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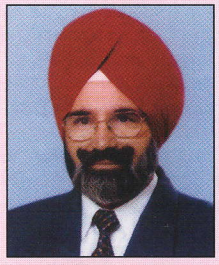
SPOT NEWS

Dr K.S. Aulakh resigns as VC, PAU, Ludhiana



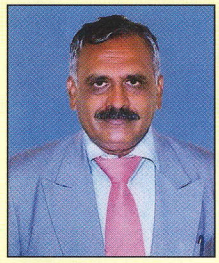
Dr K.S. Aulakh

Dr K.S. Aulakh resigned as VC, PAU, Ludhiana on 6 April 2007 in protest against undue political interference in the working of the university. Dr Aulakh joined the university as VC on 1 April 2001 and was given second term of 4 years w.e.f. 1 April 2005. During this tenure, Dr Aulakh took the university to new heights through various administrative, fiscal and scientific measures in the field of agricultural teaching, research and extension.

He added Post-Harvest technology cell installed with the financial aid worth $ 3 lacs by Ohio State University of America. To strengthen interdisciplinary research, he merged 14 departments. The income of PAU, almost doubled as a result of fiscal measures taken by him. Dr Aulakh a renowned plant pathologist visited 21 countries for his professional enrichment. He is a fellow of many Indian Societies and also served as President of Indian Society of Pathologists (1987). He participated in 15 international and 17 national conferences.

NEW VCs

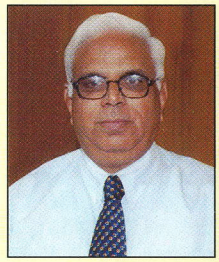
Dr P.G. Chengappa, VC, UAS, Bangalore



Dr P.G. Chengappa

Dr Chengappa took over as VC, UAS, Bangalore on 24 April 2007. He was born on 11 February 1952. He did his B.Sc. (Agric.) and M. Sc. (Agric.) from UAS, Bangalore and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from IARI, New Delhi in 1980. He specialized in Agricultural marketing, Price analysis and policy, International trade, Agricultural management and Econometrics. Dr Chengappa joined UAS, Bangalore in 1981 and became Professor in 1983. He served there as Professor and Head, Dep. of Agric. Marketing and Co-operation; Director of Student Welfare. Administrative Officer, Registrar and Director of Instruction (Agric.). He also worked as Economist in the CGIAR institutes of IFRI, New Delhi and IPGRI, New Delhi. He was Visiting Scientist at IRRI, Manila; University of Reading in the U.K.; College of Wales, Aberystwyth and ICRISAT, Hyderabad. He served as Facilitator in Agricultural Marketing at German Foundation for International Development, Germany. He was Vice-President of Agricultural Economics Research Association, New Delhi. He was instrumental in bringing coveted international research projects from USAID in collaboration with Iowa State and Purdue Universities.

Dr J.H. Kulkarni, VC, UAS, Dharwad



Dr J.H. Kulkarni

Dr Kulkarni joined as VC, UAS, Dharwad on 30 September 2006. He was born on 22 February 1947 at Pudakaldatti, Dharwad district (Karnataka). He did his B. Sc. (Agric.) in 1969, M.Sc. (Agric.) (Microbiology) in first division in 1972 and Ph. D. (Microbiology) in 1976. He joined as Scientist S-1, IIHR, Bangalore and Lucknow in 1977 and served as Scientist S-2, NRCG, Junagadh in 1981; Scientist SG, NAARM, Hyderabad in 1991; Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology, UAS, Dharwad in 1992; Director of Instruction (Agric.) Dharwad in 2002; VC (Acting) from 1 September 2006; VC (Regular) from 30 September 2006. Dr Kulkarni received JRF and SRF, and Certificate of Honour for outstanding contribution in developing efficient *Rhizobium* in 2004. He guided 15 M.Sc. and 6 Ph.D. students. He published papers in international (90) and national journals (58), presented papers at various conferences, seminars or symposia (91) as well as wrote books (6). He served as Chairman and Member of several professional bodies as well as national and state-level selection committees like UPSC, ASRB and State Agricultural Universities.

IAUA Office : 1G-2 CGIAR Block, NASC Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi 110 012
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Focus on Universities : Achievements and Events

DEEMED UNIVERSITY

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES EDUCATION, MUMBAI

Eighth Biennial Convocation

Eighth Biennial Convocation

The Eighth Biennial Convocation of CIFE was held at the new complex of the institute on 6 February 2007. Padma Vibhushan Dr R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India & DAE-Homi Bhaha Chair Professor, was the chief guest, and Padma Vibhushan Dr R.B. Singh was the guest of honour. Seventy three students were awarded degrees in Master of Fisheries Sciences, 2 in Diploma in Fisheries Sciences and 19 in Ph.D.

Fisheries Education Policy workshop

Fisheries Education Policy workshop

Consultative workshop on 'Fisheries education policy: issues and challenges was held at CIFE, Mumbai on 7 February 2007. Representatives from students, alumni associations, NGOs, farming and processing industries, state and central government bodies, and Deans from fisheries colleges participated in this workshop. The major recommendations are given below.

1. A comprehensive fisheries education policy was considered essential to produce competent professionals in the context of globalization of education to create centres of academic excellence, ensure quality education, set minimum standards (curriculum, faculty, infrastructure, budget etc.) and promote best academic practices.
2. Fisheries Education Policy should be developed through a consultative process involving all the stakeholders.
3. Infrastructure in fisheries institutions should be strengthened.
4. An International Centre for Fisheries Research, Education and Training in Tropical Ecosystem in India has to be established.
5. The recommendations of IV Deans' Committee should be implemented immediately.
6. Various need-based or demand-driven vocational certificate and diploma courses, sponsored or self-financed degree programmes and distance education or e-learning programmes in fisheries need to be initiated for promoting entrepreneurship and generate employment.
7. There is strong need for establishing Fisheries Council of India to regulate the fisheries education on professional and ethical basis in the country.

East Zone Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy workshop

Aquaculture Policy workshop

East Zone Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy workshop was conducted by CIFE in collaboration with PREPARE, a Chennai-based NGO, at MANAGE (National Institute for Agricultural Extension Management), Hyderabad during 22 and 24 March 2007. Shri Md Fareeduddin, Minister of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh presided at the workshop and Shri Kironmayee Nanda, Minister for Fisheries, Government of West Bengal served as the chief guest. Senior officers from Fisheries departments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Orissa, West Bengal and the Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands attended the meeting. There was very good representation from NGOs, working on fisheries-related issues, from fishermen associations, farmers associations and the industry.

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI

Forty-fifth Convocation, 2007

45th Convocation

The forty-fifth Convocation of IARI was held on 9 February 2007. Dr Mangala Rai, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director-General, ICAR was the chief guest. In his inspiring convocation address, Dr Mangala Rai highlighted the priorities and issues for the development of agriculture in the changing national and international scenario. The prime concerns during the 1950s and 1960s were of food security, which are now of ensuring agricultural sustainability, profitability, equity, employment opportunities, national security and poverty alleviation, besides the issues of global competitiveness of producers and consumer preferences. He emphasized that in the changed concerns we need to attain and sustain the increased job-led inclusive growth to realize peace and prosperity for the well-being of mankind, which in turn would call for technology-oriented and intensive knowledge-driven commercial agriculture. He laid stress on all important priorities or concerns including serious water shortages by 2025, low use of energy efficiency, use of biomass, solution of environmental issues, spread of mad-cow disease, human resource development in the area of bio-sciences, rapid growth of information and communication technology, creation of infrastructure through public investment etc.

Dr S.A. Patil, Director, IARI, highlighted the significant research achievements of the institute during 2006. Dr H.S. Gaur, Dean & Joint Director (Education), highlighted the important role being played by the institute in human-resource development in terms of post-graduate teaching, short-term training courses and the modernization of PG laboratories, lecture halls, hostels, dispensary etc. A series of IARI publications including *Pusa Agri Science*, improvised volume 29 of *Journal of IARI Post Graduate School*, 2006 and 12 IARI seed varieties were also released during the convocation.

At this convocation 75 M.Sc. and 73 Ph.D. students were awarded degrees. Shri P.N. Sivalingam (Plant Pathology) and Shri Mridul Chakrabori (Genetics) were awarded Best Student of the Year, 2006 award for Ph.D. and M.Sc., respectively. Five recipients of Ph.D. degrees, viz. Ms Dipanwita Haldar (Agricultural Physics); Shri Berin Pathrose (Entomology), Ms Malthi Priya M (Environmental Sciences); Shri Mahesh Yandigeri (Microbiology); and Shri Satya Pal Kumar (Molecular Biology and Biotechnology), were awarded IARI Merit Medals for outstanding academic performance. Five faculty members, viz. Dr D.V.K. Samuel (Post-Harvest Technology), Dr Indra Mani (Agricultural Engineering), Dr K.D. Srivastava (Plant Pathology), Dr (Mrs) D. Annapurna (Microbiology) and Dr V.K. Sharma (Agricultural Statistics), were awarded Best Teacher Awards for their outstanding contributions to teaching.

Dr B.M. Prasanna

The 11th B.P. Pal Memorial Award for the year 2006, consisting of a cash prize of Rs 10,000, a gold medal and a commendation certificate, was awarded to Dr B.M. Prasanna, ICAR National Fellow, Division of Genetics, IARI, New Delhi, for his outstanding research contribution on the application of molecular breeding approaches for improvement of maize.

Dr R.K. Sairam

The 19th Hooker Award for the biennium 2004-05, consisting of a cash prize of Rs 15,000 and commendation certificate, was awarded to Dr R.K. Sairam, Principal Scientist, Division of Plant Physiology, IARI, New Delhi, for his outstanding research contribution in the field of Plant Physiology.

Dr G.R. Patel

The 7th Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award for the year 2006, consisting of a cash prize of Rs 25,000 and a commendation certificate, was awarded to Dr G.R. Patel, Joint Director (Academic), National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, for his outstanding research contribution to

Dairy Technology.


Dr B.S. Parmar

The 2nd Rao Bahadur Dr B. Viswanath Award for the biennium 2004-05, consisting of a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000, a gold medal and commendation certificate, was awarded to Dr B.S. Parmar, former Joint Director (Research) and presently Emeritus Scientist, Division of Agricultural Chemicals, IARI, New Delhi, for his outstanding research contribution on eco-friendly agro-chemicals.

37th Lal Bahadur Shastri memorial lecture


Lal Bahadur Shastri memorial lecture

The 37th Lal Bahadur Shastri memorial lecture, an important event of the 45th convocation week programme, was held on 8 February 2007. Dr Asis Datta, Director, National Centre for Genome Research, New Delhi, presided at the function. Dr M.V. Rao, Chairman, BPC-APNL Biotechnology Programme, Hyderabad, delivered the main lecture on 'Green Revolution: lessons learnt and strategies for future'. He mentioned the important concerns affecting our present agricultural growth and urged the agricultural scientists to shoulder the responsibility of assisting the nation regain the momentum it had shown after Green Revolution in the 70s, 80s and 90s to attain grain security in India. To meet the future requirements, Dr Rao suggested the following strategies for the future:

- Protect and sustain the areas of the country that are responsible for the green revolution
- Work to bring about revolution in rainfed agriculture, which accounts for 60% of our cultivable land and 40% of our agricultural production.
- Exploit the non-conventional areas and non-conventional crops, the strategy that was successfully implemented in Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Encourage the production of bio-fuels by growing crops like *Simarouba glauca, Jatropha, Pongamia*, sweet sorghum etc.
- Exploit the alternative sources of crops and products for extracting economic products like rice-bran oil, cottonseed oil etc.
- Bring about land reforms and implement them.
- Strengthen the infrastructure for post-harvest technology, seed production, transfer of technology mechanism and agricultural research.

Lecture on Water and Nitrogen Interactions by Prof. Jerry L. Hatfield


Lecture on Water and Nitrogen Interactions

Prof. Jerry L. Hatfield, President, American Society of Agronomy, delivered a very interactive and exhaustive lecture on 15 March 2007 on the very emerging topic 'Risk in crop production induced by water and nitrogen interaction'. A large number of faculty members and students of the institute attended the lecture. Prof. Hatfield emphasized that water and nitrogen are very important for the productivity and sustainability of crop production. Both the resources are very precious, as at the global level water has become a scare input and the nitrogen-use efficiency is always a matter of great concerne for agricultural scientists and farming community. Prof Rajendra Prasad, former National Professor, ICAR and presently INSA Honorary Scientist, chaired the session.

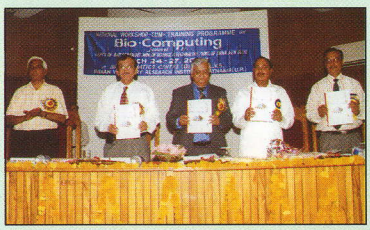
INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IZATNAGAR

39th BoM meeting


39th BoM Meeting

The 39th Board of Management meeting was convened at Izatnagar campus on 6 March 2007. Dr S. Ayyappan, DDG (Fisheries and Animal Sciences) and other members of BoM, Dr J.B. Chaudhary, former VC, HAU and GBPUAT; Dr Sushil Kumar, Director, NDRI; Dr (Mrs) T.A. Kadarbhai and other eminent scientists participated in the deliberations.

National Workshop-cum-Training Programme on Bio-Computing



National Workshop on Bio-Computing

IVRI, Izatnagar organized a 4-day National Workshop-cum-Training Programme on Bio-computing at Bioinformatics Centre during 24 to 27 March 2007. Dr C.D. Mayee, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, inaugurated the workshop. Dr R.P. Singh, Executive Secretary, Indian Agricultural Universities Association, was guest of honour.

NATIONAL DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KARNAL

Use of *Bacillus coagulans* for dried dairy products

Recently the use of spore-forming *Bacillus* has proved quite promising. The shelf-stable spores, which can withstand various technological stresses during the processing, draw great attraction for their use in probiotic and neutraceuticals industry. *Bacillus coagulans* is one such spore-forming lactic acid-producing organism, which is now marketed extensively as *Lactobacillus sporogenes* by many pharmaceutical companies. However, the information on it is very limited. Hence a study was conducted to explore the possibility of *Bacillus coagulans* as a probiotic candidate. The study suggested that *B. coagulans* was a potential probiotic culture, having good technological properties, which can be utilized for new probiotic based dairy products with longer shelf-life.

(Lopamudra Bhattacharyya and D. N. Gandhi)

Attenuation of dietary hypercholesterolemia through dairy ghee

Cow and buffalo ghee prepared by cream-culture method were evaluated for its effect on lipid profile of the body and was compared with soybean oil. Three groups of post-weanling Wistar male rats were fed hypercholesterolemic diet for 110 days. Dairy ghee or soybean oil was included in the diet at 10% level. It was concluded that dairy ghee attenuates dietary hypercholesterolemia by increasing HDL and decreasing VLDL+LDL and triglycerides, and cow ghee is more efficacious than buffalo ghee.

(Ekta Bhatia and V. K. Kansal)

UNIVERSITIES

A Profile

ACHARYA N.G. RANGA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD

University and its mandate

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (formerly Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University), established in 1964, is one of the earliest state agricultural universities established in India on the pattern of Land Grant Colleges of the USA.

The major mandates of the university are: (a) To train manpower through imparting education, (b) Conduct location-specific research; and (c) Organize extension activities for the benefit of the personnel of the line departments of the government, NGOs, farmers and others.

The university is a multi-campus institution with Faculties of Agriculture and Home Science, comprising nine constituent colleges, 10 polytechnics, 57 research stations, 9 regional agricultural research stations and 38 extension centres.


Main building

Academic programmes

The academic programmes offered by the university are accredited by UGC as well as ICAR. The university offers six undergraduate degree

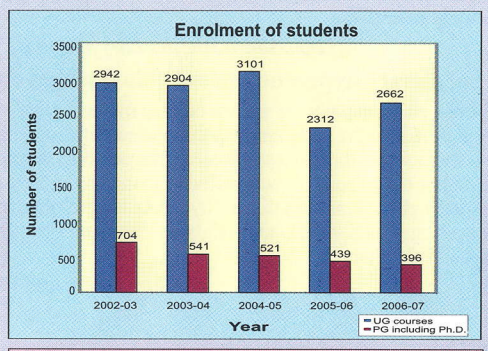
programmes of 4 years duration, post-graduate degree programmes in 40 disciplines and doctoral programmes in 25 disciplines across the Faculties of Agriculture and Home Science. Veterinary Faculty was separated from ANGRAU in 2006, which started functioning at the newly started Sri Venkatehswara Veterinary University at Tirupati.

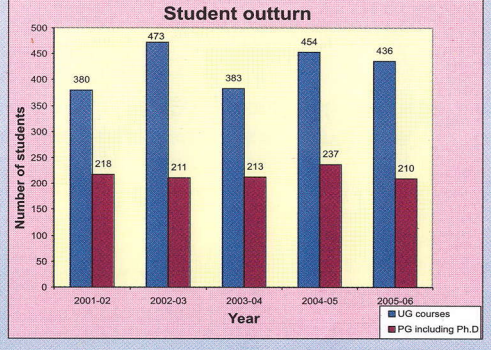
Dr Y.P. Rajasekhara Reddy, CM inaugurating new polytechnics at Hyderabad

Its under-graduate degree programmes are: B.Sc. (Agric.), B.Sc. (Hort.), B.Tech. (Agric. Engng), B.Tech. (Food Sci.), B.Sc. (CA & BM) and B.H.Sc. The post-graduate programmes are: M.Sc. (Agric.) in the disciplines of Agronomy, Agric. Economics, Entomology, Extension Education, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Plant Pathology, Plant Physiology, Soil Science and Agric. Chemistry, Statistics, Seed Science and Technology, Biotechnology and Agricultural Engineering, M.Sc. (Hort.), M.A.B.M., M.Sc.(Biotechnology), M.Sc. (Environ. Sci. & Technology), M. Tech. (Agric. Engng), M.Sc. (Food Sci. & Technol.) and M.Sc. (Home Sci.) in the disciplines of Food and Nutrition, Apparel and Textiles, Human Development and Family Studies, Resource Management and Consumer Sciences and Extension Education. Ph.D Programmes are all in the disciplines in which post-graduate degree programmes are offered, except Statistics, Seed Science and Technology, Biotechnology and Agricultural Engineering. Diploma programmes are also offered to train middle-level workers to serve as a link between the farmers and the scientists of the university. These are of 2 years duration, in the disciplines of Agriculture, Horticulture and Seed Technology, offered to Class 10 students. One-year certificate course to Horticultural Supervisors is also being offered. One-year U.G. Diploma courses in Catering Technology, Pre-School Management, Entrepreneurship Development and Computer-aided Fashion Technology as well as 1 year PG Diploma courses in Nutritional Therapy and Food Analysis and Quality Control are offered by Home Science Faculty.

Short-term Certificate Courses are offered to provide skill-oriented training to housewives and the school and college drop-outs as an income-generating activity.

The Student enrolment and outturn in the last 5 years is shown below.





Research

The research activities of the university are carried out at 57 research stations including 9 regional agricultural research stations spread over the state in the fields of Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Implements and Home Science.

IV Dean's Committee Meeting

The major focus of research is on crop improvement, crop production and crop protection for adoption by the farming community for the overall increase in agricultural production, besides for offering solutions of location-specific problems. On-farm research is also conducted for evaluation and refinement of newly developed technology under farmers field conditions. Water Technology Centre is making efforts to attain greater crop productivity per drop of water.

Extension

Group discussion on Drip irrigation

Field visit by DAATTC scientists

Education of rural people in agriculture and allied areas is one of the main functions of agricultural extension, with the motto of 'Reach the unreached' through first-line extension work. The Extension centres of the university are: 22 DAATTCs (District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centres), 12 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Extension Education Institutes (EEI), Agricultural Information Communication Centre (AICC), Electronic Wing and Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC). The extension activities of the university are: Technology assessment and refinement, Trainers' training, Preparation of contingency cropping plans, Disaster and crisis management, Farmer-scientist-extension interactions, Farmers' training, Training at agricultural market committee (AMC) level, Kisan melas, exhibitions, field days and Rytu Sadassus, maintaining Agricultural Information Centres, Diagnostic surveys, joint field visits, publication of *Vyavasaya Panchangam* (farmers' almanac) and dissemination of information through radio, TV and print media.

Research

The university has generated several improved location-specific technologies, which are widely accepted and adopted by the farmers of the state. A few outstanding research achievements are given below.

Chilli Lam 334 (LCA 334)

Improved crop varieties

Since its inception the university released 302 varieties of different crops. Some of the varieties are popular in 14 other states in India and four other countries. Among these, Swarna, responsive to low nitrogen levels; Samba Mahsuri, a superfine variety with good cooking quality; and MTU 1001 occupy 25% of the total cultivated rice area of more than 40 million ha in the country.

Redgram Palem Kandi (PRG 158)

Some outstanding varieties are: two rice hybrids (APHR 1 and APHR 2), a superfine rice variety BPT 5204, triple-cross hybrid (Trishulata) maize, powdery mildew-resistant blackgram (Krishnayya, LBG 17), nematode-resistant groundnut (Tirupati 3), first authentic hybrid (APSH 11) in sunflower, redroot-resistant sugarcane (CoA 7601), whitefly-resistant (LPS 141) and whitefly-immune (LK 861) cotton and an early hybrid (Godavari Ganga) coconut (NSPHH 7).

Seed supply

The university supplies 1,500-2,000 q breeder seed and 5,000-7,000 q foundation seed every year to different agencies for their multiplication in seed production chain.

Lam cotton Hybrid 7

Generation of outstanding technologies

Agriculture

Rice-fallow-pulses: soybean as a substitute or intercrop, Kranti variety of castor capable of revolutionizing yield in rainfed areas; improved *doruvu* technology for efficient irrigation in coastal sandy soils, cost-effective subsurface drainage technology, crops alternative to tobacco, IPM technologies for rice, cotton and redgram and for delineated micronutrient-deficient areas.

Home Science

Dehuller technology, technologies for value addition to food products; blends of red palm oil with other oils; technology for production of oyster mushroom; alternative technologies for textiles; solar driers; psychomotor stimulation kit and exclusion of aflatoxins.

Technologies patented

Technology for jaggery powder, pneumatic pressure-boiling vessel, low-cost ice cream freezer and multipurpose fresh fish-vending and display table.

Extension

- The extension services of the university are focused mainly on first-line extension activities like testing and verification of new technologies on the farmers' fields through university's on-farm and adaptive trials; processing and publication of technical information; dissemination of scientific information through publications, mass media such as press, radio and T.V. channels; organizing kisan melas, exhibitions and supervision of RAWE programme, training of extension personnel of Developmental Departments of the state and development of extension methodologies and strategies.
- The university scientists have trained several thousands of farmers in Agricultural Marketing Committee (AMC)-level training programmes organised in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture. The programmes were initiated during 1997 in all the 279 AMCs; and the training is imparted both during *kharif* and *rabi* seasons.
- Frequent scientist-farmer interactions have solved many complex and complicated issues with ease and built up high degree of confidence among farmers. To re-inforce and strengthen this mode of working, the university reorganized its extension activities by establishing 22 District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centres during 1998.
- University has a daily 10 min. slot on All India Radio, in which the university messages are broadcast for the farmers throughout the state.
- University started telecast of Distance Education Programme in Agriculture and allied fields under the caption Annadata-Velugu Bata' from 2 October 1998, through a private T.V. channel, ETV.
- Every major and medium research station and all the colleges have adopted a village each for its overall development from 1998 onwards. Besides conducting on-farm research, attending to malady-remedy analysis, monitor and forecast pests, diseases and nutritional disorders, the scientists and teachers visit the villages regularly and render on-the-spot advice to the farmers on various aspects of agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries and women in agriculture; help them get quality inputs of seeds, pesticides and fertilizers; arrange credit through banks and co-operatives; improve literacy and render assistance in maintaining better sanitation and health, and ultimately in the overall economic development and upliftment of the people. Thus the university teachers and scientists serve as guides to the farming community in the adopted villages. This is another novel programme implemented by the university in 50 villages from 1998 onward.

International collaboration

The university entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for exchange of faculty, students and collaborative research programmes besides other professional activities, with many national and international institutes like Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), A.P, Netherlands (AP-NL) Biotechnology Project, University of Hyderabad, University of New Castle, U.K.; University of Cornell, Ithaca; North Carolina A&T State University; Kansas State University; Tuskegee University; University of California; Auburn University; University of Florida; Iowa State University and International Fertilizers Development Centre of USA.


Signing of MoU-collaboration by VC, ANGRAU and Shri Larry Vanderhoef

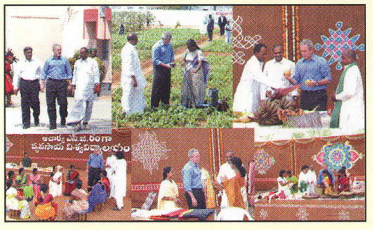
93rd Indian Science Congress

The 93rd Indian Science Congress was held during 3-7 January 2006 at Rajendranagar on the theme Integrated rural development: science and technology, Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister, inaugurated the mega event and Bharat Nirman Science Exhibition, and delivered the inaugural address on 3 January 2006. His Excellency the President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, inaugurated the focal theme 'Integrated rural development: science and technology', National virtual congress of farmers, Children's science exhibition and Children's science congress, and launched 'Mission 2007: every village a knowledge centre' on 5 January 2006. He also addressed the gathering.

Dr Manmohan Singh, PM inaugurating 93rd Indian Sceience Congress

Visit of President George W. Bush

Shri George W. Bush, His Excellency the President of USA, accompanied by the First lady of U.S.A., Madam Laura Bush and Ms Condoleza Rice, Foreign Secretary, visited the university on 3 March 2006. Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Chief Minister and Dr S. Raghu Vardhan Reddy, VC along with the university officers and Members of Board of Management accompanied, while Shri N. Raghuveera Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, accompanied Ms Condoleza Rice, during the visit to National Seed Project. On this occasion, an educative and informative exhibition was arranged at National Seed Project, in which 500 progressive farmers and farm-women selected from all over the state also participated and interacted with the President of USA. The technologies developed by the university in the fields of soil testing, biotechnology, pesticide residues, crop pests and diseases, integrated pest management and System of Rice Intensification (SRI) were demonstrated to the visiting dignitaries, as also the technologies in the fields of home science and food science and technology. Ms Laura Bush also interacted with four scientists and seven women entrepreneurs of different states, at a separate meeting organised at Post-graduate and Research Centre for Home Science, Rajendranagar and discussed the issues of women empowerment achieved through self- help groups and rural artisans.


Shri George W. Bush, President of USA, on visit on 3 March 2006

Awards and honours

- Dr (Mrs) P. Geervani, former Dean, Faculty of Home Science, was awarded LIGURIA International Prize for research on Nutrition for child health in developing countires by International Cultural Centre for Peoples' Development, Geneva, in 1991.
- Dr M.V. Rao, former VC, received Borlaug Award in 1992 for his outstanding contribution to the cause of improving national food security and his leadership in the transfer of technologies to farmers' fields.
- Dr M. Narasimha Reddy, Associate Professor, Extension Education Institute, was awarded Gold Certificate by Coverdale

Organizations PLC's, London, U.K. in 1994.

- Dr A. Sreenivasa Raju and Dr B. Srimannarayana, Soil Scientists, were jointly selected by Sulphur Institute, Washington for Fertilizer Association of India (TSI-FAI) Award, 1996 for research on the plant nutrient sulphur.
- Dr Mohd Hafeez, Professor of Parasitology, received World Environment Congress Award for the year 1997.
- The university is the recipient of ICAR Best Institution Award for the year 1999.
- Two former Vice-Chancellors of the university Dr M.V. Rao and Dr I. V. Subba Rao, were awarded Padma Shri in recognition of their valuable contributions for the advancement of agriculture in the country for the years 2000 and 2002 respectively.
- The university has been bestowed twice (2001 and 2004) with Best Performance Award of ICAR, based on the performance of its students at the national-level entrance examinations for admission to post-graduate courses.
- Dr P. Arjuna Rao, Professor of Entomology, received Doreen Margaret Mashler Distinguished Scientific Achievement award from ICRISAT in 2002.
- Dr A. Satyanarayana, former Director of Extension, received Doreen Margaret Mashler Distinguished Scientific Achievement award for chickpea improvement from ICRISAT in 2002.
- Dr S. Raghu Vardhan Reddy, VC, was honoured with Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award in 2007, instituted by Indian Science Congress.
- Dr D.B. Eswara Reddy, University Librarian, received Fulbright Award for post-doctoral research at University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA.

Prestigious national and international awards earned by the faculty since 1987 are: Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Award (6), Hooker Award (1), Borlaug Award (1), ICAR Outstanding Teacher Award (3), ISPRD National Award (2), Jawaharlal Nehru Award (12), India 2000 Millennium Award (1), Fellows of National Academy (4) and other national awards (30).

To motivate the teachers to perform better, the university instituted awards for Best Teacher in 1986 and Best Research Worker and Best Extension Worker in 1989. Similar awards for non-teaching employees have been instituted from 2002 onward.

Future perspective plan till 2020

The university in 1999 has prepared *Vision 2020* document, a strategic plan with a time span of 20 years. Outlining the short-term and long-term perspectives in education, research and extension, the document provides a backdrop of the university's organizational set up, activities and achievements, the current scenario, and SWOT analysis of the state's agricultural situation university. There are critical discussions on issues and strategies; the future needs and plan to meet these requirements.

In the field of education, the need for imparting education that is relevant to the needs and the expectations of the users is highlighted. This calls for measures such as changes in existing course, curricula, introduction of new undergraduate and post-graduate courses and adoption of new and emerging technologies such as distance learning,information technology-based instruction, video conferencing and training of students in agro-based industries etc. In the area of research. Detailed discussion, commodity-wise and discipline-wise, has been attempted, considering the future requirements perceived by the university.

The need for strengthening the extension infrastructure and the future role to be played by the university in the dissemination of agro-technologies based on research findings has been highlighted.

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ACHARYA N.G. RANGA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD

Excellence in Education, 2006

College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad was selected for Gurukuljyoti Award for excellence in education in 2006, sponsored by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, for being adjudged as one of the best five educational institutions of the nation in the category of Agriculture. Dr G. Bheemaiah, Dean of Student Affairs, received the award on 25 February 2007 at New Delhi.

39th Annual Convention

The 39th Annual Convention of ANGRAU was held on 24 March 2007 at Hyderabad. Shri Rameshwar Thakurji, His Excellency the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, presided over the Convocation, where Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Union Minister for Urban Development, delivered the convocation address as chief guest, and Dr S. Raghu Vardhan Reddy, VC, presented a brief report of the university activities, covering the period from April 2005 to May 2006. A total of 624 undergraduate and 296 post-graduate students were conferred degrees during the convocation. So far 30,079 candidates have earned their degrees in three faculties since the inception of the university in 1964.

Ch. SARVAN KUMAR KRISHI VISHWAVIDYALAYA, PALAMPUR

Rehabilitation of Lantana-degraded land

The university scientists have successfully demonstrated a technology for rehabilitation of *Lantana*-invaded land into lush green pastures. The technology includes cutting and uprooting of *Lantana* bushes in August followed by spray of glyphosate 1% on regenerated tender foliage in September-October. During the succeeding rainy season the land is put under improved grasses, viz. *Setaria*, *kikuyu*, Napier x bajra hybrid and red clover in sole and mixed stands. The area was divided into blocks of suitable sizes to maintain round-the-year fodder supply to Livestock Farm. An area of 60 ha was turned into improved pasture with high-yielding forage species of better quality and longer seasonal distribution. The area is serving as a live demonstration to farmers, extension agencies, NGOs and other nodal agencies engaged in the forage-resource improvement in North-Western Himalayan region.

DR BALASAHEB SAWANT KONKAN KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, DAPOLI

Motivation for coconut processing

Dr V.B. Mehta, VC, initiated the established of the first coconut-processing training centre in the country at Dapoli. Three training programmes on coconut processing were organized during 11-13 January 2007, 26-28 February 2007 and 28-30 March 2007 for the benefit of farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs under the guidance of Dr A.G. Powar, Director of Extension Education.

MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI

VC, chairman of committee on organic farming

Dr. R. B. Deshmukh

The Government of Maharashtra appointed Dr R.B. Deshmukh, Vice-Chancellor, as the Chairman of committee to frame policy on organic farming in view of its increasing importance and awareness about organic foodgrains in relation to human health and quality. Dr Deshmukh, an eminent pulse scientist, was also appointed Head of Pulse Germplasm National Advisory Committee by National Bureau of the Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

MARATHWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PARBHANI

First prize to Lal Kandhari cow breed Sonu

Lal Kandhari cow

College of Agriculture, Latur participated in state-level exhibition of animals organized by Sidheswar and Ratneswar Deowastan Samiti on 19 February 2007 under Sidheswar Agro-Tech Programme, Latur. In this exhibition Lal Kandhari cow Sonu of MAU secured first prize with cash award of Rs 1,000.

SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, MEERUT

First convocation

First Convocation of SVBPUAT, Meerut was held on 23 February 2007 for the biennia 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. Out of

47 degrees awarded at the Convocation, 44 students received B. Sc. (Agric.) degree and 33 masters degree including M. Sc. (Agric.) & M. Tech. (Agric. Process and Food Engng). Medals for merit holders were also awarded to eight students, viz. Shri Vinay Kumar for M.Sc. (Agric.), Shri Harsh Prakash Sharma for M. Tech. (Agric. Process and Food Engng) and Shri Bhagwat Prasad, Shri Manoj Kumar, Shri Anoop Kumar, Shri Anil, Shri Alok Kumar and Shri Manish Yadav for B.Sc. (Agric.).

Dr Mangala Rai Secretary, (DARE) & Director-General, ICAR, New Delhi, the chief guest, gave the degrees as well as the Vice-Chancellor's gold, silver and bronze medals. In the Convocation address, he stressed upon new concerns and issues, such as gene and genetic resources, pests and pesticides, organic and inorganic agriculture and climate change, bio-safety and transgenics, public and private goods and various forms of IPR as well as obligations under the new trade regime that require a balanced approach. In addressing varying concerns, vast potential of allele mining by deploying available scientific manpower and infrastructure should be utilized to the maximum extent, to capitalize on uncommon opportunities in a partnership mode.

Dr Robert S. Zeigler, Director-General, International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines was conferred D. Sc. (Honoris Causa) at the Convocation, due to his vast experience in the studies of forest ecology, plant biotechnology and plant pathology. The VC, Prof. M.P. Yadav, extended warm welcome to the chief guest and other dignitaries and gave a brief account of the university as well as its problems and requirements.

National workshop on spices and aromatic plants

National workshop on spices and aromatic plants was held during 27-28 February 2007 at the university campus. The chief guest, Dr J.B. Chaudhary, former VC, HAU, Hisar and GBPUAT, Pantnagar, emphasized that India is the land of spices and has dominant position in their production since the ancient times due to the wide range of agro-climatic conditions. The seed spices have occupied a sizeable area in western Uttar Pradesh and have a vital role in national economy because of the huge domestic consumption and substantial earning of foreign exchange. In the presidential remarks, Prof. M.P. Yadav, VC, SVBPUAT, Meerut, pointed out that there is vast scope of spices production in the western plains zone of Uttar Pradesh, and urged the growers to include the spices and aromatic crops in their crop rotations for better income. He gave some suggestions to the scientists for undertaking research programmes.

National Workshop on Spices and Aromatic Plants

- Varieties developed at Pantnagar university such as Pant C-1 chilli, Pant Madhurika fennel, Pant Ragini fenugreek, Pant Krishna black cumin, Pant Haritima coriander and Pant Pitabh turmeric.
- Use of biotechnology as a most powerful technique that can be integrated with classic breeding programme of seep spices.
- PTS 36 turmeric for commercial production.
- Lemon grass, pamarosa, citronella and khus grasses for cultivation in western Uttar Pradesh for utilization of degraded lands.
- Pusa Kasuri fenugreek and Pant Madhurika fennel for cultivation in western Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI VENKATESWARA VETERINARY UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI

Complete feed-manufacturing unit

It consists of chopper-cum-grinder and paddle-type mixer. The former has a motor with specially designed impact-type beaters and blower fan, which operates on 15 HP motor. It has two inlets, one for crop residues and one for other feed ingredients. It has a separate gearbox, to drive the intake mechanism. The gearbox has forward, reverse and neutral features, operated by a lever through 0.5 HP motor. At the bottom of the chopper-cum-grinder chamber is a screen of 8 mm diameter. Once the material reaches the size of the sieve hole, it passes through the sieve and reaches the mixer via the blower. The mixer is of paddle type, capable of mixing the roughages, grains, oilcakes, micronutrients and molasses, which operates on 3 HP motor. It can accommodate 100 kg complete feed. The mixer has a with large hopper on the top along with lid to add micronutrients and the bottom with perforated tray to add molasses.


Complete feed-manufacturing unit

Infectious bovine papillomatosis

It is a benign tumour, arising from the dermis and epidermis, caused by bovine papilloma virus type 1 to type 6. Growths are commonly seen around the eye, on the ear, shoulder, udder and teat. Less commonly the growths are observed around the mouth and anus. Clinical signs observed are anorexia, emaciation and cauliflower-like growths on these regions. Complications are that fibropapilloma might bleed profusely and lead to maggot infestation. Teat papillomas cut off during milking result in blood-stained milk and predispose for mastitis. Disease flares up during immunosuppression.

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE

3rd Regional Meeting of IAUA

The Third regional meeting of IAUA on Value addition in agricultural products was held at TNAU, Coimbatore during 13 and 14 February 2007. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr M.P. Yadav, President, IAUA. Shri Jatindra Nath Swain (IAS), Special Secretary and Commissioner (DPAP), Chennai, was the guest of honour and Dr C. Ramasamy, VC, TNAU, delivered the special address. The recommendations made at this meeting are given below.

Recommendations

- A delegation of IAUA comprising the VCs should meet the Prime Minister and other members of Planning Commission and appraise them the achievements in the field of agriculture including animal husbandry and fisheries and also the future expectation during the XI Plan period.
- A book on the successful technologies evolved and success stories of extension may be compiled. IAUA will publish and circulate this book.
- Most of the SAUs are functioning in old dilapidated buildings and the basic infrastructure housing the laboratories are outdated. Special financial allotment under non-recurring grant has to be sought from central and state governments to modernize the basic amenities.
- The VCs of agricultural universities have to be involved in the planning process and state financial allocations, as agriculture forms the major activity of our country.
- Financial allocation for agricultural research and education should be made under separate budget in the states as well as in the centre.
- A fixed percentage of teaching or research personnel in all the agricultural universities may be recruited from other states to develop healthy competition and avoid inbreeding. Research and development programmes should be tailored to cater to the standards of domestic and export markets.
- Policy makers need to be sensitized on creation of community-level infrastructure for grading, packing and packaging as well as storage and promotion of growers' associations to empower them to negotiate on price.
- Efforts should be taken to encourage co-operative or contract farming with buy-back arrangement to initiate market-led production.
- Cool chain should be maintained for the post-harvest handling of cut flowers around 5° C with appropriate packaging to get better price in the international markets.
- The investment in agricultural research has to be enhanced to increase Total Factor Productivity to achieve 4% growth of the sector per se.
- For exploitation of the agro-ecological diversity of the country, programmes should be evolved for production and export of agricultural produce from different regions during the off-seasons

in importing countries.

- Suitable national strategies have to be adopted on augmenting animal productivity, production, consumption and marketing of animal products as also on creation of realistic database on meat, milk and egg production, handling and transportation, pre-and post-harvest loss, marketing etc.
- Cutting-edge technologies may be developed on processing, preservation and value addition on animal products by integrating newer biotechnological tools with the ITK.
- The HACCP, GMP protocols and quality standards should be developed for animal products, viz. milk, meat, poultry, fish etc., with establishment of reference and testing laboratories.
- Food safety and quality should be dealt while considering the use of GM foods. A regulatory system should be established to oversee their bio-safety.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND

Chancellor's gold medal

Chancellor's gold medal was awarded to Shri Harshal Eknath Patil, and Ms Roshni R. Samarth, B.A. College of Agriculture.

Dr. C.B. Shah gold-plated silver medal was awarded to Shri Khadtare Shashishekhar Vasant, B.A. College of Agriculture, Anand for getting the highest OGPA including excellence in thesis in Agronomy for his M. Sc. (Agric.) during 2005-06.

Dr. D.J. Patel gold medal was awarded to Shri Patel Nilesh N, B. A. College of Agriculture, Anand for getting maximum OGPA in Plant Pathology for M.Sc. (Agric.) during 2005-06.

Ch. SARVAN KUMAR KRISHI VISHWAVIDYALAYA, PALAMPUR

Award to veterinary scientist

Dr Mandeep Sharma

Dr Mandeep Sharma, Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, was conferred with ISVIB Mid-Career Scientist Award at the 13th annual convention of Indian Society of Veterinary Immunology and Biotechnology (ISVIB), held during 15-17 February 2007. Dr Sharma got this award for his pioneer work on molecular diagnosis of chlamydiae in sheep and goats, a fatal disease causing heavy economic loss to the farmers. The disease is communicable to human beings (zoonosis) also. The PCR diagnostic technique developed by Dr Sharma for the first time in India is quick, highly specific, sensitive and accurate, and is essential for timely detection and proper management of this dreaded disease. The award consists of a gold medal and citation.

Award of ISO 90001-2000 certificate

The university was awarded ISO 90001-2000 Certificate for fulfilment of all the requirements of quality-management system, issued by International Standardization Organization (ISO). These requirements include the availability of good-quality infrastructural facilities, and the quality of education, research and extension conforming to the prescribed standards, regular review and evaluation, development of quality human resources, efficient and quality administration, health and security standards of human resources etc. Dr Manoranjan Kalia, Dean, College of Home Science, was designated as the Management Representative of the university.

KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, THRISSUR

Bharat Ratna Dr C. Subramaniam Award

Dr M.R. Saseendranath

Bharat Ratna Dr C. Subramaniam Award for Outstanding Teacher for the biennium 2004-2005, sponsored by the ICAR, was presented to Dr M.R. Saseendranath, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy, for his significant teaching contributions in Veterinary Science. The award was presented to him by Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh, Minister of State for Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs, at New Delhi on 18 August 2006.

NATIONAL DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KARNAL

Ms Anju Kurien, M.Sc. scholar; Dr Kishan Singh, Principal Scientists; and Dr A.K. Puniya, Senior Scientist, Division of Dairy Microbiology, were awarded second prize by Association of Food Scientist and Technologists (India), in the area of Animal and Dairy Products for their poster entitled 'Sensory evaluation studies on synbiotic prepared using *L. acidophilus* and inulin', during the 18th Indian Convention of Food Scientists and Technologists, held at Hyderabad during 16 - 17 November 2006.

Shri S.K. Nayak and Shri S. Arora, Scientist (SS), Shri R.B. Sangwan, Senior Scientist, Shri J. S. Sindhu, Principal Scientist and Shri G.S. Sharma, Principal Scientist, Division of Dairy Chemistry, were conferred 'Best Paper Award' by IDA (EZ) for their paper entitled 'Effect of chemical phosphorylation of water, oil and calcium-binding properties of buffalo-milk proteins, published in *Indian Journal of Dairy* Science, 2005, at the 35th Dairy Industry Conference at Kolkata, held during 23 - 25 November 2006. Shri S. Arora, Scientist (SS), Shri B.K. Wadhwa, Principal Scientist; Shri H. Gawande, Shri V. Sharma, Shri V. George and Shri G.S. Sharma, Principal Scientists, Division of Dairy Chemistry and Shri A. K. Singh Scientist (SS), Division of Dairy Technology were conferred 'First Best Poster Award' by IDA (EZ) for their poster entitled 'Stability of aspartame in burfi' at the 35th Dairy Industry Conference, held at Kolkata during 23- 25 November 2006.

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