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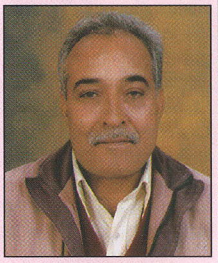
NEW VCs

Dr K. R. Dhiman, VC, DYSPUHF, Nauni



Dr K.R. Dhiman

Dr K.R. Dhiman joined DYSPUHF, Nauni, Solan on 10 April 2008 as its new Vice-Chancellor. Dr Dhiman was born on 15 September 1948 at Ghumarwin, dist. Bilaspur (H.P.). He did B.Sc. Agri (1971), M.Sc. genetics (1973) from GBPUA&T Pantnagar and Ph.D. genetics (1977) from PAU Ludhiana. Before joining as VC, he served in various capacities like S-I (1976-82), S-2/ Sr Scientist (1982-1997), Director (1997-2002), and Head, research stations (2002-2008); etc. He has 30 year experience of research and administration.

Prof. D. V. G. Krishna Mohan, VC, SVVU, Tirupati

Prof. D.V.G. Krishna Mohan

Prof. D.V.G. Krishna Mohan joined SVVU, Tirupati as its new VC on 15.4.2008. Prof. Krishna Mohan was born on 5 August 1948. He did B.V.Sc. (1970) from College of Veterinary Science, Triupati; M.V.Sc. (1972) and Ph.D. Animal Nutrition (1981) from I.V.R.I., Izatnagar. He won university gold medal and was awarded Commonwealth Bureau of Animal Health Prize, National Merit Scholarship and Junior Fellowship by the ICAR for academic excellence, besides Meritorious Research Worker Award of APAU, Fellowship of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences and State Best Teacher Award from Government of Andhra Pradesh (2006). He has more than 35 years of experience in teaching, research and extension in Veterinary Sciences, especially Animal Nutrition. Before joining as VC on 15.4.2008, he served as S-I (1972-78) at IVRI, Izatnagar; Assistant Prof. (1978-85), Associate Prof. (1985-98) and Professor (1998-June 2005) at APAU, Hyderabad and SVVU, Tirupati (June 2005-April 2008).

He is well versed with German language and visited Germany 5 times (1979-2006). He also served as Consultant to Government of U.A.E. (1988-89). He published more than 40 research articles in reputed scientific journals and 50 popular articles in farmers' magazines.

Prof. D. P. Singh, VC, BHU, Varanasi

Prof. D.P. Singh

Prof. D.P. Singh joined Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi as its Vice-Chancellor on 8 May 2008. Earlier Prof. Singh was VC of Dr Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar (M.P.), the oldest University of Madhya Pradesh. He hails from the village Simrau of district Etah (U.P.). He did B.Sc. (Botany) from R.B.S. Collage, Agra and later did Ph.D. from Garhwal University, Srinagar. Prof. D.P. Singh was the seniormost Vice-Chancellor in Madhya Pradesh and in this capacity, he was the Chairperson of Standing Committee of Coordinator Committee of State Universities. He also acted as President of Association of Madhya Pradesh Universities.

Prof. Singh has 26 years of professional experience in different aspects of Management and Administration, Teaching and training, Research and development, Project formulation and execution (both international and national), Education journalism including editing, and Extension and evaluation in various capacities. He has been contributing in the management of different national and state-level bodies as Member of their Executive Councils, Board of Governors, and Societies such as National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore; Pt Dwarka Prasad Mishra Indian Institute on Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur; Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal; M.P. Council of Science and Technology and M.P. Hindi Granth Academy. Prof. Singh has 111 publications to his credit in the form of books, research papers, articles etc. He has also acted as Executive Editor of Indian Journal of Vocational Education. Prof. Singh has exposure to international projects. He has widely travelled, having visited United Kingdom (4 times), Germany, France, Norway, China, Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia for academic pursuits. He participated in several international programmes, seminars and conferences as Chairperson of technical sessions, group leader, invited speaker, and delegate.

Prof. (Dr) Asit Kumar Das, VC, UBKV, Coochbehar

Prof. A.K. Das

Prof. (Dr) Asit Kumar Das assumed the charge of VC, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya on 27.5.2008. Born on 1 June 1949 in a small village of West Bengal, Prof. Das did his B.Sc. (Agric.) Hons. in 1969 and M.Sc. (Agric.) in Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science in 1971 from University of Kalyani. He also did Ph.D. in Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science in 1976 from BCKV, and Post-Doctoral in Chemistry and Pesticide activities of natural products as a Post-Doctoral Fellow of CSIR. After receiving a French Government fellowship in 1978, Prof. Das proceeded to France to carry out further Post-Doctoral research in Insect Chemistry under Prof. D. R. Burton (Nobel Laureate) and Prof. M. Barbier at ICSN, CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette. During the 30 years of his career, he served as Head, Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science and also Agricultural Biochemistry at BCKV, He was the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, BCKV, before joining as VC of UBKV. His main domain of teaching and research is Plant Chemistry and Biochemistry, Pesticide properties of plant secondary metabolites, and Pesticide chemistry and biochemistry.

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Dr Anil Kumar Srivastava, VC, NDRI, Karnal

Prof. A.K. Srivastava

Dr Anil Kumar Srivastava took over as Director and Vice-Chancellor of NDRI on 25 April, 2008, He did BVSc&AH from Veterinary College, Mathura in 1979 followed by MVSc in 1981. He did Ph.D. from PAU, Ludhiana in 1984. He was awarded the German Academic Exchange Fellowship to work as DAAD Fellow at Munich (Germany) 1988 to 1990 Dr Srivastava started his professional career as Assistant Professor at Panjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, where he served for 20 years in different capacities including Professor & Head, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology; and Controller of Examinations. To his credit he has authored 7 books and manuals, edited 14 books, proceedings, monographs and bulletins, and published more than 200 research papers in journals of national and international repute. He has guided 14 M.V.Sc. and 10 Ph.D. scholars. Before assuming the office of Director and Vice-Chancellor of NDRI Deemed University, Prof. Srivastava was working as Director, Resident Instructions and Dean Postgraduate Studies at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu (J&K). He also served as Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry from 2004 to 2007 in the same university. Dr Srivastava has been a brilliant student and scientist throughout his academic career. He has been decorated with numerous prestigious awards including ICAR's Jawaharlal Nehru Award; International NOCL Award on "Pesticides, toxicity, safety and risk assessment; National Alarsin Award by Indian Veterinary Association (1987-88 and 1999-2000); Best Paper awards by Indian Science Congress Association and other societies. Dr Srivastava has been conferred with fellowships by a number of professional bodies and associations, which include National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences. Indian Association for Advancement of Veterinary Research, Society of Toxicology, Society of Environmental Sciences, Society of Sciences and International Society for Ecological Communications, and Member of National Academy of Sciences. Dr Srivastava organized 15 international and national conferences, symposia, seminars, and ICAR and CSIR trainings. He held important positions in many professional societies viz. Founder Chief Editor, *Indian Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology* and *Toxicology*, Member Advisory Board, *Indian Journal of Toxicology*, Editor, *Polivet Journal*, Technical Adviser, *Vets Bulletin*, Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Current Sciences* and *Journal of Research*, SKUAST-J; Member, Advisory Board, *Vetspex*; Member, Editorial Board, and Councillor, Punjab Academy of Sciences and Member, J&K Council of Science and Technology. His major research interests lie in the area of pesticides and drug residues in milk and milk products, rationalization of antibiotic dosage regimen, clinical toxicology and development of new diagnostic techniques.

Focus on Universities : Achievements and Events

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, IMPHAL

North East agricultural fair and national seminar

Central Agricultural University, Imphal, (Manipur) organized the North-East Agricultural Fair, 2007-08 and national seminar on Integrated farming systems relevant to north-east region during 6-9 February 2008 at the College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (CVSc & AH), Selesih, Aizawl, Mizoram one of its six constituent colleges situated in six different states of North-East India. These events were sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India; and the National Horticulture Board along with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

This Chief Minister of Mizoram, Shri Zoramthanga, inaugurated the Fair, and Dr S.N. Puri, Vice Chancellor, CAU, presided over the session. This auspicious occasion was also graced by the presence of Shri Lalrinchhana, Minister of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Transport and LAD, and Dr Lalzama, Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Mizoram as Guests of Honour.

A Total of 45 organizations and institutes represented the Fair, and more than 5,000 farmers and other stakeholders of the region visited it.

Competition were organized on Flower Show, Fruit Show, Vegetable Show, Handicrafts Show, Dog Show, besides Kisan Gosthi and Farmers' Field Visits among various activities of the Fair. In the seminar, 109 delegates participated. Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister of Mizoram, released the compendium of Seminar in the inaugural session. The valedictory function was graced by Prof. A.N. Rai, VC, Mizoram University, as the Chief Guest.

DEEMED UNIVERSITIES

NATIONAL DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KARNAL

Technology for manufacture of *kradi*

Vacuum-packaged Kradi

Kradi (semi-soft cheese) is a hitherto undocumented traditional dairy product of Jammu and Kashmir state. There is no information about its composition or characteristics. It is prepared by coagulating milk by tribal communities of the state, viz. gujjars and bakarwals. Though a milk delicacy, it is consumed as a fried spiced item or a culinary dish. The technology was standardized at Dairy Technology Division, NDRI, Karnal after thorough market survey of this product in different regions of the state and after subjecting the market samples to descriptive sensory analysis, physico-chemical, microbiological, textural, mechanical, functional and instrumental colour analyses. The standardization trials with two Response Surface Methodology designs (four-factor CCRD) were carried out to develop manufacturing technology with culture - NCDC 167 and NCDC 144 respectively. The product was found better than market samples of any region as per various test parameters. The vacuum-packed product had a shelf life of 15 to 20 days at 25°C, 3.5 to 4 months at 5°C and more than 6 months at-20°C, compared with a shelf-life of 12 to15 days at 25°C, 2.5 to 3 months at 5°C, and 4 to 5 months at - 20°C, respectively of the non-vacuum packed product. The developed technology could be commercially utilized for its large-scale manufacture.

Lead content of berseem and oats fodder

Environmental pollution leads to accumulation of lead, which acts as a potential public health hazard. Analysis of lead content in 158 berseem and 51 oat fodder samples collected from all the districts of Haryana showed that its content averaged 2.51 ± 0.67 and 1.65 ± 0.13 ppm, respectively. Berseem samples collected from Gurgaon had the highest lead content of 2.91 ± 0.29 ppm. The lead concentration in wheat straw (n=52), paddy straw (n=28), cottonseed cake (n=48), mustard cake (n=23), wheat bran (n=5) and grains (n=14) averaged 1.51 ± 0.42, 1.76 ± 0.26, 1.60 ± 0.08, 1.53 ± 0.21, 1.37 ± 0.67 and 1.32 ± 0.41 ppm, respectively. None of the samples showed higher than permissible limit of 30 mg lead /kg diet for animals.

A Profile

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar

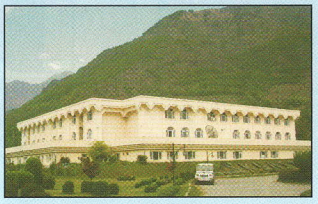
Setting up of university

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology came into existence through an Act passed by the State Legislature on I August 1982. In 1999, SKUAST of Jammu was established adopting SKUAST Act and Statutes. As a result, the jurisdiction of the university was reduced to Kashmir Valley and Ladakh and the university was renamed Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K). It was Sheikh Abdullah, the legendary leader of Kashmir, after whom this university is named. The idea for creating an organised research infrastructure to provide technical input for the development of various sectors of agriculture was actively pursued by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir right from the early 1970s. The objective of setting up the university was to achieve all round progress in agricultural research, education and development. Prof. Alauddin Ahmed was the founder Vice-Chancellor.

Purpose of the setting up the university

The agricultural university in J&K was set up with the aims and objectives of :

- Imparting education in Agriculture and other allied branches of learning and scholarship;
- Furthering the advancement of learning and prosecution of research in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and other allied branches, with particular emphasis on temperate and cold-desert agriculture.
- Undertaking the extension education of such sciences for the benefit of the rural people of the state.
- Such other purposes as the university may from time to time determine.



Main campus at Shalimar

Objectives

The main objectives of the university are to serve as nodal institution in the temperate and cold arid region of the state of J&K and to further the advancement of research to evolve location and situation-specific technologies in agriculture and allied sciences, impart education produce required quality human resource and ensure assessment, refinement, adoption and transfer of technology to realize higher production and productivity of crops and livestock with greater profitability and sustainability as well as better rural life.

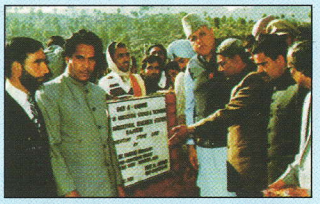
Main achievements

1982-1991

- Agricultural education, research and extension units of the State Government were transferred to SKUAST as its starter edifice, and these were reorganized into interim functional units for education, research and extension education in March 1984.
- University statutes as per the ACT were formulated and promulgated to regulate service conditions and other related matters of the employees of the university.
- Four regional research stations, two each in subtropical and valley temperate regions, were established in 1984 together with two Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the districts of Pulwama (Kashmir) and R.S. Pura (Jammu).
- Commencement of administrative blocks, lab-cum-class rooms, central library, guest house and a few staff quarters. Functional laboratories were also constructed at various Zonal Research Stations.
- Faculty and technical staff were trained at sister universities in the country.
- The political turmoil in the valley during early 1990s forced the university for availing facilities in Jammu for migrant students of UG and PG levels.
- Need-based researches were initiated at SKUAST-K in its main divisions at the main campus, and through its zonal research stations and substations.

1992-2001

- The infrastructure-development programmes to facilitate creation of resident instruction programme were further strengthened.
- Two more Krishi Vigyan Kendras, one each in district Budgam and Srinagar, were established in participatory mode with ICAR.
- Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) was established as a single-window service to the farming community by rendering all facilities covering agriculture, horticulture and livestock and the inputs produced at the university.
- To undertake research in special crops, Saffron and Kala Zeera research stations were established in specific ecological situations for these crops, viz. Saffron Research Substation, Konibal, Pampore; and Kala Zeera Research Substation, Gurez.
- The university was bifurcated in 1998-99, which curtailed its jurisdiction only to valley temperate and cold arid Ladakh regions. The research stations and the faculties for teaching, research and extension education services are given in the table:



Dr Farooq Abdullah, former Chief Minister, laying foundation of the campus, 1988

Zone	Area (ha)	Mandate
Temperate Zone		
Main Research Station, Shalimar, Srinagar	42.9	Devoted to PG programme in agriculture and research on temperate fruits, flower and vegetable production and processing, and medicinal and aromatic plants, and evaluation of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and fodder crops
Sheep Research Station, Shuhama, Srinagar	126.5	Devoted to UG and PG education, R&D on sheep, poultry, rabbit, nutrition, healthcare and livestock production processing.
K.D. Research Station, Old Airport, Srinagar	102	Devoted to R&D in maize, pulses, oilseed, forages, saffron, kala zeera, rainfed temperature horticulture
Cattle Research Station, Mansbal, Baramulla	122.5	Devoted to cattle improvement and mother bull farm
RRS & Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, Baramulla	91.8	Devoted to UG in agriculture and forestry, R&D in maize, pulses, temperate horticulture (vegetable, apple, pear, peaches, plum, pomegranate) and forestry
Division of Sericulture, Mirgund, Baramulla	20.40	Devoted to research on improvement, production and protection in silkworm and mulberry, PG education in Sericulture
Regional Rice Research Station, Khudwani, Anantnag	16.3	Devoted to rice and rice-based farming (cold tolerant)
Fruit Research Substation, Balpora, Shopian	11.67	Devoted to R&D in temperate fruits
High Altitude Maize Research Substation, Larnoo / Sagam		Devoted to maize improvement
Pulse Research Substation, Habbak	2.00	Devoted to pulse improvement
Saffron Research Substation, Konibal, Pulwama	0.7	R&D on saffron
Zeera Research Sub-station, Izmarg, Gurez, Baramulla	2.5	Devoted to kala zeera and potato
Fruit Research Substation, Pahnoo, Shopian	1.91	Devoted to R&D in temperate fruits (ambri, walnuts)
Cold arid zone		
Regional Agricultural Research Station, Leh, Ladakh	122.5	Devoted to R&D in cold arid crops (barley, wheat, buckwheat, vegetables, apple and apricot)
Regional Research Substation, Kurbatang, Kargil	24.5	Devoted to R&D in wheat, barley, maize, apricot and livestock
Faculty of Fisheries	14.5	Devoted to research in fisheries, particularly cold-water fish
Faculty of Forestry	50.0	Devoted to research in forestry science

2002-2008

The university at present has six faculties (added during this period): Faculty of Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Faculty of Forestry, Faculty of Fisheries, and Faculty of Horticulture; and UG programmes started in Agricultural Engineering and Sericulture.

1. Establishment of university at Shalimar
   - Mushroom Research and Training Lab, PG Faculty, Shalimar; Biotechnology Lab, Quality Testing Lab; Central Testing Lab, Bio-control Laboratory; Vegetable Seed Processing Unit; Farm Machinery & Power Unit; Seed Processing & Storage Unit; Agri-Engineering Workshop Agro-Processing Lab; ARIS unit, Central Library; Instructional Lab, PG Faculty;

Fourth Convocation, 2007

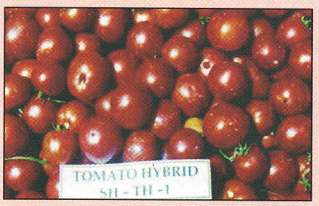
Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & animal Husbandry, Shuhama

Residential block (8 flats); Computer Labs/ Cells, Shalimar, Shuhama, Wadura Research Stations; Girls Hostel, PG Faculty Girls. Polyhouses for R&D (20), KVK, Anantnag (Administration-cum-Lab, Training Hostel, 2 pilot plants; Farmers' Hostel (under construction); (Administration-cum-Lab, Training Hostel , 2 pilot plants)

National symposium on Strategies for sustainable livestock development

2. Establishment of university at Wadura
   - Seed Processing and Storage Unit, Wadura; Instructional Labs, FoA; Hostel, Wadura (under construction); Gutted buildings' repaired and renovated at Wadura and Mirgund; Polyhouses for R&D (20); KVK, Anantnag (Administration-cum-Lab, Training Hostel, 2 pilot plants):
3. Establishment of university at Khudwani
   - Seed Store, RR&RS, Khudwani; Electricity, water supply, roads and fencing at Shalimar, Wadura, Shuhama, Leh and other constituent units; (Admin-cum-lab, Training hostel , 2 pilot plants)
4. Establishment of university at FVSc & AH, Shuhama
   - Instructional Labs, Shuhama; Meat Technology Lab, Wool and Pashmina Processing Lab, Poultry Hatchery, Duckry Unit, Necroscopy Lab Veterinary Science Museum, KVK Anantnag (Administration-cum-lab, Training hostel, 2 pilot plants); Girls hostel, KVK, Baramulla (Administration-cum-lab, 2 pilot plants); (Administration-cum-lab, Training hostel , 2 pilot plants)
5. Establishment of university at, Leh
   - KVK-Leh (Administration-cum-Lab, Training Hostel), Girls' Hostel, PG Faculty for Girls. Polyhouses for R&D (20), KVK, Anantnag (Administration-cum-Lab, Training Hostel, 2 pilot plants); electricity, water supply, roads and fencing at Shalimar, Wadura, Shuhama, Leh and other constituent units.

Relevant technologies



Tomato Shalimar Hybrid

The university released more than 40 varieties of different crops including foodgrains, fruits, vegetables, fodder crops and silkworms; out of which 10 were released recently and 12 are in pipeline. Recent variety of rice Shalimar Rice 1 yields 7 t/ha paddy and up to 10 t/ha. Shalimar Wheat 1 and Shalimar Carrot 1 have been released at national level. Rice-wheat rotation using Shalimar Rice 1 and Shalimar Wheat 1 is now possible in the valley for achieving food and feed self-sufficiency. Saffron cultivation package of the university helps in achieving 4 kg/ha saffron yield. Post-harvest technologies were developed to prevent wastage and to have VA products. Improved equipments remove drudgery and help in achieving high productivity through timeliness and precision. Spray schedule developed by the university is widely practised by the orchardists. Animal disease and pest diagnostic and control measures, vaccines etc. have been developed. Low-cost feed options have been developed for livestock, using locally available materials.

Varieties developed by the university and released at national or state level

Field crops

Rice: Ranbir Basmati, Jehlum, Chenab, Kohsar, Shalimar Rice 1

Maize: C 8, C 14, Shalimar KG 1, Shalimar KG 2

Wheat: Jittoo, Kailash, Mansorover, Singchen, Shalimar Wheat 1

Pulses: Shalimar Rajmash 1, Shalimar Moong 1, Shalimar Masur 1, Shalimar Cowpea 1, Shalimar French Bean 1

Barley: Sindhu, Nurboo

Oilseeds (rapeseed mustard): Gulchin

Oats: Sabzaar

Vegetable crops

Capsicum: Nishat

Chilies: Kashmir Long 1

Turnip: Nageen 1

Carrot: Chaman 1

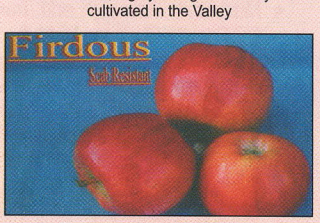

Lal Ambri, high yielding and widely cultivated in the Valley

Fruit crops

Almond: Makhdoom, Parbat, Waris, Shalimar

Walnut: Hamdan, Sulaiman

Apple: Firdous, Sunhari, Akbar, Lal Ambri, Shireen

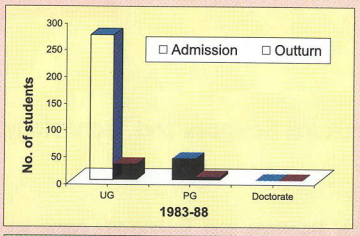


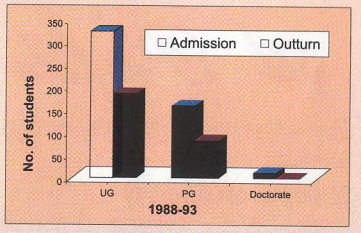
Firdous, a scab-resistant apple

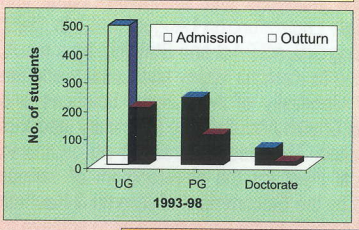
Silkworm races

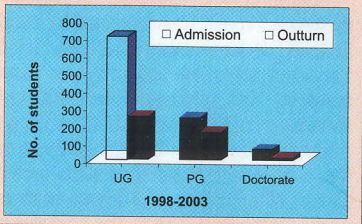
SKAU-RI, SKAU-R 6, SKAU-HR 1

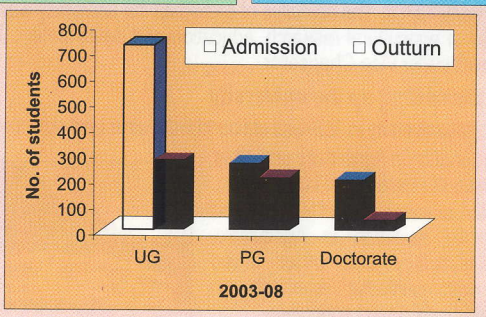
5-yearly students' graphical presentation (1983-2008)











New KVKs

- Anantnag (Kulgam), Pombay; Baramulla (Bandipora), Putushai; Kupwara, Kulgam; Budgam upgraded to 100% basis; Srinagar upgraded to 100% basis


Dr. M.S. Swaminathan

International collaboration

The university has had a long collaboration with Crop Science institutes of the world, particularly IRRI, Philippines in rice and CIMMYT, Mexico in maize and wheat. Potential germplasms of rice, maize and wheat have been obtained to strengthen the crop-improvement effort. Based on their inputs new varieties have been developed. Endeavour to have such linkages with other institutes particularly for crops and livestock of commercial significance in the region are underway.

New initiatives

The university has various plans for its development and in this regard, activities have already been initiated especially focused on the following:

- Expand the seed and planting material base of varieties released by the university.
- Mechanization and modernization in agriculture and allied sectors.
- Have e-learning for supplementing class-room teaching and extension education and e-governance operative in the university for efficiency in management and openness. Video-conferencing is also urgently needed.
- Students counseling and placement will be made more effective.
- Scientists will be encouraged to patent the patentable technologies developed by them.
- Improve documentation and publication, creating national and international visibility to the technologies developed.
- Improve overall impact of the university on agriculture and rural life in Kashmir and Ladakh for improving agricultural productivity and rural livelihood.

Future perspective planning till 2025

- Upgradation, of basic resources viz watershed development, conservation, of soil and water, and checking erosion that causes sedimentation in water bodies.
- Efficient use of natural resources through scientific agriculture, INM, IPM, IWM etc.
- Improve the cropping intensity through cropping system studies, varietal development and agro-techniques, micro-irrigation, increasing the command areas


Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, CM (J&K), at Wadura during Annual Day celebrations

for water resources, plant and animal structures, and environment control.

- Interdiscipline-based research and technology development from production till consumption.
- Reducing the cost of cultivation through increased productivity, mechanization and produce management.
- Assured remunerative prices to the farmers through better transport, on-farm storages and marketing.
- Adequate flow of credit especially to resource-poor farmers, as well as custom servicing in agricultural unit operations.
- Improving the factor productivity, and use of organic and bio-fertilizers.
- Improving the viability, vigour, germination and physiological activity of seed, and reduction in seed rates.
- Finger-printing of released varieties and hybrids through molecular markers for patenting.
- Training of seed scientists for evaluation, maintenance and improvement of seed quality in advanced centres and countries.
- Diversification of crops and fruits, intra variety and intra species.
- Organic farming of selected crops and commodities and organic certification.
- Round-the-year cultivation through protected farming, using polyhosues, polytunnels, polytanks, micro-irrigation for high-value and off-season crops and nursery production.
- Standardization of agricultural practices for intensive farming of saffron, kala zeera and other temperate crops and commodities.
- Increase in breeder as well as foundation seed of important crops through on-farm production and contract farming.
- Greater attention to maize by increasing the production and productivity to reduce meat imports, which is a drain on rural economy.
- Genetic upgradation of useful micro-organisms and development of diagnostic kits for plant and animal diseases.
- Use of biotechnology for improving plant and animal productivity and protection.
- Upgradation of agro-techniques for higher productivity threshold on a par with global competitors.
- Surveillance of disease incidence and monitoring of morbidity and mortality, and evolution control measures.
- Strengthening of epidemiological studies of different endo-and ecto-parasites.

28th Annual Convention of Vice-Chancellors of Indian Agricultural Universities Association in session at Srinagar

- Development and exploitation of innovative non-conventional methods for agricultural intensification.
- Development of diagnostic kits, vaccines and other control measures against common livestock and poultry diseases and nutrition deficiencies.
- Development of low-cost feed formulations, using locally available raw materials.
- Development of trout culture in cold-water streams and in snow.
- Development of composite fish culture.
- Development and introduction of technologies pertaining to fish-seed production, fish -seed farm management etc.
- Development of trained manpower and provision of bench space and infrastructural facilities for human resource to conduct advanced research.
- Strengthening of technology-delivery mechanisms.
- Effective linkages with the farmers, developmental agencies, private sector, and NGOs for efficient transfer of technologies.
- Hunger-free and self-sufficient Kashmir Division in terms of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables, milk, meat and eggs.

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BIRSA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, RANCHI

Diversification in Indian agriculture

A 2-day IAUA 32nd Annual Convention of VCs on 'Diversification in Indian agriculture' was held during 20-21 December 2007, attended by 27 VCs and representatives. The following recommendations emerged from eight technical sessions:

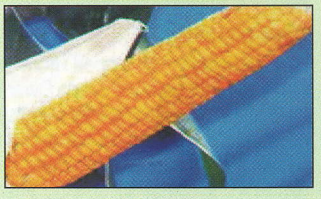
- Massive education programme backed by infrastructure and policy support is needed to change the mind set of farmers to produce more through farming systems.
- Series of network projects for high-tech agriculture at micro level are needed to increase the productivity of main market-led crops.
- On-farm training of scientists and farmers with the involvement of public-private partnership is needed for diversification in agriculture.
- Areas for organic farming research should be demarcated for the best utilization of suitable crops available in different soil and climatic conditions.
- Certification of organic agricultural produce should be organized through referral laboratories established at Agricultural universities in collaboration with line departments of states, to facilitate timely proper marketing.
- Potential of apiculture, floriculture, horticulture, vegetable production, agro-forestry, mushroom, fish and various livestocks as per the different climates should be tapped for diversification in farming.
- Special emphasis need to be given for the crops and livestocks of export with the chain of value-addition and quality assurance through marketing intelligence and established norms.
- Contract farming on selected high-value crops/live stocks through mechanization is highly desired for diversification in farming with the support of timely input supply.
- Various location-specific farming system perspective models should be established and popularized for higher production with emphasis on quality.
- Emphasis on new applied areas of research, i.e. crops modelling, nano-technology, climate change and pollution-effect on farming should be given for diversification.
- Diversification in agriculture should lead to more economic production, employment opportunities, recycling of organic crops and animal waste, and to conserve natural resources.

CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR

Varieties released

The university scientists developed three single-cross improved maize hybrids, viz HM 8, HM 10 and HQPM 7, which have been recommended for cultivation at the all-India level. Guar HG 2.20 has also been identified for release at AICRP workshop. This variety is of short duration of 100 days, and has better gum quality, HM 8 yields 6-8 t/ha, HM 10 average yields 7 t/ha, whereas HQPM 7 yields 7.2 t/ha.

HM 8 maize



HQPM 7 Maize

CSK HIMACHAL PRADESH KRISHI VISHVAVIDYALAYA, PALAMPUR

Interface on insect taxonomy

A 2-day Research Interface Workshop on Insect Taxonomy with emphasis on Microlepidoptera was organized at Rice and Wheat Research Centre, Malan, of the university during 29 to 30 March 2008. Thirty-nine delegates participated in the workshop. The Inaugural session was chaired by Dr S.C. Sharma Director of Research. CSK Hinmachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur. In this session, three keynote addresses were delivered. The first lecture was delivered by Dr H.S. Mehta, Additional Director, High Altitude Zoology Field Station, on Faunal diversity of western Himalayas with reference to Himachal Pradesh. Dr Desh Raj, Head, Department of Entomology, dwelt at length on importance of taxonomy in bio-control, emphasizing the importance of taxonomy in the effective implementation of bio-control programme. Shri V.K. Singh, Conservator of Forests, Dharamsala, express his concern on awareness, conservation of Lepidoptera in context of wildlife. He informed that poaching of wildlife faunas, especially butterflies is eroding the bio-diversity; and 100 species of butterflies are under the threat of extinction in India. He highlighted the role of butterflies as pollinator and in balancing of ecosystem.

The following recommendations emerged from the workshop:

- Three functional centres (Malan, Patiala and Peechi) of AICOP TAX are doing good research in taxonomy; and hence this programme must be strengthened in terms of permanent manpower and infrastructure.
- The linkage between taxonomy and molecular characterization must be strengthened, so that authentic and accurate identification of species may be done without wasting time and energy, which is otherwise a laborious task. To achieve this, molecular biologists should be inducted into the project to work along with taxonomists.
- Fragmented excellent work done at different centres should be gathered under one roof on the pattern of NBPGR.
- Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of India must ensure enough job opportunities in taxonomy field, so that more and more young generation may adopt this profession.

C.S. AZAD UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR

Recognition

Prof. (Dr) V.K. Suri, Vice-Chancellor, was appointed Member of Editorial Board of Communication in Soil Science

Dr V.K. Suri

and Plant Analysis. The editorial office is located at Athens, Georgia, the USA. This prestigious journal is published monthly except in August and December for a total of 10 issues per year by Taylor & Francis Group, LLC, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the USA. Although some scientists of Indian origin living in foreign countries have served or are serving on the Board, Dr Suri has the distinction of being the first Indian scientist, working in India, to be appointed on the Board since the inception of this international journal in 1970.

Symposium on technological Innovations

A 3-day national symposium on Technological innovations for resource-starved farmers in Global perspective was organized under the joint auspices of Society of Agricultural Professionals and CSAVAT, Kanpur during 28-30 April 2008 at Kanpur. Dr V.L. Chopra, Member, Planning Commission inaugurated the Symposium, with Dr A.K. Singh, DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr Chandrika Prasad, DG, UPCAR as Guests of Honour. Prof. (Dr.) V.K. Suri, VC, was the President and Dr A.N. Tewari, Dean, Agriculture was the Organizing Secretary. In the inaugural session, Dr Chopra stressed upon the need to develop technology especially for the starved farmer, which was overlooked by the scientists during the past decades. Three books written by different scientists targeted to starved farmers were released at the occasion.

At dias (from L to R): Dr C. Prasad, DG, UPCAR; Dr. V.K. Suri, VC, Dr V.L. Chopra, Member, Planning Commission; Dr A.K. Singh, DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr A.N. Teawri, Dean (Agriculture)

About 150 participants from 12 State Agriculture University and 7 ICAR Institutes in addition to the host University and local colleges attended the Symposium. A total number of 260 abstracts of research papers were submitted, out of which 72 papers were presented along with nine lead papers.

Dr BALASAHEB SAWANT KONKAN KRISHI VIDHYAPEETH, DAPOLI

New varieties released

Coconut variety 'DX 2'

It has been developed from the cross between Gangbondam Green Dwarf and East Coast Tall. It is high yielder with better copra quality than West Coast Tall and Pratap and better oil contents than East Coast Tall (67.10%). It comes to bearing after 5 years and may yield even up to 80 years like other hybrids. It is resistant to stem bleeding, and moderately resistant to leaf blight and bud rot. Average yield is 121 nuts/palm/year and 20,300 nuts/ha/year.

Coconut 'DXT 2'

Banana 'Konkan Safed Velchi'

It is a selection from somaclonal natural cross. The plants are medium sized with slender, yellowish pseudostem, having reddish petiole margin, growing up to 3 m height. Leaves are dark green to pale green, 2.5 m, in length with a long petiole of 0.5 m. Flowering takes place in 300 to 330 days after planting. Fruits are ready for harvesting within 150 to 170 days after flowering. It has small fingers, firm flesh and thin whitish yellow skin with high fragrance. It has heavy demand in local market with a good price. It is preferred by patients and kids due to its best quality. No major incidence of pest and disease were observed. The average yield of sole crop is 25 t/ha. and mixed crop 15 t/ha.

Banana 'Konkan Safed Velchi'

Cinnamon 'Konkan Tejpatta'

It is selection from Ceylon cinnamon seedlings. The leaves have good taste and more volatile oil content (2.8%), high dry-leaf yield (7.68 t/ha), high eugenol content (80.30%) and odour comparable to Ceylon oil. Minor incidence of pests and diseases was observed.

Cinnamon 'Konkan Tejpatta'

Notification of Rice Varieties

Rice 'Ratnagiri 24'

The variety was developed through pedigree method from cross between Zinia 63X1. The variety has high milling percentage (72.5%) and head-rice recovery (63.8%), with kernel length 5.31 mm, kernel breadth 1.78mm, L:B ratio 2.98, having medium slender grain type with 15.39 g test weight (1,000-grain weight) and translucent kernel type indicating superior grain quality of rice. It has mid-tall stature (105cm) and matures in 105 to 115 days with average grain yield of 3.64 t/ha. It is moderately resistant to blast and bacterial leaf blight, and tolerant to BPH, WBPH, GLH, stem borer and gall midge.

Rice 'Ratnagiri 24'

Rice 'Karjat 184'

This variety was diveloped through pedigree method from the cross between 1 and Kolamba 540. It is an early-duration variety (100-105 days), with stature (80-85 cm), medium slender grain type and 18.5 g test weight (1,000-grain weight). It has high milling percentage (75%) and 55.6% head rice recovery, 155.6% L:B 2.95 ratio and translucent kernel type, indicating superior grain quality. Average grain yield is 3.0 to 3.5 t/ha. It is moderately resistant to leaf blast and BLB, and tolerant to BPH and WBPH.

Rice 'Karjat 184'

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

24th convocation

Twenty-fourth convocation of GBPUAT, Pantnagar was held on 16 April 2008 wherein 900 students were awarded degrees. Dr C.D. Mayee, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, was the chief guest, and H.E. Shri B.L. Joshi, Governor of Uttarakhand and Chancellor of the university, presided over the convocation.

A view of the dais during convocation of the university

Dr Mayee, while delivering the convocation address, congratulated the degree recipients and exhorted them to continue the process of learning throughout their life. Describing the Pantnagar university as the largest academic hub in the country, Dr Mayee urged the students to maintain the dignified traditions of the university. He emphasized that the key challenge before us is to improve agricultural productivity along with profitability and sustainability. He said that issues deserving attention are intellectual property rights, globalization, environmental pollution, bio-diversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, population pressure and increasing urbanization. The research system must focus simultaneously on policy generation as well as technology generation. He laid emphasis on creation of centre of knowledge dissemination so as to strengthen the farmers with knowledge, and not charity.

The Chancellor, H.E.Shri Joshi appreciated the contribution of the university in the agricultural development of the country, and lauded the transformation in its research programmes as per the agro-climatic conditions of the state. He, however, expressed concern over the low productivity of major field crops and continuous decline in the contribution of agriculture sector in national GDP. He expected from the degree recipients a positive, competitive attitude and passion to do the best.

The VC, Dr A.P. Sharma, presented a detailed progress report of the university, highlighting the academic, research and extension activities undertaken during the last 1 year. He laid emphasis on various MoUs signed with some universities of USA, Canada, Australia and Hungary; and hoped that this will help improve the quality of agricultural education, research and extension in the country.

Five persons of eminence, viz. Shri Kumar Manglam Birla, Shri K.P. Singh, Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Dr M.V. Gupta and Dr K.S. Valdiya, were awarded Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*) by the Chancellor. Ms Nirmala Metwal was awarded the Chancellor's gold medal for overall outstanding performance. Besides, 12 Vice-Chancellor's gold medals, 11 silver medals and 10 bronze medals were also awarded to meritorious students of different degree programmes at this convocation

Uttarakhand Ratna to Dr Sharma

Acting Vice-Chancellor of Pantvarsity and famous fisheries scientist, Dr A.P. Sharma, was honoured with Uttarakhand Ratna award by All India Conference of Intellectuals. The award was conferred upon him by the former Governor of Chhattisgarh, H.E. Shri V.L.M. Seth, during the 27th annual celebration of Uttarakhand State Intellectuals' Conference held at Dehra Dun on 20 April 2008. The function was presided over by Justice S.H.A. Raja.

Dr. A.P. Sharma, VC, receiving Uttarakhand award

Designing of electrically-driven wheel chair

The final year students of Mechanical Engineering Department of the College of Technology developed an Electric wheel chair for the aged and handicapped people. Special care about comfort and cost was taken while developing it. Electricity driven, this chair has two batteries of 12 volts, which work for 2 hr and 30 min. after charging. The batteries provide electrical energy to a PMDC motor of 0.5 horse power attached

with the chair. The motor converts this electrical energy to mechanical energy, which enables the chair to move. The weight of the wheel chair is 50 kg and the speed is 5 km/hr. Extra attention has been paid to make it easy to sit and work.

Electric Wheel Chair developed for aged and handicapped people

MARATHWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PARBHANI

Visit of Dr V.D. Patil to Israel

Dr V.D. Patil, Associate Professor of Soil Sciences and Agricultural Chemistry, was deputed for second Turkey-Israel workshop on Drought monitoring and mitigation during 16-27 June 2008 at Izmir-Menemen (Turkey). He addressed the participants on Drought assessment and damage mitigation by applying remote-sensing techniques.

Foundation day

The event was celebrated by organizing *Kharif* farmers rally on 18 May, 2008. Dr P. Das, Deputy Director- General (Extension), ICAR, New Delhi, and Shri Vijayrao Kolte, Vice-Chairman, MCAER, Pune, inaugurated the rally. Dr S.S. Kadam, Vice-Chancellor, *presided*. The university scientists guided the farmers on production technologies of kharif crops, followed by question-answer session. An exhibition was also organized on this occasion. The MAU, State Department of Agriculture, NGOs and private companies showcased their technologies of the exhibition. The rally was attended by a large section of farmers, extension personnel and entrepreneurs.

MAHARANA PRATAP UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY UDAIPUR

Inauguration of fish seed project

The component of fish seed project under Mega Seed Project of MPUAT, Udaipur was formally inaugurated by Dr S. Ayyappan, DDG (Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi on 15 March 2008. As a part of the project, infrastructural facilities like Chinese hatchery and cemented fish nurseries were constructed for production and supply of quality fish seed of Indian major carps as well as ornamental fish. Under this programme, an Ornamental Fish Breeding Unit was established by the university. Dr.S. Ayyappan in his inaugural address emphasized the need for quality fish-seed prouction. He appreciated the efforts made by the university in strengthening Fish Seed Production Unit within the short span of time. He pointed out that this Unit has achieved the given target of production. He also urged upon the scientists to make intensive efforts to popularize fish and fisheries for the benefit of low-income families, especially of tribals in rural areas. In his presidential address Dr S.L. Mehta, VC, highlighted the efforts being made by the university in the field of fisheries research. He stated that the university has proposed to set up an Aqua-gallery, for which a proposal has been submitted to the ICAR for funding. Looking to the importance of Udaipur as a tourist centre, he stated a public aquarium would be beneficial for the Lake City besides educating our youths about the aquatic creatures. Dr Mehta, while underlining the developmental plans of the university. also mentioned that the university, is trying to set up Fish Processing unit for facilitating value addition, especially for low-priced fish.

Inter-institutional linkages

The university has entered into collaboration or linkages with a number of public and private sector organizations involved in agricultural education, research, agro-processing etc. Some of these in public sector are National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon; Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authorities (APEDA); Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal; Regional Remote Sensing Services Centre; Department of Space, Government of India, Jodhpur; National Horticulture Mission, Government of Rajasthan etc. and in private sector, CREST Biotech Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, and ICICI Bank, Mumbai in private sector.

Extension Education programmes

Farmers' hostel

A farmers' hostel costing Rs 1.5 crores is being constructed at Directorate of Extension Education with financial support from ICAR. This hostel will have the most modern facilities for farmers, farm women and resources persons. It will be equipped with internet connection and other modern facilities.

Participation of KVKs in Horticulture Mission

The university received support under National Horticulture Mission for Horticulture development. Five of its KVKs were sanctioned Rs 18 lacs each for developing model nursery. These model nurseries would be able to supply quality planting material to the respective districts.

Livelihood and nutritional security in tribal area

Under the NAIP-ICAR-sanctioned project entitled Livelihood and nutritional security of tribal dominated areas through integrated farming system and technology models. *A work shop was organized on 20 October 07 at Lead Centre, Directorate of Extension Education, MPUAT, Udaipur.* Besides consortia partners, Shri S.L. Mehta, Chairman, Consortia Advisory Committee Dr S.A. Patil, Director IARI, New Delhi; Dr Dilip Kumar, Director CIFE, Mumbai; Dr A.P. Srivastava, National Coordinator, NAIP (Component 3); Shri Rajendra Bhanawat, Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Government of Rajasthan. Collectors of Dungarpur and Banswara, senior officers of State government and university participated. Consortium leader, highlighted the salient features of this project, having budget outlay of Rs 1,838.34 lakhs assigned by World Bank. The project is being operated in a consortia mode in the four most backward districts of the country identified by Planning Commission, i.e. Banswara, Dungarpur, Udaipur and Sirohi. Research on two Integrated Farming System models on Horticulture and Animal Husbandry will be conducted with 14,000 families in 10 clusters of 50 villages in these districts.

NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, NAVSARI

Entry in *Who's Who*, USA

Dr Vijendra Singh Dabas

Dr Vijendra Singh Dabas, Associate Research Scientist (Veterinary Surgery), Livestock Research Station, NAU, Navsari, earned a position in Who's Who in its. 25th Anniversary edition, for his outstanding contribution in the field of veterinary profession. More than 60,000 accomplished persons from around the globe in all fields of endeavour, from political leaders and humanitarian figures to scientists and engineers find a mention in this directory.

Black-seeded greengram

Black -seeded greengram

It is the first black grrengram variety developed from Gujarat, which is high yielding as well as resistant to SMD, and suitable for *rabi* cultivation. The variety GBM 1 (RTM 10) was approved for *rabi* cultivation in south Gujarat condition at the 4th Combined Joint Agresco meeting of all four SAUs of Gujarat held at NAU, Navsari during 3-5 April 2008.

GBM 1 (RTM 10) yielded 27.75 % higher in south Gujarat and 45.44 % higher in all over Gujarat (seven locations) over the best check Co 4. It is early maturing (20 days earlier), possesses black and bolder seed, is moderately resistant to major diseases and pests on farmers' fields, and gives 28.98% more yield than the best check Co 4, beside having synchronous maturity and better quality.

Krushi Mahotsav, 2008

Krushi Mahotsav, 2008

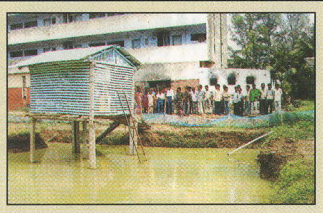
Launched from Bardoli on 7 May 2008 by the CM, Shri Narendra Modi, the focus of Krushi Mahotsav 2008 was on the improvement of use efficiency of water and fertilizer in high water-consuming crops like sugarcane and banana through drip irrigation. He said that farmers should be educated about the advantages of drip, quoting experimental and final trials data to motivate them and to reap more crop per drop. On this occasion, Health Department, which covers every nook and corner of the state, emphasized the importance of child health, which was identified as another major theme of Krushi Mahotsav, 2008. It was a month-long campaign, receiving overwhelming response of farmers, especially in rural belt.

Fish-cum-duck pond training centre

KV. K., Navsari Administrative building Dr Mangla Rai, D.G., ICAR, New Delhi

Geographically, south Gujarat has 170 km sea shore on western side. A major part of the area receives heavy rainfall almost every year. Thus, geographical situation and heavy rainfall along with canal and bore-well irrigation provide ample opportunities for breeding and culturing fish in this area. The increasing local consumption and heavy demand of fish fauna of this area in nearby fish market of Surat and Mumbai fetch handsome price for the fish. This had prompted more and more farmers to undertake fish farming. However, due to lack of knowledge of scientific cultural practices of fish farming, they encounter many problems such as low yield, poor survival, slow growth rate etc. In view of this,the university constructed a Fish-cum-Duck pond to make fish farmers aware of the scientific technology of integrated fish

farming through training and demonstration. This effort will help those needy farmers to gain technical know-how who wish to start fish farming, and update knowledge of those who are already engaged in this business. The development of other two integrating enterprises like Rosary and Apiculture along with fish-cum-duck pond is also in progress.



Fish-cum-duck pond-Training Centre

Onion-dehydration plant

A onion-dehydration plant was inaugurated by Dr Mruthyunjaya, National Director (NAIP), ICAR, New Delhi, on 21 June 2008, in the presence of Shri S.C. Srivastav, Managing Director, Gujarat Agro-Industries Corporation Ltd, Ahmedabad, and Dr R.P.S. Ahlawat, VC. He highlighted the importance of such pilot-scale vegetable-processing unit to compensate the losses of vegetables. A semi-automatic onion-dehydration plant of 1,400-2,000 kg/ha, capacity was purchased in 2006-07 from the infrastructure development grant of ICAR at Navsari Campus, and commissioned in 2007-08. The plant in-charge informed the guests that the plant is unique in its type because it has fluid as heat-transfer medium for fine control on radiant heat, and therefore it could also dehydrate vegetables other than onion. The trial run shows excellent quality of dehydrated onion flakes. The plant would be useful in experiential learning of post-graduate students of Agriculture and Horticulture. The vegetable-drying industry has now hand-on facility for the training of their human resource personnel at the university. This plant has capacity of 3 t/ day for processing onion into value-added flakes.

Onion-dehydration plant

Inauguration of Onion-dehydration plant at Navsari

WEST BENGAL UNIVERSITY OF ANIMAL AND FISHERY SCIENCES, KOLKATA

4th Convocation

The 4th Convocation of WBUAFS was held on 17 April 2008 at Kolkata. Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi, H.E. the Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of the university, presided over the convocation. Prof. Rathindranarayan Basu, Chairman of West Bengal State Agriculture Commission and former Vice-Chancellor addressed the convocation. Sri Anisur Rahaman, Minister-in-charge, Department of Animal Resources Development was also present as the guest of Honour. Prof. C.S. Chakrabarti, Vice-Chancellor, served oath to the recipients of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and also handed over the degree certificates. Total 114 UG students. 84 Master-degree students, and 14 Ph.D. students received their degrees and 11 student received gold medals.

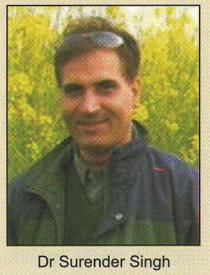
H.E., the Governer, Shri Gandhi congratulated the university fraternity for organizing the 4th Convocation successfully. He exhorted the degree recipients to contribute immensely towards realizing the dream of shining India and prosperous West Bengal.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR

Dr Surender Singh

Dr Surender Singh, Scientist, Department of Agricultural Meteorology of College of Agriculture, was awarded visiting fellowship for advance research in agro meteorology at IAC Companies, Brazil under the framework of TWAS-UNESCO Associate scheme.



Dr Surender Singh

DR BALASAHEB SAWANT KONKAN KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, DAPOLI

Dr V.B. Mehta, Vasantrao Naik Agricultural Award -2008

Dr V.B. Mehta, VC, was awarded the prestigious 'Vasantrao Naik Agricultural Award-2008 by Vasantrao Naik Agricultural. Research and Rural Development Foundation, Mumbai, for outstanding contribution in the fields of Agricultural Education, Research and Extension Education of the university under his leadership. The award was given to Dr Mehta on 1 July 2008 on the eve of 95th Birth Anniversary ceremony of late Vasantraoji Naik, former CM of Maharashtra at Mumbai.

Dr V.B. Mehta

NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, NAVSARI

Bharat Jyoti Award to Dr Amaresh Das

Bharat Jyoti Award and Certificate of Excellence was conferred on Dr Amaresh Das, Research Scientist (Soil Science), for meritorious services, outstanding performance and remarkable role in his field of work, by India International Friendship Society, New Delhi on 28 March 2008.

Dr Amaresh Das

SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, MODIPURAM, MEERUT

Life-time achievement award

Prof. M. P. Yadav, VC, was conferred Life-time achievement award at New Delhi on 13 March 2008 by the chief guest, H.E. the Ambassador of Tunisia on the occasion of South Asia Virtual Education Summit-2008. Prof. Yadav was also Guest of Honour on this occasion.

Prof. (Dr) M.P. Yadav

The summit was jointly organized by World Institution Building Programme, Global Open University, Nagaland; Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment, Indian Instituteof Human Rights and Jamia Hind, for designing a master plan paradigm for on-line, open, distance, informal, non-formal and web-based employment-centric education in South Asia, especially India for solving the burning problems like poverty, unemployment, pollution and population explosion.

Prof. Yadav also received Eminence Award for the year 2007 for his outstanding contributions in the field of Agriculture and Biotechnology by the Society for Plant Research, during the inaugural ceremony of National Conference in Biotechnology on the theme role of Biotechnology in national development during 21st century, held at Meerut during 15-16 March 2008.

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