



# IAUA NEWS

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## PROMISING TECHNOLOGY

### Thresher Developed for Unhusked Maize

A high-capacity maize thresher for unhusked maize-cobs has been developed. This can provide 20-25 quintals of clean grains per hour with a 25 to 35 HP tractor. The existing maize-sheller was not able to handle unhusked maize-cobs.

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana



Thresher for unhusked maize

## FOCUS ON UNIVERSITIES - ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVENTS

### DEEMED UNIVERSITIES (NATIONAL INSTITUTES)

#### Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai

#### International Conference on 'Women in Fisheries'

The Indian Society of Fisheries Professionals in collaboration with the CIFE, Mumbai, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai; and NRC on Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneshwar organized an 'International Conference on Women in Fisheries' on 11-12 December 2001 at the CIFE.

The conference was inaugurated by Mrs Vinita Bharucha, Corporator, Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Dr P.V. Dehadrai, former DDG (Fisheries) of the ICAR, presided over the function. Dr S. Ayyappan, Director, CIFE, Mumbai, and Mr Sudhi Kumar (IAS), MD, Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium, New Delhi, were the Guests of Honour. Dr M.P. Singh Kohli, President of Indian Society of Fisheries Professionals, welcomed the delegates.

The valedictory function was presided over by Dr S.N. Dwivedi, former DG, MPCST, Bhopal. Dr P.V. Dehadrai, was the Chief Guest, and Dr V.S. Somvanshi, DG, FSI, Mumbai; Dr (Mrs) Hansa Pandey, Director, NRC on Women, Bhubaneshwar; and Dr M.A. Upore, GM (Fisheries), NABARD, Mumbai were the Guests of Honour. Dr (Mrs) Krishna Srinath, Co-convenor of the Conference, welcomed the guests and Dr M.P. Singh Kohli, the Organizer, proposed the Vote of Thanks.



International Conference on 'Women in Fisheries'

The following recommendations were made at the conference:

1. To document the works carried out in India and abroad on 'women in fisheries'.
2. To encourage fisherwomen's self-help groups and organize credit facilities through governmental funding agencies.
3. To train the self-help groups in entrepreneurship development and management through ICAR institutes and SAUs in India.
4. To establish national and international linkages among scientists and NGOs working in this particular area and to form an international network.
5. To request State Governments to implement welfare schemes for Women fishers and fish-workers.
6. To enable all fisheries research institutions in India and SAUs having fisheries faculty to take up at least one project on techno-socio-economic aspects related to women fishers within a year.



7. To encourage all women's co-operative societies to take up fisheries, supported by Fisheries institutions/ departments in the country. While leasing water-bodies, fisherwomen should be given priority.

## Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar

### National Animal Science Fair and Exhibition-2001

A 3-day 'Animal science fair and exhibition-2001' (Pashu mela and pashu vigyan pradarshini) was organized at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, during 2-4 November 2001. It was attended by about 6,000 livestock owners from the



Animal Science Fair and Exhibition (2-4 November 2001) organized at IVRI



A rural woman participating in chaff-cutting competition, organized during Pashu Mela States of Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. The event was inaugurated on 2 November jointly by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Santosh Gangwar and Shri Pratap Singh, a livestock owner from Dohna village of Uttar Pradesh. On this occasion, Hon'ble Minister called on the scientists and the livestock owners to work hand-in-hand to control and eradicate the onslaught of animal diseases.

Dr Kiran Singh, Deputy Director-General (Animal Sciences), ICAR, New Delhi, emphasized the need to sustain proximity with animals. Dr Mahendra Pal Yadav, Director, IVRI, said that it was a paradox that though India had become self-reliant in food production, a majority of Indians were yet to get minimum diet of nutritive food.

## UNIVERSITIES

### A Profile

#### Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana



Inauguration of PAU by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

The Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, established in 1962, was formally inaugurated by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, on 8 July 1963. Situated on the Ludhiana-Ferozepur road, the university encompasses an area of 1,510 acres on its main campus and 4,615 acres at out stations.

The highly competitive educational programmes offered at the university aim at producing well-trained graduates in agriculture, agricultural engineering, veterinary science, home science and basic sciences with a broad-based knowledge to meet the emerging challenges in agriculture and allied fields.

At present the university, through 50 departments in its constituent colleges, offers 51 masters and 42 doctorate programmes. The course curricula are being constantly revised and re-structured to keep pace with the latest developments in agriculture and allied fields.

To keep students abreast of the latest information, the university has Dr M.S. Randhawa Library, with a good collection of books, periodicals and other literature on agriculture.

#### AIMS

- Teaching and training the students in agriculture and allied fields.
- Conducting research and seeking solutions to the emerging problems in agriculture, agricultural engineering, veterinary science, basic science and home science.
- Providing transfer of technology to the farmers and agricultural organizations through various extension-education programmes.
- Providing diverse technical services and consultancy in agro-industry.

The mission of the university is to:

- Enhance the productivity and profitability of different fields, including vegetable and horticultural crops, on an ecologically and economically sustainable basis.
- Enhance the productivity and sustainability of subsidiary agricultural occupations, viz. livestock and poultry production, aquaculture, bee-keeping, mushroom production etc.

#### RESEARCH

Since its inception, the PAU has developed 450 varieties (including hybrids) of field, forage and horticultural crops. These include varieties of wheat (39), rice (22), maize (24), pearl millet (10),



barley (5), pulses (34), soybean (5), oilseeds (36), American cotton (15), desi cotton (6), sugarcane (17), sesbania (1), forage crops (34), vegetables (72), floricultural crops (9), fruits (123), and aromatic plants (3). Out of these, 105 varieties/hybrids have been released during the last decade. At the national level, the PAU took lead to release first single-cross hybrid maize 'Paras'. 'Navjot' and 'Parbhat' maize, developed by PAU, have become popular at the national level. Other innovations include the development of first sorghum x Sudan grass hybrid (Sydax 250) and first short-duration pigeonpea hybrid in India.



Wheat variety PBW-343, spread over 80% of wheat growing area in North India



Chilli Hybrid CH-3



Vice-Chancellor, Dr K.S. Aulakh and others taking interest in different varieties of gladiolus

### RESIDENT INSTRUCTION

The university offers comprehensive and dynamic resident instruction programmes not only for human-resources development to meet the need of various development departments/agencies but also for producing competent, dedicated and motivated administrators, teachers, research scientists and extension workers, besides self-employed persons.

The university has 5 faculties, viz. Agriculture, Agricultural engineering, Basic sciences and humanities, Home science and Veterinary science. In addition, an Institute of Agriculture at Gurdaspur offers 2-year diploma in agriculture. At its campus the university has also a School of Energy Studies for Agriculture, Agro-Economic Research Centre and Seed Technology Centre.

### EXTENSION SERVICES

The extension services provided by the university, co-ordinated by the Directorate of Extension Education, has the objective of rapid dissemination of approved technology among extension workers and progressive farmers and to get first-hand feedback on farmers' problems.



Farmers showing keen interest in new tillage technology

### Mandate of PAU Extension Services

- To test the research findings at the farmers' fields and find out their suitability under field conditions before recommending for adoption.



National gold medal awardee, S. Balwinder Singh, being honoured at kisan mela

- To act as first-line extension agency to identify the field problems for which scientific solutions are not yet available and pass on these to research scientists.
- To update the knowledge of extension workers so as to keep them informed about the latest knowledge available on the subject in India and abroad.
- To continuously monitor the crops and livestock during the season for providing timely guidance to the farmers against any attack of insect pests or diseases.
- To organize vocational courses for generating self-employment among the rural youth.

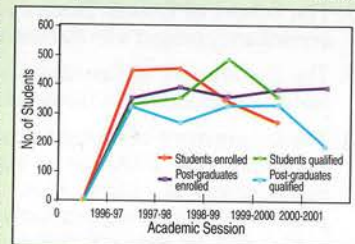


Farmers carrying improved seeds from PAU kisan mela



PAU scientists discussing agricultural problems with farmers at their village

For efficient management, the extension services have been divided into Farm Advisory Services, Training Services and Communication Services.



Students enrolled and qualified from PAU, Ludhiana during 1996-97 to 2000-2001

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

The following national or international collaboration projects are under operation at the university:

- The University has collaborated with the Australian Council of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) on the Integrated Management of Herbicide-resistant Weeds in wheat in India and Australia and for the assessment and development of wheat genotypes tolerant to salinity, sodicity and waterlogging, collaboration with European Commission.
- European Union-India Cross-cultural Innovation Network Project is operative in the Department of Extension Education, focusing on entrepreneurship development in Punjab, promoting and popularizing the use of information technology.
- The department of Floriculture is collaborating with M/s Fleuroselect, Holland for the supply of flower seeds for testing.
- The research work on quality protein maize (QPM) was initiated in the Department of Plant Breeding in collaboration with CIMMYT.



Ohio delegation



Nigerian President, His Excellency Olusegu Obsarjo



5. In the Department of Entomology a collaborative project Sustainable control of the cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*) in small-scale cotton-production systems' was sanctioned by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFS) and the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).
6. In all, 7 ad-hoc projects funded by international agencies, 27 co-ordinated research projects funded by the ICAR and about 60 ad-hoc projects funded by private sector are operative in different departments of the College of Agriculture.
7. The Department of Plant Breeding has international linkages with CIMMYT on bed planting in wheat.
8. Working linkages with scientists from Australia, China, Japan and Canada on rapeseed and mustard also exist.
9. The Department of Entomology maintained linkage with Bees for Development, Troy Monmouth, UK for research in the area of Bee Pathology under the NATP-sponsored project.
10. The College of Agricultural Engineering established international linkages with institutions in Japan and the USA.
11. The School of Energy Studies for Agriculture undertook a consultancy project with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Mumbai.
12. The Department of Genetics and Biotechnology has Indo-Swiss collaboration in biotechnology.
13. The Department of Fisheries collaborated with Ohio State University (the USA) on a joint project on Sustainable management of natural resources. An FAO/IAEA linked project on 'Improving productivity and efficiency of dairy cattle' and an Indo-UK collaborative research project on 'Development of DNA base typing for bovine MHC' are in operation at the College of Veterinary Science.
14. Five professional scientific societies, viz. Crop Improvement Society of India, Indian Ecological Society, Indian Society of Plant Pathologists, Indian Society for Advancement of Insect Science and Aphidological Society of India, have their headquarters at this university.

### Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad

#### Andhra CM Calls for Strategies to Rescue Farm Sector

Inaugurating a Rs 7 crore auditorium of the university, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr N. Chandrababu Naidu, has emphasized the need for suitable strategies including crop



Mr N. Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister, inaugurating the University Auditorium. The Minister for Agriculture and Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU look on

diversification, to help the farmers bring down the cost of cultivation and make agriculture a profitable occupation.

#### A. P. Farm Minister Stresses for Conservation of Ongole Cattle

Inaugurating the Second International Symposium on Ongole Cattle at the University Auditorium, on 29 October, Mr Vadde Sobhanadreeswara Rao, Minister for Agriculture, emphasized need to strengthen Genetic Improvement Programme of Ongole cattle breed.

Dr I.V. Subba Rao, Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU, presiding over the function, informed that the University has been striving to conserve and develop local breeds. Ongole cattle breed has become a part of the national economy in Brazil, whereas in India the breed is slowly dwindling.

About 130 scientists, breeders and farmers from different parts of the world participated in the symposium.

### C.S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur

#### Sports Stadium: Foundation Laid

Dr Panjab Singh, Director-General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India, laid the foundation stone of Sports Stadium on 9 January 2002, at the main Campus of the university.



Dr Panjab Singh, D.G., ICAR & Secretary, DARE, Govt. of India, laying the foundation stone of Sports Stadium at the university accompanied by Dr S.B. Singh, Vice-Chancellor

Besides general facilities of sports, the complex would have a Swimming pool and a Badminton hall.

### CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur

#### 'Women in Agriculture' Day Celebrated

December 5 was celebrated as Women in Agriculture Day by the Directorate of Extension Education, CSK HP KV at village Dugh Laugha. Addressing the farm women, Dr Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor, said that the real farmers in the mountain areas of the world are not men but women.

#### ATIC Inaugurated

Prof. P.K. Dhumal, Chief Minister, HP, inaugurated the Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) at CSK HP KV here today.

The Centre, financed by the ICAR, will house a plant clinic, where experts from various disciplines of agriculture, veterinary science and home science would provide consultation to the visiting farmers.

#### Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Application Centre

The GISRSA is extremely useful in the management of land, water, livestock and other bio-physical resources related to agriculture, horticulture, grasslands and wastelands, as well as for production estimation or forecasting of various agricultural and horticultural crops in the state. This Centre will facilitate on-going collaborative projects at the university like CAPE and



FASAL with Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad and Remote Sensing Cell, Shimla. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal, has recently provided some basic computer and other equipment to the HPKV.

## Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli

### Training on Khar Land Development

Thane district and the European Economic Community jointly organized a training course on 'Kharland Development' for the benefit of field officers of NGOs in the State during 22-29 November 2001 at Dapoli. Dr Shankarrao Magar, Vice-Chancellor of the university, emphasized in his presidential talk at the inaugural function that the natural resources should not be destroyed while developing khar lands.

### Organization of Farmers Rally at Ambawali Village

The university and the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Gramin Vikas Bank jointly organized a farmers' rally at Ambawali village of Ratnagiri district on 4 December 2001. Dr Kiran Kokate, Director, Extension Education, during his presidential address emphasized that various fruits grown in the Konkan region should be processed and sold under a branded name in order to get assured market. Representatives of NABARD, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg Gramin Vikas Bank and the scientists of the university guided about 350 farmers present in this rally.

### Scientists' Home at Dapoli

A well-furnished Scientists' Home at Dapoli campus was inaugurated by Dr Kirti Singh, former Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur, and former Chairman, Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board, New Delhi, on 14 December 2001. Dr Singh in his key-note address said that the waste land of hilly Konkan region can be converted into the best land, as there is tremendous scope for horticultural development, spices cultivation, vegetable cultivation and also for floriculture. Dr S.S. Magar, Vice-Chancellor, mentioned that national agricultural planning should be started from the common marginal farmer in order to achieve the real agricultural development in the country.



Scientists' Home at Dapoli inaugurated by Dr Kirti Singh along with Vice-Chancellor Dr S.S. Magar

## G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar

### National Symposium on Immuno-modulation

Immunologists and Biotechnologists of India converged at Pantnagar on 14 December 2001 to attend the National Symposium on Immuno-modulation in Health and Disease, organized by the Society for Immunology and Immunopathology (SIIP). The second convention of the Society was also held concurrently.

The symposium was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr V.S. Chauhan, Director, International Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi. Addressing the scientists, he said that Immunology had opened up vistas of forming edible pharmaceuticals and vaccines as plant products, doing away with the need of their injection or oral consumption as pills. The

plants as bio-reactors can also be enriched with nutrients, thus saving the population from many deficiency diseases.

### Winter School on 'Recent Advances in Forest Tree Seed Production'

A 1-month long winter school on 'Recent advances in forest-tree seed technology' was organized at the Hill Campus of the university at Ranichaura, from 22 November to 21 December 2001, wherein 22 participants from 8 States and 14 universities participated. Dr R. D. Gaur, Dean, H.N. Bahuguna University, Srinagar, delivered the inaugural address.

### Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation

A 1-day consultative group meeting-cum-workshop on 'Carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation in Uttaranchal hills by holistic initiatives in agro-ecosystem' was held at the College of Basic Sciences and Humanities on 15 October 2001. Inaugurating the workshop, Chief Guest Dr J. B. Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of the university, said that the whole world was now advocating the conservation of biodiversity. This aspect has greater relevance in Uttaranchal, because of the rich biodiversity in the Himalayan region.

### Increase in Yield through Crop Residue Management

Incorporation of rice straw along with 20 g N/ha increases the rice yield by 0.5 tonnes/ha and wheat yield by 0.3 tonnes/ha over the control. This was 0.4 tonnes/ha more in rice and 0.2 tonnes/ha in wheat, than the yield obtained by following common practices of burning straw in field, which causes loss of valuable materials (nutrients, carbon, etc.), besides polluting the environment.

### Zero-Tillage Technology Finds More Takers

The Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering has supplied more than 250 Pant Zero-Till Ferti-Seed Drills to 11 States, mainly located in Indo-Gangetic plains of India, through the ICAR-funded revolving fund scheme. The department took a massive programme of sowing wheat immediately after harvesting paddy without any tillage operation with Pant Zero-Till Ferti-Seed Drill in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttaranchal. In some of the villages like Deoria, the entire holdings have been covered under zero-tillage wheat. Deoria has been declared a 'Zero-Tillage Village' by the department.

About 100 undergraduate students of this college are being trained for raising wheat under zero-tillage, with an ultimate aim to accelerate the dissemination of new technologies to end-users at a faster pace.

### Dr Khush lays Emphasis on Basmati-Export Zone

On 11 October 2001 Dr Gurdev Singh Khush, Consultant and former Head, Division of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biochemistry, International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines, visited the Crop Research Centre of the university to witness the rice-breeding experiments being conducted there, and showed a keen interest in the progress of aromatic rice programme, carried out jointly by the IRRI and Pantnagar university. In a press conference, Dr Khush emphasized the need to declare the plains area of Uttaranchal as Basmati-Export Zone.



Dr Khush visiting the rice fields at Crop Research Centre of Pantnagar University along with Vice-Chancellor, Dr J.B. Chowdhary and other scientists



## Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur

To impart proper agricultural training to rural youth and to enable them to establish entrepreneurship in agriculture, the Government of Chhattisgarh, through an ordinance, amended the Act of IGKV to affiliate private colleges in agriculture and allied sciences from the academic year 2001-2002. The three new colleges are Mahamaya College of Agriculture, Dhamtari; Danteswari College of Horticulture, Raipur; and Agricultural College, Durg.

## Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur

### Workshop on Development and Management of Problem Soils

A national workshop on 'Development and management of problem soils for sustainable agricultural production' was organized at the university during 21-22 December 2001 to take a stock of technological advances and to formulate strategies in relation to characterization and management of problem soils and degraded lands. The Vice-Chancellor, Dr G.B. Singh, in his Presidential address said that many parts of the country were facing soil erosion and other problems related to soil, and the scientists should find out their solutions. Additional Commissioner (NRM), Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation, Government of India, Dr Suraj Bhan, said that about 50% of the total land area in India suffered from varying degrees of degradation such as water and wind erosion, salinity and alkalinity, waterlogging, ravines etc. Such land cover and land-use changes over the last 40 to 50 years have been dramatic enough to be apparent from satellite images. Welcoming the guests, DRS, Dr R.K. Gupta, said that 10% of the problematic soil area of the country was in M.P. Addressing the concluding session, former Vice-Chancellor of Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Dr N. Panda, said that the recommendations emerging from the Workshop would find a place in solving the existing problems in different parts of the country.



National workshop on management of problem soils, at Jabalpur

### Seminars/Symposia organised during October-December 2001

1. The 2-day national symposium on Sustainable management of plant nutrients was organized jointly with Society for Sustainable Use of Chemicals in Agriculture of the Lucknow University during 11-12 October-December 2001. Inaugurating the symposium, Dy Speaker of M.P. Vidhan Sabha, Shri Ishwar Das Rohani, said that the use of bio-fertilizers should be promoted to minimize the effect of chemical fertilizers on soils.
2. A 3-day National Seminar on Commercial cultivation, processing and marketing of medicinal and aromatic plants was organized during 27-29 November 2001.
3. The 33 and 34 Annual Conventions of Indian Society of Agricultural Chemists and National symposium on Bio-fertilizers were organized at the university during 9-10 December 2001.

## Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani

### Kharif Sorghum 'Parbhani Sweta' ('PVK 801'/'SPV 1333') developed

With grain mould resistance and better grain and fodder quality, kharif sorghum 'Parbhani Sweta' ('PVK 801') was developed at Sorghum Research Station, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani (Maharashtra). It gives 7.60, 45.71 and 7.22% more grain yield than CSV 15, PVK 400 and CSH 5. Its grain and bhakri qualities are superior to those of the popular hybrids/varieties grown in kharif.

### Soybean varieties released: salient features

'Pooja' ('MAUS 2'): It is developed from the germplasm line SH-84-14 and is recommended for general cultivation in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The variety is non-shattering, known for high yield, high oil content, good germination, and resistance to pests and diseases.

'Aarti' ('MAUS 1'): It is developed as a mutant from germplasm line DS-87-14 and is recommended for general cultivation in Maharashtra. It is early maturing, high-yielding with high oil content, tolerant to pod-shattering and is resistant to major diseases and pests.

'Prasad' ('MAUS 32'): It is developed from JS 71-1 X PK 73-7, and is recommended for general cultivation in Maharashtra. The variety is known for high yield, best germination, non-shattering nature and resistance to major diseases and pests.

'Parbhani Sona' ('MAUS 47'): It is developed from PS 73-7 X Hark and is recommended for general cultivation in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The variety is very good alternative for JS 335 and suitable for shallow to medium soil and low- to medium-rainfall zone. The variety comes under extra-early maturity group and hence is suitable for double cropping, i.e. soybean followed by rabi-sorghum in rainfed area. The variety is well known for high germinability.

'Pratikar' ('MAUS 61'): It is developed from JS 71-1 X PK 73-94. It is recommended for release and general cultivation in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The variety is known for high yield, good germination and resistance to rust as well as several diseases and insect-pests.

## Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri

### New Varieties Recommended

The Agricultural Research and Development Committee of the university has recommended the following 10 varieties for cultivation in the region of Maharashtra.

**Wheat 'NIAW 301' ('Triambak')**: It gives 16% more production than HD 2189 and is resistant to black and brown rusts.

**'Phule G95418' ('Virath')**: Seeds big and bold, resistant to dieback disease, yield 30% more than of 'ICCV 2' and 40% more than of 'KAK 2'.

**Greengram 'Phule Greengram 9339' ('Vaibhav')**: Seeds thick and bold, resistant to powdery mildew, yield 27.39% more than of 'Kopargaon 2' and 39.21% more than of 'J 781'.

**Rajma bean 'ACPR 94040'**: Yield 42.38% more than of locally adopted 'Vaghya', 36.75% more than of 'HPR 35', and 69.85% more than of 'HPR 137'; recommended for kharif cultivation in western Maharashtra.

**Hybrid cotton 'Phule 388'**: Long and high-quality fibres, yield 25 to 41% more than of DCH 35, recommended for kharif cultivation in the Deccan canal division.



**Cucumber 'H 41' ('Phule Prachi')**: Yellowish white flowers, production 35.8 tonnes/ha and yield 85% more than of local varieties.

**Snake-gourd 'RHRSNG 10' ('Phule Vaibhav')**: White-coloured fruits with green stripes, early-ripening variety, fruit length 95 to 100 cm, fruit weight 350 g, suitable for *kharif* and summer seasons, production 29.2 tonnes/ha, yield 27% more than of 'Konkan Shweta' and other local varieties.

**Ridge-gourd 'RHRRG 2' ('Phule Sucheta')**: Attractive green fruits, early maturity, fruit length 30 to 35 cm, fruit weight 95 g, suitable for *kharif* and summer seasons, production 12.0 tonnes/ha and yield 25 and 20% more than of Konkan Harita and Pusa Nasdar or local varieties.

**Broad-bean 'RHRWL 1' ('Phule Gowri')**: Flat and whitish green beans, less susceptible to bean borers, less incidence of leaf-spot disease, early ripening and prolonged duration for picking, suitable for off-season cultivation of beans, production 25-30 tonnes/ha and yield more than of 'Dussera' and 'Deepali' varieties.

**Gladiolus ('Phule Ganesh')**: Early-flowering hybrid variety; light yellow flowers (at bud stage), pale-yellow coloured at full-bloom stage, average 19 flowers on each stalk; suitable for local market and for export; 2.03 stalks/ha more than of the existing varieties like 'Sansre' and 'Sucheta' and flowers with extra longevity.

## Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) was organized by the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science in collaboration with Indian Society of Soil Science, IARI, New Delhi, during 30 October–2 November 2001. The main features of the convention were National seminar on development in soil science–2001; Special seminar on developments in the technology and usage of Indian phosphate rock; the 19<sup>th</sup> Prof. J.N. Mukerjee-ISSS foundation lecture; the 28<sup>th</sup> Dr R.V. Tamhane memorial lecture and presentation of the Doctoral Research Award to the contestants.



66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of ISSS

The ICAR-sponsored winter school on Exploitation of underutilized fruits was organized by the Department of Horticulture from 3 to 23 October 2001.

## Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

### Dr Aulakh nominated on ICAR Policy Planning Committee

Dr Kirpal Singh Aulakh, Vice-Chancellor of the university, has been nominated as a Member of the Standing Policy Planning Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by the Agriculture Minister, Government of India and President of the ICAR Society. The committee is headed by Dr M.S. Swaminathan, former Director-General, ICAR and Secretary to the Government of India. The Standing Policy Planning Committee will be responsible for planning programmes and activities of the ICAR related to its mandate for agricultural research and education; to suggest on matters relating to research prioritization, research collaboration and inter-institutional linkages; to advise on matters relating to infrastructure



Dr K.S. Aulakh, Vice-Chancellor, PAU

development, human resource development, possible reorganization for modernization and improved efficiency; to suggest ways and means for resource generation and advice on policies concerning incentives and rewards, and to suggest means and methods for strengthening of partnership role between ICAR and State Agriculture Universities and various public and private sector institutions/organizations to build a strong National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

## Best KVKs

Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Gurdaspur and Faridkot won the first and second positions respectively for displaying exhibition material during the Orientation-cum-training workshop of the KVKs of Zone I of the country at CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar recently.

## Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu



### 'Bagwani Mela' at Raya, Jammu

Jenab Ch. Mohd. Ramzan, Minister for Animal Husbandry & Cooperatives, J&K Govt. inaugurated the Bagwani Mela at Raya on 24-12-2001

To create an awareness and appreciation among farmers

for cultivation of fruit plants in subtropical area of Jammu province, 1-day 'Bagwani mela' was organized at Rainfed Research Substation, Raya on 24 December 2001. The Mela was attended by more than 500 farmers/farm women from Kandi areas.

Its objectives were: (a) To dispel the wrong notion among farmers that fruit plants cannot be grown successfully in dryland area. (b) To demonstrate fruit preservation and preparation of food products. (c) To arrange agro-industrial exhibition. (d) To organize the Kisan Goshthi.

## CONVOCATION NEWS

### Tenth Convocation of CSK HPKV, Palampur

#### Union Agriculture Minister calls for Redesigning of Hill Agriculture for Sustainability

Mr Ajit Singh, the Union Minister of Agriculture, while addressing the X Convocation of CSK HPKV, Palampur on 28 November 2001, said that hilly areas did not benefit significantly from Green Revolution, as those technologies were better suited to plains. He emphasised the need to find appropriate technologies and solutions to make hill agriculture sustainable.

Integrated natural resources and agricultural management (INRAM), development, women, biodiversity and small-scale water-harvest technology could be mutually beneficial for hills and plains.

Dr Suraj Bhan, Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Chancellor of the university, conferred 91 Doctoral degrees, 269 Masters degrees and 594 Bachelors degrees to students. He also awarded 80 Gold Medals and Certificates of Honour.



Prof. P.K. Dhumal, Chief Minister, HP Govt. addressing the 10th Convocation of CSK HP KV



## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Palampur

**Foreign Visit:** Dr N.P. Kashyap, Professor and Head, Department of Entomology, was invited to deliver a talk during the International Apicultural Congress held at the ICC, Durban (South Africa) from 28 October to 1 November 2001.

### G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar

1. Dr Amresh Kumar, Dean, Collage of Veterinary Sciences, and Dr Harpal Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Surgery and Radiology, were awarded Plaque of Honour by the Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery for their life-time achievement in surgery and radiology at the Silver Jubilee Congress of the Society, held at the HAU, Hisar (Haryana).
2. Dr R.S. Chauhan, Assistant Professor, Department of Aquaculture, has been nominated in a High-Level Expert Committee on Aquaculture Drug Regulations. The main task of the committee is to formulate Statutory Regulations on Aquaculture Drugs for the approval of Drug Controller of India.

### Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Raipur

Dr V.K. Patil, Vice-Chancellor of IGKV, was awarded the prestigious Vasant Rao Patil Memorial Award by the Government of Maharashtra for his outstanding contributions in horticulture. After the formation of Chhattisgarh he was instrumental in preparation of comprehensive horticulture development plan for the state. The Government of Chhattisgarh, based on this plan, submitted a proposal to the Government of India for development of horticulture in the state. It is a vision that the state could be called as a 'Horticulture State'.

### Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani

Dr A.R. Singh, Soybean Breeder, All-India Co-ordinated Research Project on Soybean, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani (Maharashtra) has been selected for the prestigious 'Radhakishan Shanti Malhotra Award, 1999-2000' in recognition of his outstanding contribution in crop improvement. The Radhakishan Shanti Malhotra Award is instituted by Vaishnomal Malhotra Public Trust, Mumbai of Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani. The award was given by Dr Kirti Singh, Secretary, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi and former Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, in the presence of Dr P.C. Alexander, Governor of Maharashtra State at the Fourteenth Convocation of the MAU, Parbhani, organized on 8 November 2001. Dr Singh has made persistent efforts to improve soybean. He has developed and released five soybean varieties, 'MAUS 1', 'MAUS 2', 'MAUS 32', 'MAUS 47' and 'MAUS 61', for general cultivation in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.



Dr A.R. Singh

### Dr K.K. Zote receives Radhakishan Malhotra Award

Under the leadership of Dr K.K. Zote, Officer In-charge and Pathologist, Agricultural Research Station, Badnapur (District Jalna, Maharashtra) a programme to develop multiple-disease-resistant varieties of pigeonpea was started. The multiple disease-resistant varieties of pigeonpea 'BSNR 736' and 'BSMR 853' developed through this programme have enhanced the productivity of farmers by 50% and reduced the wilt and sterility mosaic by 90% in Maharashtra. The university honoured Dr K.K. Zote with 'Radhakishan Shanti Malhotra Award' for his work on developing multiple-disease-resistant varieties of pigeonpea.

### Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

Dr Narinder Singh Saini, J.P.S. Gill, S.N. Sharma and V.K. Sobti of the College of Veterinary Sciences, PAU, Ludhiana, have been awarded Dr C.G. Bhaskar Memorial Medal for their paper, a skin scrubbing procedure for 'Orthopedic surgery: a microbiological valuation' published in *Indian Veterinary Journal*.

### Young Scientists Award for Dr Malhi

Dr Pritpal S. Malhi, Assistant Professor in Veterinary Anatomy and Histology won the Young Scientists Award at the XVI Annual Convention of IAVI and National symposium on Animal structural dynamics to improve health and production held at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (Uttaranchal) from 8 to 10 November 2001.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad

#### Conferment of Col. Comdt. & Rank of Hon. Col. in NCC to Dr I. V. Subba Rao

The NCC authorities, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, conferred the honorary rank of Colonel on Dr I.V. Subba Rao, Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU at a special function organized at the Sports Complex, Rajendranagar, on 21 December 2001.



Dr I.V. Subba Rao

### G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar

#### Pantnagar Farmers' Fair witnessed Unprecedented Influx of Farmers

The All-India Farmers' Fair and Agro-Industrial Exhibition of Pantnagar University was inaugurated by the Principal Secretary, Government of Uttaranchal, Dr R.S. Tolia, on 9 October 2001. Dr J.B. Chowdhury took him around the fair to have a peer look on various stalls. Dr Tolia inaugurated the Horticulture Show, where a number of attractive entries of vegetables, processed and preserved food articles, and flower arrangement were on display, many of which were brought by the farmers from far-off places.

At the fair, the university made available minikits of seeds of improved varieties of various *rabi* crops, viz wheat, gram, lahi, lentil and sugarcane. Besides, various vegetable seeds and nursery-raised fruit plants were also available at the sales counters. The main attractions of this fair were 'Horticulture show' and Competitions held on 9 and 10 October; 'Animal show' and auction of heifers on 11 October, and auction of agricultural implements on 12 October 2001.

More than 16,000 farmers visited the fair and participated actively in various quizzes organized by different firms. Kisan Goshthies and special lectures delivered by the experts were also attended by the farmers in large numbers. In the Horticulture show and Cattle show, record number of 736 and 115 entries, respectively, were received. Out of 120 big and 240 small stalls from various private-sector firms and public-sector organizations, the Overall best prize was bagged by Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Lalpur.

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From:

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Indian Agricultural Universities Association  
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