shri S.K. Singh, Governor of Rajasthan and Chancellor of RAU, appreciated the efforts of the university in addressing the needs of 70 per cent geographical area of the state, which falls mainly under arid and semi-arid regions. In all, 636 degrees (436 graduate, 119 masters and 21 doctoral) were conferred to scholars from the Faculties of Agriculture, Veterinary and Animal Science, Agribusiness Management and Home Science. The university also honoured 19 scholars with gold medals for their academic accomplishments.



SARDARKRUSHINAGAR DANTIWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, SADARKRUSHINAGAR

Recent advances in seed spices

A national seminar on recent advances in seed spices was organized by the university in collaboration with Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development,

Calicut at Jagudan during 4-6 March 2009. It was inaugurated by Shri Narayanbhai L. Patel, M.L.A. and Chariman, A.P.M.C. The session was presided over by Dr R.C. Maheshwari, VC. Shri Patel lauded the contributions of spices workers for their efforts in crop improvement, crop production and technologies for crop-protection development. He told the scientists that the farmer should be the focal point while formulating research programmes. Dr M.M. Anwer, Director, NRCSS, Ajmer and guest of honour, informed that NRCSS is open for germplasm sharing and collaborative work for the development of seed spices. Dr R.C. Maheshwari said that mechanization in seed spices is the need of the hour. Value addition in seed spices not only improves the per-caput (head) income of spices farmers but also earns foreign exchange. A project "A value chain in major seed spices for domestic and export promotion" was sanctioned under NAIP component II at Jagudan. Participants of the seminar included officials of Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development; IISR; NRC on Seed Spices; RAU, Bikaner; Spices Board; SDAU; ICAR; GSFC; GNFC; AAU; NAU; JAU; and progressive farmers, traders, processors and exporters. Overall, 150 delegates from different states of the country participated.



The seminar was conducted in four sessions, viz. (i) Crop improvement, (ii) Crop production, (iii) Crop protection and (iv) Post-harvest technology and extension, and farmer-oriented issues.

The following recommendations emerged:

- To make specific efforts to identify various sources of germplasm and their conservation.
- To undertake networking of the germplasm centres and free exchange of germplasm between the centres.
- To avoid duplication and to ensure proper identification, it is necessary to catalogue and standardize the descriptors' list.
- To explore the use of modern techniques like tissue culture and gene-transfer methods.
- Use village concept and application of seed standards.
- To have the package of practices for organic farming of seed spices on the basis of cropping system, instead of on single-crop system.
- To undertake further research work on response of micro-irrigation system, considering its feasibility, time of application, fertilizer etc. for seed spices.
- To develop low-cost input technologies for seed spices, particularly for marginal and submarginal farmers.
- To test the response of micronutrients for seed spices with regard to yield and quality through experimentation, despite their low requirement.
- To include export-promotion aspects in next seminars and give further thrust to value addition.
- To invite farmers in large numbers and hold discussions in vernacular language, for receiving proper feedback from them through interaction.

SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, MEERUT

Second convocation

Second convocation of university was held on 17 October 2008, wherein 280 students were awarded graduate, post-graduate and doctorate degrees in various disciplines of agriculture and biotechnology. Dr C.D. Mayee, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board, New Delhi, was the chief guest. H.E. Shri T.V. Rajeshwar, Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Chancellor of the university, presided over the function. Shri Rajeshwar laid emphasis on selection of research topics related to the problems faced by the farmers of western U.P. being served by the university. He deliberated that green revolution made our country self-sufficient in food production, and expressed the need of a strategy for creating additional skilled jobs through horticulture, agroforestry, plantations, animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries, bio-fuel etc.



Second Convocation

Dr Mayee, while delivering the convocation address, congratulated the degree-recipient students and those who received merit medals, and advised them to translate education and skill into productive entrepreneurship. He emphasized the importance of resource-conservation technologies, such as zero tillage, raised-bed planting, non-puddled rice, application of N-fertilizers in split doses, IPM and laser land-leveling for water, energy, nutrient use efficiency, and protection of environment. He said that high-technology agriculture offers a vast potential to create productive, profitable and stable employment in agriculture.

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Seed processing plant and farmers' hostel

Dr Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, paid a visit to the university on 25

December 2008 with other dignitaries, and dedicated the seed-processing plant, which was provided under Mega Seed Project of ICAR, costing Rs 3 crores. The plant is of 3 TPH capacity. It has capacious godowns for processed and unprocessed seeds of different crops along with Seed Testing Laboratory, office space, threshing-floor and other ancillary facilities. The farmers' hostel, built at old campus with ICAR grant of Rs 1.38 crores, was also inaugurated as also the Directorate of Research and Directorate of Extension building.



Dr Mangala Rai at model seed-processing plant

Dr Rai said that more funds may be provided by the ICAR to further upgrade niche areas of excellence. He suggested that production of bio-agents should be upscaled through private sector participation. He showed keen interest in the development plan of this new up-coming agricultural university. During his address to the faculty and students, he emphasized the need for quality seed production, adoption of resource-conservation technologies, integrated nutrient management, soil health, processing of agricultural produce, and use of biotechnological tools for molecular breeding in plants and animals for developing resistance or tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses. Linkage of farmers to market is the need of hour.

Fisheries Research and Training Centre

The Fish Research and Training Centre was inaugurated on 24 August 2008 by Dr P.V. Dehadrai, former DDC (Fisheries). He gave a talk on the status of scientific research in India and discussed in detail how to promote awareness and understanding of fisheries science.



Prof. M.P. Yadav, VC, who presided over the function, suggested the development of natural resources of the state for productive, profitable and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, to meet the local demands, and improve the nutritive and livelihood security of the fisheries farmers as well as consumers. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has agreed to establish FRTC in western Uttar Pradesh. The fisheries can help in generation of additional income and employment opportunities, and to improve the socio-economic condition of the fish farmers, along with conservation of aquatic resources. Only a few fisheries with limited capacity are available in northern India to provide training to the fish farmers. The establishment of FRTC will pave the way for modernization and value addition of fish production, and will be able to address and cater to the needs of the farmers of western Uttar Pradesh.

Visit of scientists abroad

Dr Pushpendra Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology, participated in ninth international symposium on 'Post harvest quality of ornamental plants' held at Odense, Denmark during 11 to 14 August 2008. Dr Kumar presented paper on "Influence of pulsing and preservative solution on flower quality of modified atmosphere low-temperature stored gladiolus cut spikes."



Dr Pushpendra Kumar

Dr Vipin Kumar, Assistance Director (Research), attended international symposium on Induced mutation in plants, held during 12-15 August 2008 at UNO centre, Vienna (Austria). It was organized by International Atomic Energy Agency. He also presented another paper entitled "Characterization of pre-breeding genetic stocks of urdbean [Vigna mungo (L.) Hepper] induced through mutagenesis"



Dr Vipin Kumar

Dr Lakshman Prasad, Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology, participated in ninth International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP 2008) on "Healthy and safe food for everybody", held at Torino, Italy, during 24-29 August 2008, and presented his research paper entitled "Morphopathological and genetic analysis using RAPD markers of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* collected from different hosts". Dr Prasad was included as an active member of International Sclerotinia Working Group by the scientists of this group during ICPP-2008.



Dr Lakshman Prasad

TAMIL NADU VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI

Quality and safety of fish and shellfish

A national seminar on 'Emerging issues in quality and safety of fish and shellfish (EQASAFISH 2008)' was held at FCRI, Thoothukudi during 7-8 August 2008. Dr A.G. Ponniah, Director, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR), Chennai,

inaugurated the seminar, and released the proceedings and souvenir. The guest of honour was Dr Indrani Karunasagar, Director, UNESCO-MIRCEN, College of Fisheries, Mangalore. A total 95 participants from fisheries, universities and private organizations including sea-food exporters from various processing industries attended. Four Best-Paper Awards for young scientists below 40 years were presented at the seminar.



Technology extension to farmers

Under part II scheme on Establishment of small ruminant research station at Veterinary University Training and Research Centre, Tirunelveli, funded by Government of Tamil Nadu, Vembur, ram lambs and Jamunapari kids were supplied 13 and 14 each on 10 July 2008, and 17 and 4 each on 13 August 2008 respectively, under germplasm distribution to the registered flocks. Free health inputs consisting of anti-helminthics, anti-diarrhoeals, TANUVAS mineral mixture, probiotics and feed supplements etc. were also given to the farmers.

A field-level demonstration (FLD) on "Introduction of Nandanam Turkey 1 chicks" was approved by ICAR, New Delhi to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Namakkal. In the first phase, 50 turkey chicks were distributed to 5 farmers free of cost on 16 August 2008.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND

Bronze icon award (e-krishi-kira)

The 12th National Award was conferred on Anand Agricultural University for e-Governance (2008-09) by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances jointly with Department of Information Technology, Government of India, New Delhi, on 12 February 2009 at Goa for its contribution in the area of Outstanding performance in Citizen- Centric Service Delivery.



Awards to student and farmer

Dr Puspkant Swarnakar, Ph.D. student of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, was awarded Chancellor's Gold Medal for his best adjudged doctorate thesis entitled "Effect of continuous cropping on changes in crop productivity and distributions of different forms of N, P and K with and without FYM under *bajra*-mustard-cowpea (F) cropping sequence". Shri Navalkishore Sharma, Governor of Gujarat and Chancellor of university, presented the award at annual convocation held on 31 January 2009.

A progressive farmer Shri Ketanbhai Jashbhai Patel, village Boriya (taluka Petlad, dist. Anand) participated in the training workshop on 'Wheat cultivation' organized by the university and Sajita Shangh at Anand during 6 to 7 November 2008 under RKVY scheme 'Agricultural extension activities for specialized agricultural innovation'. He adopted new technology in his wheat crop that he learned during training workshop at Anand. Shri Patel was nominated by Government of Gujarat to participate as a delegate in the sixth Global Knowledge Millennium Summit on 'Biotechnology and nanotechnology for sustainable agriculture, eradicate global hunger and ensure food security', during 13 - 14 February 2009, organized by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi. Prof. M.C. Varshneya, VC, presented him the certificate.

DR PANJABRO DESHMUKH KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, KRISHINAGAR, AKOLA

Awards in social sciences

Shri R.N. Katkar, Dr S.S. Rewatkar, Dr B.A. Sonune and Dr R.T. Patil (Retired), Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, received Dr K.G. Joshi cash prize for outstanding research in the university on 'Long-term effect of fertilizers and manures on soil quality

and yield sustainability' for the year 2007-2008. This award was given at the 23rd convocation of the university held on 5 February 2009. Dr V.M. Mayande, VC. Dr C.D. Mayee, Chairmen, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ICAR), New Delhi, was the chief guest.

MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI

Second position in JRF-2008

MPKV, Rahuri received Performance Award by ICAR, New Delhi, for securing second position in the ICAR's All India Entrance Examination for admission to the PG and JRF-2008. Shri Sharadchandraji Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, Government of India, handed over the award to Dr R.B. Deshmukh, VC, and Dr A.S. Jadhav, Dean (Agriculture), on 16 February 2009 during the VCs Conference at ICAR, New Delhi. Total 27 students received the ICAR fellowship. The top-ranked students are Vinod Jadhav (I rank in Animal Science), Rajkumar Dhakar (I rank in Soil Physics), Anil Bhairava (II rank in Soil Physics), Dnyaneshwar Kadam (II rank in Plant Science), Paritosh Kanade (II rank in Agricultural Engineering), Suryakant Sawant (IV rank in Agricultural Engineering) and Bharat Markad, Vishal Bhise, Krishna Jadhav, Shruti Gund and Mahesh Patil (2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 8th ranks respectively) in Water Science and Technology.



Best performance award

Honours to MPKV, Rahuri

The Times of India in its Education Times issue dated 28 March 2009 has published the survey rank of top-ranked universities and institutes of the country in the fields of Engineering, Medicine, Agriculture etc. The survey has ranked MPKV, Rahuri as the first among State agricultural universities in India, and Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi as the first on all-India basis. MPKV, Rahuri also received Sardar Patel Institute Award of the ICAR, New Delhi. Recently, it was awarded Rs 100 crore special grants as an Institute of Excellence by Government of India.

TAMIL NADU VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI

Outstanding Partnership Award for PDKV, Akola

TNVASU, Chennai conferred Outstanding Partnership Award to Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth for improving the adoption of improved chickpea cultivars. Dr A.N. Patil, Senior Research Scientist, Pulses Research Unit, received the award during the Annual Chickpea Scientists Meet, organized at International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad. DDPKV, Akola is a consortium partner of TNVSAU, Chennai. The other consortium members are: JNKVV, Jabalpur; MPKV, Rahuri; ANGRAU, Hyderabad; and SFCI, New Delhi; along with the Department of Agricultural Research and Myanmar Agricultural Service, Myanmar; and Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, please Ethiopia.



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