



IAUA NEWS

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48th Vice Chancellors' Convention of IAUA

Agri-tourism, an emerging dynamic sector, is recognized for its potential to promote agrarian financial, social, and environmental sustainability. Farm stays, harvesting fruits and vegetables, rural culinary and agroecological farming experiences, animal feeding, and participating in traditional festivals are typical agri-tourism activities. Globally, countries like Italy, the United States, and New Zealand have embraced agri-tourism as a contributor to their economies. India's diverse rural and cultural landscapes and agro-climatic zones could be leveraged for economic growth through generating non-farm income in rural India.

In view of above, Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology (ANDUAT), Kumarganj, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh and the Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA), New Delhi jointly organized the 48th Vice Chancellors' Convention of IAUA on *Agri-tourism in India: Bridging Education and Rural Livelihoods* at Kumarganj, Ayodhya on 13-14 February 2025. Forward-looking agri-tourism in India needs strategic interventions such as policy support, partnership models, capacity building, marketing and branding and sustainability principles. Through formal and informal consultation processes, this year the convention theme *Agri-tourism* was thought to be highly appropriate. The objective of the event was to deliberate on the integration of agri-tourism into academic frameworks, rural economies, and policy structures. The programme of convention comprised the inaugural and technical sessions, focusing on the following three sub-themes:

- I. Education and Learning Tourism – Exploring the role of universities in developing Agri-Tourism as an experiential learning model, fostering research, innovation, and skill development.
- II. Rural Livelihood Enhancement – Identifying Agri-Tourism's potential to diversify farm incomes, create rural employment, and promote community-driven entrepreneurship.
- III. Sustainability and Policy Perspectives – Examining the institutional, regulatory, and environmental dimensions of Agri-Tourism to ensure long-term economic, ecological, and social sustainability.

Each session featured two keynote presentations and a panel discussion led by Vice Chancellors, providing strategic insights and recommendations to strengthen Agri-Tourism in India.



Hon'ble Governor Uttar Pradesh Smt Anandiben Patel giving IAUA Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Award

The convention was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Her Excellency Smt Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Chancellor of ANDUAT, in the esteemed presence of Shri Surya Pratap Sahi, Agriculture Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The session was attended by 500 participants, including Vice Chancellors, faculty members of ANDUAT, invited delegates from research institutions from Uttar Pradesh, research students, representatives of the Office of Raj Bhawan, UP Agriculture Ministry, press and media.

The keynote speaker and their topics of lectures were as follows:

- Dr Yungsong Chen (Song), Assistant Professor, National Ilan University, Taiwan: Agri-tourism in Taiwan: Case Studies.
- Dr Balraj Singh, VC, SKNAU, Jobner, Rajasthan: Integrating Protected Cultivation with Agri-tourism.
- Dr S. Sarath, Assistant Professor, KCT Business School, Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu: Agri-tourism for Rural Livelihoods: Policy Insights.
- Prof. Sunil Nautiyal, Director, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Kosi-Katarmal, Uttarakhand: Impacts of Climate Change on the Himalaya and its Impacts on Downstream Oceans.
- Dr Mahendra Singh, Department of Agribusiness Management, ANDUA&T, Kumarganj, Ayodhya: Agritourism Policies for Balancing Economic Development, Environmental Sustainability and Socio-cultural Inclusion in India.
- Dr Girish Mude, Associate Professor, MIT World Peace University, Pune: Agri-tourism for Rural Livelihoods: Policy Insights.

The plenary session of the Convention was conducted on 2nd day (14 February 2025) in which recommendations of different technical sessions were presented, and finalized.

The Annual General Body Meeting 2024 (AGBM 2024) of Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA) was also conducted on 13 February 2025 at ANDUAT, Kumarganj during the Convention. Dr Parvinder Kaushal, Vice Chancellor, VCSGUUHF, Bharsar and President, IAUA, chaired the meeting. Dr N. H. Kelawala, Vice President, IAUA; Dr A. K. Karnataka, Secretary General, IAUA and Dr Bijendra Singh, Dr Z.P. Patel, Members, Executive Committee of IAUA were present in the AGBM.

At the outset, Dr Parvinder Kaushal, President, IAUA welcomed all in the Annual General Body Meeting of 2024, and thanked Dr Bijendra Singh, Vice Chancellor, ANDUAT, Kumarganj for hosting the 48th Vice Chancellors' Convention. He also thanked all the participating Vice Chancellors and their representatives for attending the programme. In his initial remarks he appreciated the activities carried out by the IAUA and member universities and apprised the General Body about the agenda to be discussed in the meeting. Later, the listed agenda items were discussed and decisions were taken on these for further needful action.



Hon'ble Governor Uttar Pradesh Smt Anandiben Patel and Agriculture Minister UP. Shri S.P. Shahi with participants of 48th Vice Chancellors' Convention

IAUA Awards for Outstanding Ph. D. Thesis Research for the Year 2024

The awards were given by the Hon'ble Governor, Uttar Pradesh, Smt Anandiben Patel during 48th Vice Chancellors Convention of IAUA held at ANDUAT, Kumarganj, Ayodhya during 13-14 February 2025. A brief description of awardees (2024) and their Ph.D. Thesis research work are presented category-wise.

1. Agricultural Sciences including Agriculture Engineering (Jointly awarded to Dr Pavneet Kaur and Dr Parmanand Sahu)

Dr Pavneet Kaur, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana was awarded IAUA Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Research in Agricultural Sciences including Agriculture Engineering category, (Biotechnology) for her Ph.D. Thesis *Fine Mapping and Cloning of Brown Planthopper (BPH) Resistance Introgressed from Oryza nivara to Oryza sativa*. She did her doctoral research under supervision of Dr Kumari Neelam (Biotechnologist), School of Agricultural Biotechnology, PAU, Ludhiana.



Dr Pavneet Kaur

The study aimed to elucidate the molecular basis of BPH resistance in wild rice species *O. nivara* (accession IRGC104646). Phenotypic screening of 1000 F2:3 progenies against BPH biotype 4 showed 1:2:1 segregation ratio, confirming single-gene control of Bph34. Genotypic analysis revealed only two breakpoints among the progenies, supporting LOC_Os04g35210 as the candidate gene, while qRT-PCR analysis demonstrated 8.23-fold increase in LOC_Os04g35210 expression in resistant plants 48 hours post BPH infestation. The sequencing of the CDS of LOC_Os04g35210 revealed a single exon of 2706 bp in *O. nivara* and 2712 bp in PR 122. The Bph34 CDS construct was validated, and mobilized into Agrobacterium strain for T0 plant generation. Sequence comparison revealed a unique LRR domain in *O. nivara*, potentially involved in detecting BPH attacks and activating plant defenses. Bph34 gene marker was developed for MAS. Rice germplasm ILPAUGS_BPH34 (INGR21008) was registered with the Plant Germplasm Registration Committee (PGRC) of ICAR.

Dr Parmanand Sahu, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, was awarded IAUA Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Research in Agricultural Sciences including Agriculture Engineering category, Farm Machinery and Power (FMP) for his Ph.D. Thesis *Kinetic Study on Step Pyrolysis of Biomass*. He did his doctoral research under supervision of Dr Sandip Gangil, Head and LCPC CRP on EA, AEP Division, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal.



Dr Parmanand Sahu

The study focused on the production of higher value-added solid product namely biochar (having properties of higher adsorption level, richer in carbon, lower volatile matters, and higher calorific value) from agricultural crop residues. A detailed process and protocol for step pyrolysis and a laboratory-level pyrolytic reactor system was developed. Kinetic parameters, activation energy, pre-exponential factor and reaction mechanism were estimated along with the thermodynamic balancing indices parameters. Thermogravimetric analysis was done at various heating rates to explore the thermal behaviour of intrinsic biopolymeric of pigeon pea stalks. A novel approach was evolved for identification of biopolymeric phase transition points, based on the acceleration and retarding nature of two intersecting deconvoluted plots during thermal degradation process. These findings will help in solving farmers' problem of crop burning in the open field, and providing financial support to farmers by selling crop residues to agro-industries.

2. Horticultural Science including Forestry

Dr Prabhdeep Singh, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Jammu, J&K was awarded IAUA Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Research in Horticultural Science including Forestry category (Fruit Science) for his Ph.D. Thesis *Morphological and Molecular Characterization of Bael (Aegle marmelos Correa) Genotypes in Jammu Region*. He did his doctoral research under supervision of Dr Akash Sharma, Professor, Division of Fruit Science, Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, SKUAST-J, Jammu.

The research work concluded that appreciable diversity in seedlings of bael genotypes are available in Jammu region. On the basis of superiority of the seedling bael genotypes, JMU-Bael (Sel-27) had superior traits among all the seedling origin bael genotypes in terms of morphological and biochemical characters compared with NB-5 and NB-9 cultivars. Molecular studies established that JMU-Bael (Sel-27), a seedling selection was genetically diverse and does not belong to the commercial varieties. So, JMU-Bael (Sel 27) having excellent traits of interest and high genetic dissimilarity can be used directly as cultivar after completing all codal formalities for variety release or can be further used in breeding programmes to get segregates; thus the existing bael populations can serve as genetic resource for bael variety development.



Dr Prabhdeep Singh

3. Veterinary and Animal Sciences

Dr Sharun Khan, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, was awarded the IAUA Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Research in Veterinary and Animal Sciences category (Veterinary Surgery and Radiology) for his Ph.D. Thesis *Pluronic F127 hydrogel loaded with adipose-derived stromal vascular fraction, mesenchymal stem cells, and conditioned media for the repair of full-thickness skin wounds in a rabbit model*. He did his doctoral research under the supervision of Dr Abhijit M. Pawde, Principal Scientist, Division of Surgery, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh.



Dr Sharun Khan

The research work addressed a significant problem in the field of wound medicine, which is directly relevant to veterinary care of farm animals. Farmers often face challenges in managing wounds in livestock due to the animal's environment, which can lead to infections and prolonged healing times, affecting the overall health and productivity of the animals. His research focused on developing and validating a novel contraction-suppressed full-thickness wound model using rabbits to establish and compare the efficacy of adipose-derived stromal vascular fraction (AdSVF), adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells (AdMSC), and AdMSC-conditioned media (AdMSC-CM) delivered in Pluronic F127 (PF127) hydrogel for accelerating wound healing. When delivered in PF127 hydrogel, these treatments enhanced collagen production, re-epithelialization, and overall wound healing while reducing pain and improving scar quality. Collagen density assessments using Masson's trichrome and picrosirius red staining methods showed that treatments involving AdMSCs and AdMSC-CM resulted in increased collagen density in healing wounds. The lower post-procedural pain scores in these treatment groups highlighted their potential to minimize discomfort and inflammation during the healing process. These improvements lead to stronger, more organized healing tissue, reducing the risk of infections and complications. The study concluded that AdMSCs and AdMSC-CM, particularly when delivered in hydrogel, can accelerate wound healing, reduce pain, and improve scar quality in rabbit models. Overall, this research represents a significant advancement in wound medicine, with promising implications for both veterinary and human medicine. Once this hydrogel

undergoes further studies and is commercialized, it will provide farmers with easy access to stem cell therapy for wound healing, making it a revolutionary advancement in the field.

4. Dairy and Fisheries Sciences

(Jointly awarded to Dr Basavaprabhu, H.N. and Dr Subal Kumar Ghosh)

Dr Basavaprabhu, H.N., ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal was awarded IAUA Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Research in Dairy and Fisheries Sciences category (Dairy Microbiology) for his Ph.D. Thesis *Pre-clinical safety assessment of indigenous probiotic Limosilactobacillus fermentum NCDC 400*. He did his doctoral research under supervision of Dr Pradip V. Behare, Senior Scientist (Dairy Microbiology), Techno-functional Starter Culture Laboratory, Dairy Microbiology Division, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal.



Dr Basavaprabhu, H.N.

This study integrated the safety and efficacy investigation of the potential probiotic *Limosilactobacillus fermentum* NCDC 400, whose probiotic attributes are already proven. *In vitro* assays and whole genome analysis of NCDC 400 using suitable bioinformatics tools highlighted that the strain is potentially free from antibiotic resistance determinants and virulence factors. NCDC 400 is safe in acute, subacute, and subchronic toxicity tests in murine model. In animal study, the daily oral administration of *L. fermentum* NCDC 400 at 10^8 (low dose) and 10^{10} (high dose) cells/mouse for 15 days did not induce treatment-related toxicity either in terms of physiological behaviors or clinical parameters in cyclophosphamide induced immunocompromised mice model. Episodes of *L. fermentum* NCDC 400-mediated bacterial translocation to extra-intestinal organs were unnoticed. Oral administration of NCDC 400 augmented the immune status of mice by immune stimulation. *L. fermentum* NCDC 400 did not foster any adverse effects like genotoxicity even at a high dose. Owing to these findings, a dose of 10^{10} CFU/mouse/day was considered NOEL. Overall, the results underscore the safe and non-toxic behavior of *L. fermentum* NCDC 400 and thereby call for and should facilitate further human clinical trials.

Dr Subal Kumar Ghosh, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai was awarded IAUA Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Research in Dairy and Fisheries Sciences category (Post Harvest Technology) for his Ph.D. Thesis *Combined Utilization of Fish and Vegetable Waste using Microbes*. He did his doctoral research under supervision of Dr Binaya Bhusan Nayak, Principal Scientist and Head, FRHPHM Division, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai.



Dr Subal Kumar Ghosh

The study uses fish and vegetable mixed composite waste to isolate, characterize, and identify native LAB with lipolytic and proteolytic activities for further use as a starter culture. Combining fish waste (nitrogen) with vegetable waste (carbohydrates) improves the carbon/nitrogen ratio, allowing microorganisms to decompose more quickly. Composite bio-silage (fish to vegetable at 80 to 20 %) was prepared by inoculating starter cultures with treatments T1 (native isolate—*Enterococcus faecalis*), T2 (non-native—*Lactobacillus acidophilus*), T3 (a mixture of *E. faecalis* and *L. acidophilus*) and compared with control (without starter culture). The findings revealed that native isolate *E. faecalis*, which can be used as a single or combined with non-native *L. acidophilus*, performed better in the bio-ensilage process. The present study concluded that composite bio-silage could be used as a novel probiotic feed supplement and a significant source of protein-carbohydrate rich fish feed components to help manage wastes from both fisheries and vegetable sectors.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

A. CROP and HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

The Agricultural Universities made earnest efforts to develop new technologies in Crop and Horticultural Sciences which included varieties/hybrids; machines and equipment; products and processing; and package of practices as discussed here.

VARIETIES/HYBRIDS

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana

Rice

PR132

- It is a high yielding, medium duration, nitrogen-use-efficient variety.
- It performs best at 75% of the recommended nitrogen dose.
- Average plant height is 113 cm and it matures in about 111 days after transplanting.
- It possesses long slender, clear, translucent grains with high total and head rice recoveries.
- It is resistant to six of the ten presently prevalent pathotypes of bacterial blight pathogens in the Punjab state.
- Its average paddy yield is 31.5 q/acre.

Maize

PMH 17

- This dual purpose single cross hybrid is suitable for both grain and silage.
- It has tall plants with broad and erect leaves. Tassel is semi-open and medium. Ears are long, medium placed with flint, yellow-orange capped grains.
- It matures in 96 days and average grain yield is 25.0 q/acre. This hybrid is suitable for ethanol production.
- It is moderately resistant to fall army worm and maydis leaf blight.

Foxtail millet

Punjab Kangni

- It is a short duration variety with 76-day maturity period.
- Its average seed yield is 5.1 q/acre. It has good quantities of protein (13.59 mg/100 g), resistant starch (24.39 g/100 g), Ca (54.85 mg/100 g) and Fe (4.53 mg/100 g) content.
- It has low predicted glycemic index (52.57) and low glycemic load (31.68). Value added products prepared using this variety recorded organoleptic acceptability score between 7.0 - 8.0 as per the Hedonic scale.

Mentha

CIM Unnati

- A high yielding variety of menthol mint (*Mentha arvensis* L.) with high oil content (0.81-0.83%) in herb, and suitable for planting from end of January to mid of February.

- Plants are erect with bushy growth habit; leaf is light green and leaf margins have deep serration.
- Average herb yield is 113 q/acre. It produces the highest herb and oil yield when harvested at 145 days after planting.

French bean

FBK-1

- This is a pole type variety suitable for sowing in second fortnight of September, and second fortnight of February under poly-net house cultivation.
- The first picking is taken in 64-66 days after sowing. Pods are purple, straight and round in cross-section.
- Average green pod yield is 126.4 q/acre in September sowing, and 132.1 q/acre in January sowing.

FBK-2

- This is a pole type variety suitable for sowing in second fortnight of September, and second fortnight of January under poly-net house cultivation.
- The first picking is taken in 62-64 days after sowing. Pods are green, straight and round in cross-section.
- Average green pod yield is 125.5 q/acre in September sowing, and 131.8 q/acre in January sowing.

Cauliflower

PGAC 25-17

- A mid-season variety. The outer leaves are upright and inner leaves slightly cover the curd.
- Ready for harvesting in 77-80 days after transplanting. Curd is compact and white.
- Average marketable curd weight is 830 g. Curd yield is 112.5 q/acre.

Potato

Punjab Potato 103

- Plants are medium tall, compact and vigorous with light green foliage.
- An early bulking potato variety with a potential of 354.1 q/ha tuber yield in 80 days after planting.
- Tubers are of light brown skin colour and creamy white flesh and are oblong in shape.
- Tuber yield is 450.7 q/ha.

Punjab Potato 104

- Plants are tall, erect, and compact with dark green foliage. It is moderately resistant to late blight.
- It is a medium to late maturing table purpose variety with a 100-110 days of crop duration.
- Tubers are light brown with yellowish white flesh, and are round in shape. Tuber yield is 434.1 q/ha.

Carrot

Punjab Santri/Narangi

- It is a tropical genotype and roots mature in 97 days after sowing.
- Its foliage is green. Roots are orange, 23.72 cm long, 4.37 cm diameter and tapering in shape having self-colour core.

- Rich in carotene (14.72 mg/100g), TSS (8.5%), dry matter content (12.78%). Average root yield is 180 q/acre.

Cape gooseberry

Banglora

- Plants are semi-upright, 1m tall with heart shaped leaves.
- Fruits are smooth, circular, orange, enclosed in ovoid husk, average fruit weight is 7.46 g with TSS of 14.2% and acidity 1.80%.
- It is an early maturing variety and ripens from 2nd week of February to end-March. The average yield is 0.55 kg/plant (48.9 q/acre).

Jabalpur Oblong

- Plants are semi-upright, 1m tall with heart shaped leaves.
- Fruits are round to oblong, yellow orange, enclosed in oblong husk, average fruit weight is 8.08 g with TSS of 14.0 % and acidity 1.82 %.
- It is a mid-season variety and ripens from 4th week of February to 1st week of April. The average yield is 0.54 kg/plant (48.0 q/acre).

Grapefruit

Flame

- Trees are semi-vigorous to vigorous, medium to large fruit size, peel color changes from yellow with bright red blush colouration at maturity, flesh is tender, juicy (50.3%) and its internal color is almost red. Fruit TSS is well blended with acidity ripens during the last week of November.
- Fruits rich in ascorbic acid (41.81±1.02/100 ml of juice), reducing sugar (4.22±0.07 g/100 ml), free amino acids (150.34±1.98 mg/100g FW), and total antioxidant activity (44.58±1.52 %). Average yield is 74.9 kg/tree.

Gladiolus

Punjab Glad 4

- Its leaves are dark green and sword shaped. The spike length is 86 cm with 15 florets facing towards one side in alternate row arrangement.
- The florets are orange with 15 days vase life. It takes 96 days to flower, produces 1 corm, 27 cormels per corm and is suitable for cut flower production.

Punjab Glad 5

- Its leaves are dark green and sword shaped. The spike length is 85 cm with 15 florets facing towards one side in alternate row arrangement.
- The florets are greenish yellow with 15 days vase life. It takes 97 days to flower, produces 1.2 corm, 26 cormels per corm, and is suitable for cut flower production.

Chrysanthemum

Gul-e-Sahir

- It is an early season variety that requires 102 days for flowering. Plants are 38.44 cm in height having compact growth habit. Flowers are Korean type and yellow.
- The variety produces 88.35 flowers/plant and 29 days of flowering duration. This variety is suitable for pot culture. It is moderately resistant to *Septoria* leaf spot.

Punjab Anuradha

- It is an early to mid-season variety that requires 99.81 days for flowering. Plants are 37.02 cm in height having compact growth habit.
- Flowers are yellow and Korean type. The variety produces 43.58 flowers/ plant, and 27 days of flowering duration.
- This variety is suitable for pot culture. It is moderately susceptible to *Septoria* leaf spot.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University released 19 new varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops with the approval of Tamil Nadu Government's New Varieties Release Committee during 2025.

Rice**CO 59**

- Duration: 130-135 days
- Yield: 5,867 kg/ha (15% over BPT 5204)
- Season: *Samba* / *Late samba* / *Thaladi*
- Semi dwarf, drought tolerant
- 1,000 grain weight (14.0g) as against BPT 5204 (16.0 g)
- High milling (65-70%) and head rice recovery (60-65%) with good cooking quality. Intermediate amylose
- Moderately resistant to White backed plant hopper, leaf folder and blast.

**ADT 56**

- Duration: 110-115 days.
- Yield: 6248 kg/ha (10% over CO 51).
- Season: *Kar*, *Kuruvai*, *Sornavari*, *Navarai*
- Medium slender grain
- High milling outturn (69.5%) and head rice recovery (64.2%)
- Intermediate amylose and soft gel consistency
- Moderately resistant to blast, bacterial leaf blight and sheath blight
- Resistant to leaf folder, gall midge and moderately resistant to brown plant hopper and green leaf hopper.

**ADT 60**

- Duration: 130 -135 days
- Yield: 6,028 kg/ha (13.2 % over ADT 46).
- Season: *Thaladi*
- Medium slender grain
- Medium tall (120 cm), non-lodging.
- Milling: 75%; head rice recovery: 68%
- Moderately tolerant to brown plant hopper, stem borer, leaf folder, bacterial leaf blight and blast.



Maize**COH(M) 12**

- Duration: 110 days
- Yield: rainfed: 6,511 kg/ha; irrigated: 8,128 kg/ha (rainfed - 11.3% over CO 6 and 14.7% over NK 6240; irrigated - 9.3% and 13.7% over CO 6 and NK 6240 respectively).
- Season: Rainfed: *Puratassi pattam*
Irrigated: *Aadi, Karthigai, Margazhi and Thai pattam*
- Yellowish orange semi-dent kernels
- Hybrid seed production is easier due to synchrony in flowering
- Moderately resistant to Fall army worm and Charcoal rot.

**Blackgram****VBN 12**

- Duration: 75-80 days
- Yield: Irrigated: 859 kg/ha [12% over VBN 6]; rice fallow: 850 kg/ha [22% over ADT 6 and 18% over ADT 7]
- Season: Irrigated: *Aadi, Purattasi and Chithirai pattam*
Rice fallow: *Late samba*
- Photo-insensitive type
- Long pod (5.5 - 6.0 cm) with more number of seeds per pod (up to 9 seeds)
- High batter volume (2.25 litre / 500 g grain)
- Resistant to MYMV, ULCV and powdery mildew diseases; resistant to whitefly and pod borer.

**Groundnut****CTD 1**

- Duration: 120-125 days
- Yield: 2454 kg/ha (20.35% over CO 6)
- Season: *Vaikasi pattam*
- Tolerant to early season drought
- High oil content (49%) with high shelling (70.5%)
- Resistant to leaf miner and moderately resistant to leaf hopper
- Moderately resistant to late leaf spot and rust.

**Castor hybrid****YRCH 3**

- Duration: 150-170 days
- Yield: 2,014 kg/ha
- Season: *Aadi, Puratasi and Karthigai pattam*
- Semi dwarf and branching type
- Proportion of female flower on the spike is > 95%
- Resistant to lodging, non-shattering type
- Moderately tolerant to semilooper, *Spodoptera litura* and capsule borer and resistant to wilt.



Tomato**CO 4**

- Duration: 160 - 165 days
- Yield: 39.24 t/ha (47.57 % over PKM 1)
- Season: *Aadi pattam and Thai pattam*
- Fruits with light green shoulder
- Extended shelf life
- Field tolerance to ToLCV.

**Bhindi hybrid****CO(H) 5**

- Duration: 110-120 days
- Yield: 28.85 t/ha (15.77 % over CO 4)
- Season: *Aadi pattam and Thai pattam*
- Early in flowering (33-36 DAS)
- In a duration of 120 days 23 harvests can be made starting from 38 days after sowing
- Moderately resistant to yellow vein mosaic virus and enation leaf curl virus (ELCV)

**Chilli****CO 5**

- Duration: 270 days
- Yield: 4 t/ha (38.3% over Bydag)
- Season: *Aadi, Purattasi and Thai pattam*
- Capsaicin content is exceptionally high (>1.0 lakh Scoville Heat Units)
- Suited for industrial purpose
- Field tolerance to leaf curl viral disease.

**Ash gourd****PLR 1**

- Duration: Annual
- Yield: 21 t/ha/yr
- Season: Suitable for all seasons
- Compact type fruit (350 g)
- Without off-flavour
- Lesser seeds and more flesh
- Suited for terrace garden
- Moderately resistant to fruit fly and less susceptible to leaf miner and red pumpkin beetle.



Banana**Kaveri Vaaman**

- Duration: 330-360 days
- Yield: 60-65 t/ha
- Season: *Aadi* and *Purattasi pattam*
- First banana mutant in India
- Dwarf statured plant (1.5-1.6 m) and withstands heavy wind
- Suitable for kitchen garden.



Kaveri Vaam

Avocado**TKD 2**

- Duration: Perennial
- Yield: 129.61 kg/tree/year (51.84 t/ha)
- Season: June - September
- Regular bearer with cluster bearing habit (480 fruits /tree/year)
- Suitable for high density planting
- Medium size fruits (270 g)
- Moderately resistant to fruit borer, shot hole borer and wilt disease.



Avocado TKD 2

Acid Lime**SNKL 1**

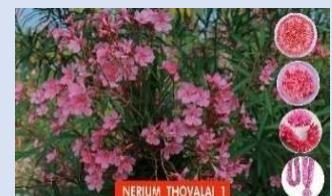
- Duration: Perennial
- Yield: 58.20 kg /tree/year (16.60 t/ha)
- Season: June - September
- Year around production with cluster bearing habit (5 fruits/cluster)
- More peel thickness (1.95 mm); Suitable for long distance transport and more shelf life (10 days)
- High juice content (54.1 %)
- Moderately resistant to leaf miner, citrus butterfly, mites, gummosis, canker and dieback.



ACID LIME - SNKL-1

Nerium Thovalai 1

- Duration: Perennial
- Yield: 3.87 kg/plant; 9.67 t/ha/year
- Season: July-August
- Cluster flowering habit and year-round production
- Higher retentively in plants (7 days)
- Moderately resistant to leaf spot and leaf caterpillar.



NERIUM THOVALAI 1

Coconut**ALR 4**

- Duration: Perennial
- Yield: 137 nuts / palm / year (95-105 nuts per year in West Coast Tall variety)
- Season: All seasons
- Dual purpose (Tender nut and Copra) tall variety



Coconut - ALR 4

- Tender nut water yield 520 ml/nut and de-husked fruit weight: 650 g
- Oil content: 63.12%
- Suitable for coir industries
- Moderately tolerant to Rugose Spiralling whitefly and Eriophyid mite
- Resistant to leaf spot and leaf blight diseases
- Free from of root wilt disease.

Nutmeg

PPI 1

- Duration: Perennial
- Mace yield: 1.72 kg/tree (265 kg/ha); Nut yield: 7 kg/tree (1,092 kg/ha)
- Season: All seasons
- Average fruit weight: 80.72 g
- Nutmeg oil: 7.46 - 7.7%; Oleoresin: 8.56%
- Moderately resistant to fruit rot disease.



Sirukurinjan

CO 1

- Duration: Perennial
- Yield: Fresh leaf yield: 6.48 kg/plant/ year; Dry leaf yield: 4.54 kg/plant/ year
- Season: June - July
- Gymnemagenin content: 0.72 %
- Suitable for preparing anti-diabetic drugs
- Susceptible to leaf webber during November – December.



Oyster Mushroom

KKM 1

- Duration: 30 days
- Yield: 641.6 g/bed (11.66 % and 10.65% over APK 1 and MDU 1)
- Season: All seasons
- Good shelf life and storable for 2 days at room temperature
- Less prone to mould infection.



KKM 1

Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (VNMKV), Parbhani

Safflower

PBNS 154 (Parbhani Suvarna)

- The variety is recommended for cultivation in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana (Zone-1).
- It matures in 124 to 126 days, yielding 10 to 12 q/ha under rainfed conditions.
- The oil content is approximately 30.90%.
- The variety is resistant to aphid (safflower aphid) infestation and tolerant to leaf spot and wilt diseases.



Safflower variety PBNS 154
(Parbhani Suvarna)

PBNS 184

- This variety has also received approval for Zone 1 along with other major safflower-producing states under Zone 2.
- A high-yielding variety gives 12 to 15 q/ha under rainfed conditions and 18 to 20 q/ha under irrigated conditions.
- It matures in 120 to 124 days, and has an oil content of 31.3%.
- It is resistant to wilt / phytophthora blight and aphids, and tolerant to leaf spot disease.



Safflower variety PBNS 184
(Parbhani Suvarna)

Sesame**TLT 10**

- TLT 10 variety is approved for cultivation in the *kharif* as well as *rabi*/summer in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana (Zone 1), and also for *kharif* cultivation in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh's Telangana region (Zone 3).
- Matures in 90–95 days, yields 7 to 8 q/ha, contains 45.2% oil content.
- Tolerance to diseases, viz., *Macrophomina*, root and stem rot, tolerant to insect pests, viz., leaf rollers and capsule borers.



Sesame variety TLT 10



MACHINES and EQUIPMENT

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana

Farm Machinery

Manually operated seeder for vegetable crops: A manually operated seeder for vegetable crops is recommended for direct sowing of crops like peas, radish, turnip, spinach, gram, fenugreek, okra, mustard, millets etc. on a flat surface. The seeding unit of the machine comprised a shoe-type furrow opener, seed box, and metering mechanism. The number of seeding units and spacing between them i.e. row to row spacing is adjustable. Each seeding unit is equipped with its own ground wheel, which drives the seed metering plate. The transmission ratio from the ground wheel to the metering plate is 1:1. For accommodating diverse seeds and for achieving different plant-to-plant spacing, different seed metering plates can be used. Each seeding unit is followed by a soil covering 'U' shaped clamp. The field capacity of the machine is 0.15-0.28 acres/h. Depending upon type of crop, there is saving in cost of operation by 48-82% and in labour by 55-85% as compared to conventional pora method or manual seeding by hand (choka/chundi method). Ergonomically, machine is easy to operate. The machine could be very useful for small farmers.

PRODUCTS and PROCESSING

Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry (Dr YSPUHF), Nauni

- Process protocol for isolation and utilization of microcrystalline cellulose from corn waste standardized by the Department of Food Science and Technology.



MCC (microcrystalline cellulose) from corn cob cellulose



Whole wheat flour and MCC based cup



Apple pomace powder, whole wheat flour and MCC based cup



Whole wheat flour and MCC based spoon



Apple pomace powder, whole wheat flour and MCC based spoon

- Process protocol for the extraction and utilization of dietary fibre from garden pea pod shells standardized by the Department of Food Science and Technology



Insoluble dietary fibre



Soluble dietary fibre



Total dietary fibre



Total dietary fibre-fortified cookies (3.0 %)



Total dietary fibre-fortified pasta (3.0 %)

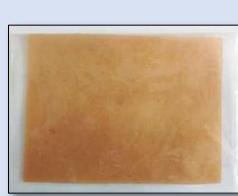


Soluble dietary fibre-fortified yoghurt (0.5 %)



Soluble dietary fibre-fortified tomato sauce (0.5 %)

- Development of protein enriched mixed fruit bar from Sand pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia* L.) standardized by the Department of Food Science and Technology.



Sand pear fruit bar



Sand pear based plum mixed fruit bar



Sand pear based apricot mixed fruit bar



Button mushroom and soy protein isolate enriched sand pear fruit bar



Button mushroom and soy protein isolate enriched sand pear based plum mixed fruit bar

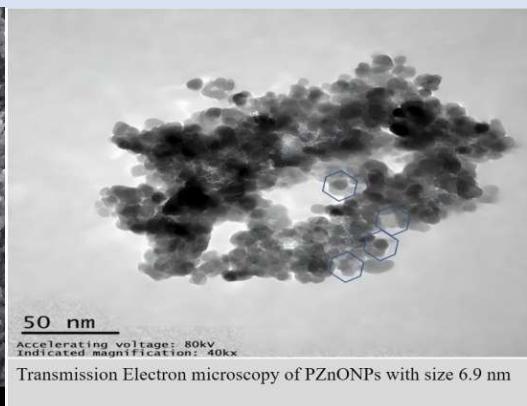
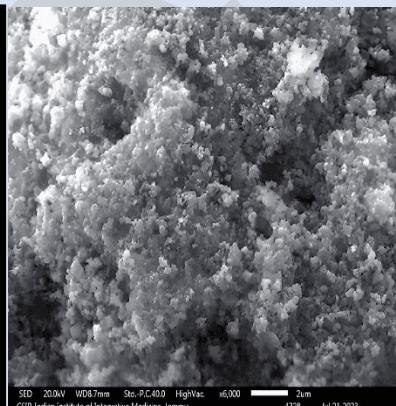
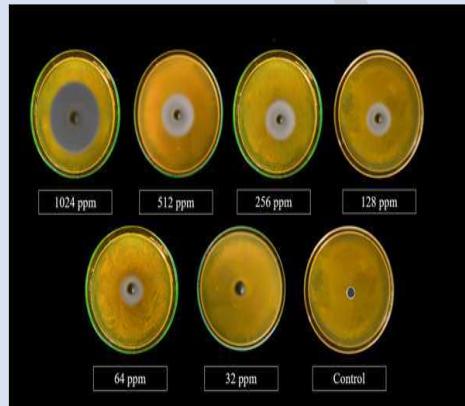


Button mushroom and soy protein isolate enriched sand pear based apricot mixed fruit bar

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

Standardization of zinc oxide nanoparticles for the management of bacterial leaf blight of rice:

Standardized green synthesis protocol for zinc oxide nanoparticles (ZnONPs) using *Pongamia glabra* leaf extract for management of bacterial leaf blight of rice. This eco-friendly approach of nanotechnology was highly effective than the recommended antibiotic.



Characterization

PACKAGE of PRACTICES

Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry (Dr YSPUHF), Nauni

- Department of Plant Pathology developed the spray schedule of 2025 for the management of apple diseases. The different recommendations on the basis of multi-location testing of fungicides were included after their CIB registration and label claim was completed by the concerned firm, viz.,

tebuconazole 6.7% + captan 26.9% SC @ 600 ml/200 L of water against *Alternaria* leaf blotch at fruit development (walnut size). Ziram 80% WP @ 500 g/ 200L of water against *Alternaria* leaf spot/ pre-mature leaf fall/ fly speck was at pre harvest (20-25 days before harvest).

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana

Production Technologies

- Application of 2.4 ton/acre of crop residue mulch to each crop grown under surface/sub surface drip irrigation in *kharif* maize-potato-spring maize cropping system for water saving and higher productivity.
- Cultivation of foxtail millet from 25 March to 15 April with seed rate of 10-12.5 kg/ha at 30 cm row spacing.
- Cultivation of proso millet from 10 March to 30 March with seed rate of 7.5-10 kg/ha at 22.5 cm row spacing and 60 kg N/ha in Punjab.
- Application of mixed water (canal + saline water) of electrical conductivity (EC) up to 2,000 $\mu\text{mhos}/\text{cm}$ and residual sodium carbonate (RSC) <2.5 meq/L can be applied through drip irrigation and fertigation (80% NPK) using silver-black plastic mulching (25 μ thick) in rainy season tomato planted in paired rows on 1.35 m wide beds in light textured soils of South-Western Punjab in the event of inadequate or erratic canal water availability. Silver-black plastic mulching (25 μ thick) can also be used for getting higher fruit yield even if canal water is used for irrigation.
- Basal application of 60 kg K/ha of potassium (100 kg Murate of potash/ha) and 30 kg S/ha of sulphur (37.5 kg elemental sulphur/ha) enhances average bulb weight and marketable bulb yield of garlic.
- Fertigation with 1.75 kg of NPK (19:19:19), 4.25 kg of calcium nitrate, 2.5 kg of potassium nitrate and 0.5 kg of Agromin Max (micronutrient mix)/1000 m^2 at weekly interval for 6 weeks and plant spacing of 20 \times 15 cm resulted in better vegetative growth and flower quality in *Lilium*, LA hybrid under protected conditions in Punjab, whereas, plant spacing of 20 \times 20 cm with same fertigation schedule was better for bulb production.
- The basal portion of *Lilium* stems, harvested at colour break stage (basal flower show colour), dipped in 100 mg/l GA₃ for 6 hours and packed in polypropylene sleeve (PP 25 μm thickness) could be stored vertically in cold room ($4\pm0.5^\circ\text{C}$) up to 12 days with acceptable flower quality and vase life up to 14 days.
- Sowing of seeds of marigold variety Punjab Gainda No. 1 in the second fortnight of July and transplanting during 2nd fortnight of August was suitable for higher and quality seed production.

Protection Technologies

Rice

- Management of sheath blight of rice
 - Spray of fungicide Ayaan (kresoxim methyl 40% + hexaconazole 8% WG) @ 200g/acre in 200 liter water at maximum tillering to boot stage of the crop when the disease appears in field.
 - Spray of fungicide Avancer Glow (azoxystrobin 8.3% + mancozeb 66.7%) 75WG @ 600g/acre in 200 liter water at maximum tillering to boot stage of the crop when the disease appears in field.
- Management of rice plant hoppers with 300 ml Viola 10 SC (flupyrimin) per acre in rice and basmati rice.

- Management of rice stem borers and leaf folder with 400 g Supremo 50 SP (thiocyclam hydrogen oxalate) per acre in rice and basmati rice.

Cotton

- Management of pink bollworm with delegate 11.7 SC (spinetoram) @ 170 ml/acre in cotton.

Sugarcane

- Spray of Citizen 18.5 SC (chlorantraniliprole) @ 150 ml diluted in 400 liters of water/acre for the management of early shoot borer in sugarcane.
- Spray of Coragen 18.5 SC (chlorantraniliprole) @ 150 ml diluted in 400 liters of water/acre for the management of top borer in sugarcane.

Litchi

- Bio-intensive IPM module for the management of litchi fruit borer comprising (i) destruction of weeds, *Kaonmakki* and *gut vel* as they harbour pupal stage of litchi fruit borer; (ii) clean cultivation by removal of plant debris in the orchard; (iii) regular collection and destruction of fallen infested litchi fruits; (iv) three releases of biocontrol agent, *Trichogramma embryophagum* @ 4,000 parasitized eggs/tree at 7 days interval starting from fruit formation stage (IV week of April to II week of May); (v) two sprays of PAU Homemade *neem* extract @ 18 ml/litre of water (first spray in 3rd week of May and 2nd spray in 5th week of May) followed by one spray of PAU Homemade *Dhrekextract* @ 18 ml/ litre of water in 1st week of June; and (vi) panicle bagging with propylene non-woven pink or white bags starting from four weeks after fruit set was found most effective for eco-friendly management of litchi fruit borer in litchi.

B. ANIMAL and FISHERIES SCIENCES

Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand

Aravali Chicken: (Accession Number: INDIA_CHICKEN_0400_ARAVALLI_1200), a new breed of chicken proposed by AAU, Anand was notified by Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India as notified breed of Poultry for Gujarat State. The Breed registration certificate distribution ceremony was organized by ICAR-NBAGR, Karnal at National Agricultural Science Center Complex (NASC), Pusa, New Delhi on 17 January 2025, under the Chairmanship of Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR. Dr K. B. Kathiria, Vice Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University and Principal Investigator received the certificate of registration of Aravali breed.



Dr K.B. Kathiria receiving the registration certificate from Dr H. Pathak in presence of Dr R. Bhatt

TEACHING

Agriculture University (AU), Kota

Kulpati-Vidhyarthi Samwaad

The 21st Kulpati-Vidhyarthi Sanwaad was organized at College of Agriculture, Kota on 21 March 2025. Dr Abhay Kumar Vyas, Vice Chancellor interacted with a total of 51 students of B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Agriculture discipline, and addressed on various aspects like self-control, self-motivation, self-confidence, self-management, time management and aims of life. He also motivated the students towards their life goals and suggested how to achieve life goal in efficient way and motivated them for their career opportunities.



Vice Chancellor interaction with students

Special lecture cum-interaction

Ms Mudita Goyal, Ph.D. Scholar, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA delivered a special lecture and interacted with students at College of Agriculture, Kota, Agriculture University, Kota on 3 January 2025. She shared her educational journey experience from school to Harvard University, USA with her brilliant academic and special achievement of national and international level. She motivated, guided and inspired students by saying that we must always keep our goal at higher side. She also highlighted the importance of SWOT analysis along with practical exercise on SWOT. About 100 students attended the programme.



Special Lecture Cum-interaction by Ms. Mudita Goyal

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar

Students' trainings organized by CCSHAU College of Agriculture, Bawal

- Training on Fundamental Computer Skills for Today's Digital Era was organized for B.Sc. (Hons.) Ag. Students during 17-25 February 2025.
- Training on Skill Development in Food Processing for B.Sc. (Hons.) Ag. students was organized during 27 February - 6 March 2025.

Training organized by Department of Microbiology, CCS HAU, Hisar

- A training programme on Methodological know-how of morphological and biochemical identification of microorganisms to genus level was organized by the Department of Microbiology in collaboration with Directorate of Students' Welfare (DSW), CCSHAU, Hisar from 10-22 March 2025. Around 30 students participated in this training who gained valuable insights into the identification techniques of microorganisms.

Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (Dr YSPUHF), Nauni

- The Department of Environmental Science is associated with IGNOU regional Centre, Shimla and providing laboratory facility for conducting Practical Examination as an IGNOU work center to the PG students of IGNOU in the discipline of Environmental Science.
- The Department of Agribusiness Management formulated an Agribusiness Management club for Group Discussions and Debates, Case Studies, Guest Lectures and Industry Visits, Quiz and Competitions, Improve communication and presentation skills and Provide insights into real-world agribusiness scenarios.

Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar

Sixth Deans' Committee Recommendations as per NEP-2020 have been implemented for the Undergraduate courses of Agriculture and Allied Science except B.V.Sc. and A.H., which is governed by Veterinary Council of India (VCI).

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi

RLBCAU admits 124 Postgraduate Students in 2024-25 Academic Sessions

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU) has commenced the 2024–25 academic session with the admission of 124 postgraduate students across its four constituent colleges. In master's degree programmes 102 students were admitted, and in Ph.D. programmes 22 students. These students were enrolled across 27 master's and 11 doctoral disciplines offered by the university. The admissions occurred in the College of Agriculture and Horticulture & Forestry at the Jhansi Campus and the College of Fisheries and Veterinary & Animal Sciences at the Datia Campus. The consistently increasing academic intake highlights the university's continued commitment to advancing education and research in agricultural and allied sciences, addressing the sector's growing needs through quality higher education.

CoVAS, Datia started Postgraduate Programs.

The CoVAS, Datia, started postgraduate programs in February 2025, offering master's degrees in veterinary sciences (M.V.Sc.) in 6 disciplines, with a total intake capacity of 17 students. Five students from various states across the country enrolled in the postgraduate program in the disciplines of veterinary anatomy, veterinary microbiology, animal genetics and breeding, and livestock production management. The faculty is dedicated to providing a comprehensive educational experience, focusing on both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. As the program develops, the institution aims to expand its offerings and increase student enrolment to meet the growing demand for veterinary professionals.



B.F.Sc. Students Visited the Reservoir and Marine Fishing Cruise

On 27 March 2025, the second-year B.F.Sc. students from the College of Fisheries visited Ramsagar Reservoir, Datia, to survey local fishers' socio-economic status, assess fish consumption patterns, and study the craft and gear used in the reservoir. The visit provided hands-on experience for students, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and field application. Students expressed that the visit improved their understanding of fisheries management, craft and gear, fish biodiversity, socio-economic aspects of reservoir fisheries, the challenges faced by fishers, and the potential for sustainable fisheries development in Ramsagar Reservoir.



Students taking part in IFSISC 2025 from the College of Fisheries, RLBCAU, had an opportunity to explore various fishing harbour facilities and aquaculture operations in a reservoir along with Shri Ganesh Kumar. The program, organized by the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, provided hands-on training in fishing harbour operations, fish landings, and aquaculture practices, offering invaluable practical insights into the fisheries sector. The intricacies of harbour operations and fish landings were thoroughly explained to students.

RLBCAU organized Atal Jai Vigyan Lecture and Innovative Idea competition

National Science Day was celebrated on 28 February 2025, to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman with the theme *Empowering Indian youth for global leadership in science and innovation for a developed India*. Dr Rabi Narayan Sahu, Principal Scientist, IARI, New Delhi was keynote speaker in the program. He delivered his Atal Jai Vigyan Lecture on Modern techniques of precision farming. He said that the increasing use of technology in agriculture will not only increase production capacity but also make farming easier and more profitable for the farmers.



In his address, Vice Chancellor Dr Ashok Kumar Singh emphasized the need for technological innovation in modern agricultural system. He said that soil testing, disease identification in crops and accurate livestock management is possible through spectral imaging technology. During the program, *Vice Chancellor Innovative Idea* competition was organized in which the students of the university participated enthusiastically. In the competition, Subhadeep Chakraborty and Deepika Bhoi were given the first prize (₹5,000), Sudhanshu Kumar was given the second prize (₹3,000) and Vishal Mandal was given the third prize (₹2,000) along with cash, memento, and certificate by the guests.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- M. Tech. Biotechnology programme was approved by Academic Council of the University.
- Short course on Entrepreneurship and Startup Opportunities in Entomology, sponsored by ICAR, was organized w.e.f 19-28 February 2025.

- Organized Industrial visit of PG students of Div. of AEABM at Jammu & Kashmir Milk Producers Co-operative Limited (*JKMPCL*) on 13 February 2025.
- Organized activity for students regarding Personal Interview (which includes parameters like: confidence level, knowledge, communication skills, problem solving abilities, adaptability and work ethics) on 20 February 2025.
- Organized Business Quiz Competition for PG students on 06 March 2025. The quiz tested participants on various domains of business, including current business affairs, brand logos and taglines.
- Arranged practical exposure to B.Sc. Horticulture 1st year students on Creating Entrepreneurs from farms, on 06-7 March 2025 at SKUAST-J Farms.
- Organized a Session on Personal Interview Skills and CV Building of PG students on 13 March 2025.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore

Inauguration of the MOOCs Laboratory and Student Discussion Forum

The newly established Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) Laboratory and Student Discussion Forum were inaugurated on 18 March 2025 at the Directorate of Open and Distance Learning (DODL), TNAU, Coimbatore. The lab is fully furnished with state-of-the-art ICT tools and advanced digitalization facilities to enhance the quality and effectiveness of online teaching and learning through MOOCs. Dr P. Bala Subramaniam, Director (ODL) welcomed the dignitaries. The MOOCs Laboratory and Student Discussion Forum were declared open by the Vice Chancellor, Dr V. Geethalakshmi. In her presidential address, the Vice Chancellor insisted the significance of digital platforms in transforming agricultural education. Dr S. Lakshmi, Professor (SST) delivered a vote of thanks.



Inauguration of the MOOCs Laboratory and Student Discussion Forum

University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru

- Department of Crop Physiology, GVK organized Guest Lecture by Dr Chandrashekhar Karnum, an alumnus of UAS-B, who currently holds the position of Data Architect at the Department of Health Services, Madison, Wisconsin, USA on *Data Science: Present and Future* for the benefit of Post Graduate students on 11 January 2025.
- Department of Crop Physiology, GVK organized scientific talk on *Plant Volatile Signature as a Means of Communication with the Environment* by Dr K. S. Shivashankara, Principal Scientist at ICAR-IIHR on the occasion of National Science Day on 28 February 2025.
- Six (6) Senior Master degree students of UAS, Bengaluru were selected for the ERASMUS + Key student Mobility programme at University of Kassel, Germany from October 2024 to March 2025.
- College of Agriculture, GVK conducted EL/HOT Orientation programme of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agri., ABM and FN&D students on 15 January 2025 at Kuvempu Kannada Sabhaangana, GVK.



DDG (Agril. Edu.) ICAR interaction with HOT students at PTC lab on 13 February 2025

EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand

21st Annual Convocation

The 21st Annual Convocation of Anand Agricultural University was held on 4 January 2025, in the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat and Chancellor of the University, Shri Acharya Devvrat, who presided over the function as President.



Glimpses of the Convocation Programme

The convocation ceremony was graced by Shri Raghavjibhai Patel, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cow-Breeding, Government of Gujarat as Guest of Honour in virtual mode; Dr Meenesh Shah, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board, Anand, as Chief Guest along with Vice Chancellor Dr K.B. Kathiria, Vice Chancellors of SAUs of Gujarat, Members of the Board of Management, Academic council, distinguished guests, district authorities, University Officers, Principals and Deans, faculties, students and parents.

In this convocation ceremony, a total of 580 students were conferred with various Bachelor, Master and Doctorate degrees.

Dr Bhavesh H. Joshi, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Food Safety and Quality Assurance, College of FPT and BE was conferred with Best Teacher Award; Dr Vinod B. Mor, Assistant Professor and Dr H.C. Parmar, Associate Professor, Agricultural Research Station, College of Agriculture, Jabugam was conferred with Best Researcher Award and Dr D.B. Sisodiya, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Entomology, BACA, AAU, Anand was conferred with Best Extension Scientist Award.

In this convocation ceremony, a total of 92 medals including 20 for PG students and 72 for UG students and 6 cash prize for UG students were awarded.

Workshop on Energy Conservation

One-day workshop on Energy Conservation sponsored by the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) was successfully organized by the Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Godhra, on 15 February 2025. Valuable insights were provided by technical experts from GEDA- authorized consultants, including Mr R.M. Panchal from Global Energy Consultancy and Mr D.N. Shah, an energy auditor and chartered engineer. The event was co-sponsored by Advance Centre for Research and Trainers Training on Agricultural Engineering based Interventions scheme. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation of about 75 students, including B.Tech., M.Tech. and Ph.D. students. The event was coordinated by Dr D.K. Vyas, Professor and co-coordinated by Dr J. Sravankumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Renewable Energy Engineering.

The workshop served as an excellent platform for raising awareness and equipping participants with



Glimpses of the workshop

the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to energy conservation efforts in their respective fields. The active participation of students from diverse academic levels underscored the importance of energy conservation as a critical topic for future engineers and researchers.

Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (Dr PDKV), Akola

Convocation function

On 5 February 2025 PDKV, Akola organized the Convocation function. Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Governor, Maharashtra, Shri Manikrao Kokate, Agriculture Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Shri Akash Pundker, Labour Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Dr Ashok Dalwai Chief guest and Dr Indramani Mishra, Vice Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani spared whole day in Convocation function.



Glimpses of Convocation

Horticulture Day

On 14 February 2025 the university organized the Horticulture Day at PDKV, Akola campus. In this programme Dr H.P. Singh, former DDG (Horticulture), ICAR, New Dehli; Padma Shri awardee Dr Popatrao Pawar, Dr Roy, Director, ATARI, Pune; Dr K.D. Patil, Director, Jain Irrigation and Dr Kapase, Mango Expert with University and State Agriculture Department officers and more than 25,000 Farmers and Students participated in this programme. PDKV, Akola organized 330 acre live demonstration of fruits, vegetables and floriculture at central campus Akola. It includes 19 fruit crops with 34 varieties on 300 acres field, 23 vegetable crops with 35 varieties on 20 acre and 21 floriculture crops with 315 varieties on 10 acre field with all technologies.



Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (Dr RPCAU), Pusa

Kisan Mela

The Three-day Farmers' Fair 2025, themed जलवायु अनुकूल कृषि से विकसित भारत की ओर, was organized by Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa from 15-17 February 2025 and witnessed the participation of around 10,000 farmers from various parts of the country. The event was inaugurated by Shri Maheshwar Hazari, Minister of Information and Public Relations, Government of Bihar, and MLA, Kalyanpur (Samastipur), and was presided over by Vice Chancellor Dr P.S. Pandey. Distinguished guests included Dr Ajay Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor, Patna University, Dr Girish Chaudhary, Chairman, Bihar State University Service Commission, Shri Sudhanshu Shekhar Das, Regional Manager, Punjab National



Bank, Patna, Shri Sandeep Shekhar Priyadarshi, Deputy Development Commissioner, Samastipur, and Padma Shri awardee Rajkumari Devi (Kisan Chachi). The Chief Guest and other dignitaries visited various stalls and interacted with farmers. On the second day, Smt Shambhavi Chaudhary, MP of Samastipur, inaugurated a special workshop on climate-resilient agriculture, with the presence of Advocate Shayan Kunal, Dr M.L. Gaur, Vice Chancellor, C.V. Raman University, Vaishali, and Dr S.K. Purve, Director, ICAR-MGFRI, Motihari. The valedictory ceremony on the final day was graced by Dr Indrajit Singh, Vice Chancellor, Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna, who awarded certificates for outstanding stalls and farmers. The event saw enthusiastic participation from university officials, faculty, scientists, students, and a large gathering of farmers, focusing on climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable development.

Women Farmers' Fair

The Women Farmers' Fair at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Turki was inaugurated on 29 March 2025, by Vice Chancellor Dr P.S. Pandey, in the esteemed presence of Dr Sudhir Kumar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Muzaffarpur, Bihar Government. A total of 2,590 women farmers, representing nine blocks of Muzaffarpur district, actively participated in the event. Vice Chancellor addressed the women farmers, encouraging them to adopt digital agriculture to enhance agricultural productivity. He emphasized the importance of technology in modernizing agricultural practices and urged farmers to embrace advance farming techniques for sustainable growth.



Training

The Sugarcane Research Institute, Dr RPCAU, Pusa organized 7-day training programme entitled *Sugarcane Production Processing and Value-addition* under Bihar State Jaggery Industries promotion programme under 4th Kishi Road Map of Government of Bihar from 15-21 January 2025. Shri Anil Kumar Jha, Cane Commissioner, Cane Industry Department, Government of Bihar was the Chief Guest and Vice Chancellor, Dr P.S. Pandey was the Chairman of the inaugural function. Farmers/entrepreneurs (42) from different districts of Bihar participated in this training programme.



Symposium on Sugarcane

A State-Level Sugarcane Farmers' Symposium on *Enhancing Sugarcane Productivity in Bihar: A Challenge*, was organized at Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa on 20 February 2025. The symposium was inaugurated by Shri Krishnanandan Paswan, Hon'ble Minister, Sugarcane Industry Department, Government of Bihar, Shri Anil Kumar Jha (IAS), Sugarcane Commissioner, Government of Bihar and Dr P.S. Pandey, Vice Chancellor. During this event, certificates were distributed to 10 entrepreneurs and farmers under the Jaggery Industry Promotion Programme and the Sugarcane Mechanization Scheme. More than 300 sugarcane farmers actively participated in this symposium.



PM Modi inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Animal Breeding

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Animal Breeding at Piprakothi Campus, Motihari, under Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, during the Kisan Samman Samaroh in Bhagalpur, Bihar on 24 February 2025. Several dignitaries, including Bihar's Hon'ble Governor, Chief Minister, Union Ministers, and other officials, graced the event. The center, the first of its kind in Bihar, will focus on breeding high-quality indigenous livestock like Sahiwal, Gir, Bachaur, and Gangatiri. Equipped with advanced training facilities, smart classrooms, labs, and a trainees' hostel, it aims to uplift livestock farmers and support professional IVF training. Around 700 farmers, agricultural scientists, and policymakers attended the event. Vice Chancellor Dr P.S. Pandey expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Government of India for their support.



Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (Dr YSPUHF), Nauni

Kisan Mela

The Department of Seed Science and Technology organized following three Training Camp-cum-Kisan Mela for farmers/ beneficiaries

- at village Bathaudhar Block Rajgarh, Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh) on 22 March 2025 with a participation of 77 farmers.
- at village Deothi, Manjhgaon Block Rajgarh, Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh) on 24 March 2025 with participation of 77 farmers.
- at Gram Panchayat Dewal Tikkari, Block Sarahan, Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh) on 26 March 2025 in which 81 farmers participated.

Trainings

- Training on *Breeding Vegetable Crops for Climate Resilience* was organized by Department of Vegetable Science under Centre for Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT) in Horticulture (Vegetables) from 05-25 February 2025. A total of 15 participants attended the training programme.
- Training under Winter School on *Balancing conservation and utilization: towards sustainable forestry practices*, was organized by College of Forestry, Dr YSPUHF, Solan from 28 February to 20 March 2025. A total of 19 participants attended the training programme.
- Training on *Sustainable Floricultural Practices and Landscaping in the Scenario of Climate Change* was organized by Department of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Dr YSPUHF, Nauni, Solan from 22-31 March 2025, and 18 participants attended the training programme.
- Training on *Excel in MS Excel* were organised by Department of Basic Sciences, Dr YSP UHF, Solan from 24 February to 09 March 2025 in which 25 participants attended again from 25-31 March 2025. This time 20 participants attended the training programme.



Winter School on Balancing Conservation and Utilization: Towards Sustainable Forestry Practices

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana

Pashu Palan Mela

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana held *Pashu Palan Mela* under the theme *Nasal Sudhar hai, Pashu Palan Kitte di Jaan, Vadhere Utpaadhan banaye Kisan di Shaan* (Breed improvement is the backbone of livestock which increases profitability) from 21-22 March 2025. Padma Shri, Dr Gurdev Singh Khush, a world renowned scientist for rice production revolution inaugurated the *Mela* along with other dignitaries. Dr Khush underpinned the remarkable contribution of the University in field of animal husbandry and emphasized the need to focus on nutritional value of diet, wherein livestock products have pivotal value. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor motivated farmers to adopt livestock professions with scientific knowhow and technology, and said that the facilities of the University are always open for them.

Shri Sanjeev Arora, Member Parliament, Rajya Sabha and other dignitaries graced the occasion on the second day. Shri Sanjeev Arora motivated the farmers to understand the importance of tests for health care of animals, and emphasized the need to develop the dairy sector further. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor, honored the dignitaries. The Chief Minister Awards were conferred under four categories, viz., Buffalo Dairy Farming, Goat Farming, Fish Farming, and Pig Farming. The best stalls amongst the University and industry categories were adjudged. The *Mela* attracted a huge gathering reinforcing a thought to develop livestock professions on scientific lines.



ICAR Sponsored Course at CAFT in Gynaecology and Reproduction

Centre of Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT), Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics of the University conducted an Advanced ICAR sponsored 21 days training course on Innovative strategies in diagnostics and therapeutics in theriogenology during 15 January to 04 February 2025. A total of 28 participants attended the programme and acquired knowledge and skills in various reproductive technologies through lectures, practicals and demonstrations.



Expert talk(s) were delivered by eminent speakers including Dr(s) Ezaz Ahmad, (online) Pakistan; Dinesh Dadarwal, (online) Canada; Sudhanshu Bhushan, (online) Germany; T. R. Talluri, Bikaner; Amitesh Kumar, Varanasi; and S. Selvaraju, Bengaluru added more fervour to the knowledge enriching programme.

Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur

10th Convocation

10th Convocation of Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) was organized on 1 February 2025. Addressing the ceremony, Shri Reman Deka, Hon'ble Governor remarked that modern innovations in farming have opened new avenues for economic growth and food security. He called upon students to leverage their expertise in strengthening India's position as a global agricultural leader.



Glimpses of the Convocation

The Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Agriculture Minister Ramvichar Netam also graced the occasion held at IGKV's auditorium. More than 4,000 students from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years received undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral degrees, while 16 gold, 18 silver, and four bronze medals were awarded to meritorious students. Dr Vanga Shiva Reddy, former director of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, delivered the convocation address, and Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor, IGKV administered the graduate oath. The convocation concluded with Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor presenting the university's annual report, and highlighting IGKV's key achievements.

Farmer Product Fair cum Exhibition

To promote the formation and activities of Farmer Producer Organizations in Chhattisgarh, a 3-day Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) Fair-cum-Exhibition was organized from 26-28 March 2025 at IGKV, Raipur, under the joint aegis of Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare and Biotechnology, Government of Chhattisgarh and Small Farmers Agri Business Association, Government of India, New Delhi. Processed and organic food products manufactured by various farmer producer organizations of Chhattisgarh were displayed and sold in the fair.

While inaugurating the fair, Chief Guest Mr Anuj Sharma said that today, after seeing the quality of products displayed here by more than 50 Farmer Producer Organizations, it is believed that in the coming time these FPOs will also be able to challenge the products of multinational companies.

At the fair, the products manufactured by various Farmer Producer Organizations include Aromatic Rice - Vishnubhog Rice, Devbhog Rice, Jeera Phool Rice, Tulsi Manjari Rice, Black Rice, Red Rice, Green Rice, Brown Rice, Turmeric Powder, Red Chilli Powder, Coriander Powder, Mushroom Badi, Mushroom Papad, Mushroom Powder, Mushroom Pickle, Mahua Laddu, Honey, Bajra, Kodo, Kutki, Ragi, Kachi Ghani Oil (Mustard Oil, Sesame Oil and Groundnut Oil), Multigrain Flour, Ragi Flour, Rice Flour, Concentrate, Honey Bee Wax, Lip Balm, Foot Cream, Herbal Soap, Moringa Powder, Phenyl, Arhar Dal, Urad Dal, Masoor Dal, Lakhdi Dal, Poha, Jowar, White Sesame Seed Flour,



Kumkum, Turmeric Roli, Berry Biscuits, Mango Pickle, Jackfruit Pickle, Amla Pickle, Bamboo Pickle, Lemon Pickle, Chilli Pickle, Turmeric Pickle, Mix Pickle, Mustard, Cashew, Tamarind, Amchur Laddoo, jaggery, sugar, jaggery candy, etc. These were available for display and sale to the general public.

Women conference and felicitation ceremony on International Women's Day

A special seminar and felicitation ceremony was organized on International Women's Day (8 March) under the joint aegis of Women Harassment Prevention Cell and Dean Student Welfare of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. The main objective of this programme was to empower women, honor their achievements and strengthen their role in society. Mrs Mamta Chandel, President of Haritima Mahila Samiti was the Chief Guest in the programme. On this occasion, National Head of Rashtriya Suraksha Jagran Manch, Dr Varnika Sharma, Dean Student Welfare Dr Sanjay Sharma, Dean Agricultural College Dr G.K. Das and President of Women Harassment Prevention Cell of IGKV, Dr Aarti Guhe were keynote speakers. On this occasion, motivational sessions were organized in which women's rights, their participation in various fields and the importance of self-reliance were discussed.



The Chief Guest, Mrs Mamta Chandel said that women are the backbone of a society, and are currently making their presence felt in every field -- whether it is driving a tractor, operating an e-rickshaw, or performing tasks that are considered taboo for women in society. Keynote speaker Dr Varnika Sharma said that International Women's Day is a festival of pride and determination. Emphasizing on self-reliance, she said that women should be aware of their rights and should take steps towards becoming aware and self-reliant. Dr Aarti Guhe, while highlighting the significance of Women's Day, made all women pledge to work with a positive attitude to strengthen the foundation of Developed India@ 2047. During the programme, senior women employees of various categories working in the university were honored with *Vishisht Nari Samman*. The students and women employees of the university participated in various cultural activities including traditional costume competition, which made the event even more special. The organizers thanked all the participants and guests for the successful event and expressed their commitment to organize such inspiring programmes in future as well.



Training at villages for Rural Youths (Women)

The Directorate of Extension Services of IGKV, with the financial support of State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute, Chhattisgarh and National Agricultural Extension Management Institute, Hyderabad, organized a 6-day training programme on *Processing and Packaging of Locally Available Fruits and Vegetables* under the Skill Training Programme for Rural Youth in village Jora and village Dharampura from 27 February to 4 March 2025. The Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was Dr S.S. Tuteja, Director Extension Services, IGKV. Dr Tuteja told the participating women that they can increase their income sitting at home by forming self-help groups and manufacturing and marketing preserved



food products of fruits and vegetables. He assured that they will be given all possible support from the Directorate of Extension Services for the manufacture and sale of preserved food items. Certificates were also distributed to the trainees on this occasion.

In this training programme, 28 women aged between 18 and 40 years were provided training on preservation of fruits and vegetables. In this 6-day training programme organized in village Jora and village Dharampura, women were provided training on processing of seasonal vegetables and fruits available locally and packaging of the products. Under the training programme, women were trained to make fruit jam, jelly, squash, nectar and tomato ketchup, chutney and sauce and pickles of various vegetables, tamarind pickle, mushroom pickle and other products made from mushrooms.

39th Foundation Day and International Conference on Global Research Initiative for Agriculture, Science and Technology

Marking the 39th Foundation Day of Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, an international conference on *Global Research Initiative for Agriculture, Science, and Technology* was inaugurated on 20 January 2025 in collaboration with National Agricultural Development Cooperative Limited, Baramulla (J&K), the 3-day event emphasize the pivotal role of science and technology in agriculture and farmers' welfare.

Shri Ramvichar Netam, Agriculture Minister, Chhattisgarh was the Chief Guest of the event, he highlighted IGKV's significant contributions in transforming agriculture in Chhattisgarh. Through advance research and extension programmes, farmers are now more self-reliant and prosperous. He stated that the university has established a global reputation in agricultural research, particularly in rice, it boasts 47 government and 15 private colleges, along with 28 research centers and 27 agricultural science centers. Currently, 9,000 students are enrolled in various programmes, including 2,763 undergraduates, 500 postgraduates, and 115 doctoral candidates.

Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor, highlighted milestones of IGKV, including the development of 162 crop varieties in 52 species and over 100 agricultural technologies. The university's specialization in rice research has earned it national acclaim, and its alumni have achieved global recognition in academia and industry. The conference provided a platform for discussing advancements in agricultural science, with participation from scientists, researchers, and progressive farmers across India.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Vice Chancellor Dr Girish Chandel said that very good research papers were presented in this 3-day international conference organized in hybrid mode. He appealed to the researchers to pay more attention on innovations in research work.



Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU), Junagadh

20th Annual Convocation

Junagadh Agricultural University celebrated the 20th Annual Convocation on the day of 20 January 2025 in presence of Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat and Chancellor of the University, Shri Acharya Devvrat; Prof. Sukanta Kumar Senapati, Vice Chancellor, Shree Somnath Sanskrit University as the chief guest and Shri Raghavjibhai Patel, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat was present virtually as the Guest of Honour.

A total 67 Gold Medals/Gold Plated Silver Medals including 3 Chancellor's Gold Medals, 3 Vice Chancellor's Gold Medals, 2 Donors' Gold Medals and 59 Donors' Gold Plated Silver Medals and 1 cash prize were awarded to 24 graduates and post graduates from different faculties for their brilliant academic performance. A total of 402 undergraduate students from the Faculties of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Agricultural Engineering, along with 186 postgraduate students (Master's and Ph.D.) across 21 disciplines in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, and Agri-Business Management, were awarded their degrees.



Welcome Address by VC, JAU



Address by Chief Guest



Address by Governor



Gold Medal to Student

International Conference

The International Conference on *Trailblazing Trends in Sustainable Climate-Resilient Precision Agriculture through Artificial Intelligence and Remote Sensing* was organized during 23-24 January 2025, in physical mode by Centre of Excellence on Soil & Water Management, Research Testing and Training Centre (RTTC), JAU, Junagadh. The conference was inaugurated by Dr S.N. Jha, Deputy Director General (Agric. Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi, in the esteemed presence of Dr V.P. Chovatia, Patron and Vice Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh. The event was graced by the presence of Dr Vijay P. Singh, Distinguished Professor and Regents Professor, Texas A&M University, USA, who was the Chief Guest. Dr A.R. Pathak, Ex-Vice Chancellor of JAU, Junagadh and NAU, Navsari, joined the event as the Guest of Honour. Dr R.B. Madariya, Director of Research, JAU, was the Convener and Dr G.V. Prajapati, the Organizing Secretary. The conference was enriched by keynote and lead speakers of international repute such as Dr Vijay P. Singh (USA), Dr Biswajeet Pradhan (Australia), Dr Mahendar Thudi (USA), Dr Rameshwar S. Kanwar (USA), Dr R.P. Rudra (Canada), and Dr Ashish Pandey (IIT, Roorkee), among others.



Inauguration



Felicitation of Farmers

During the Inauguration, three publications were released, including the special issue of Plant Archives Journal (NAAS rating 5.59) featuring 132 research articles, an ISBN book comprising 52

research papers (available on Google Books and Amazon), and a Book of Abstracts containing 224 abstracts. The technical programme included 3 keynote addresses, 13 lead lectures, 106 oral presentations, and 103 poster presentations.

In addition, a Farmers-Industry-NGO-Academia Interaction Meet was organized. The event witnessed active participation from 150 progressive farmers and 10 NGOs. During the meet, 13 progressive farmers were felicitated with the Innovative Farmer Award for their remarkable contributions. The conference concluded with the valedictory function, where key discussions and policy recommendations were presented by Dr G.V. Prajapati. A total of 38 participants received Best Oral/Poster Presentation Awards across various thematic areas. Dr P.A. Pandya, Co-organizing secretary expressed sincere gratitude to delegates, participants and sponsors. The conference served as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and collaborative efforts towards advancing precision agriculture and sustainable innovations.

Four Mega Krishi Mela Events Organized by JAU-KVks

Four Mega Krishi Melas were organized by Junagadh Agricultural University.

College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, JAU, Junagadh, organized Technology and Machinery Demonstration *Mela* on 20 March 2025, at JAU, Junagadh. The event was organized in collaboration with the AICRP on FIM, PHET, IWM, PEASEM of the college, CRP on EA, ISAE (Gujarat Chapter), and other research platforms and with sponsorship from Tirth Agro Technology Pvt. Ltd and Action for Food Production (AFPRO), Gujarat. The mela featured 43 leading agricultural industries who showcased their advanced machinery and technology, benefitting over 1,200 farmers, farm professionals, university staff and students. Dr V.P. Chovatia, Vice Chancellor, JAU, inaugurated the event in the auspicious presence of Shri Dharmeshbhai Poshiya, Mayor, Junagadh Municipal Corporation as Chief Guest. Dr A.G. Pansuriya, Director Research; Dr N.B. Jadav, Director Extension Education; Dr H.D. Rank, Principal and Dean and other university officers graced the occasion.



Inauguration of Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela



Dr V.P Chovatia at a stall in Mela at KVK, Amreli

KVK Amreli organized Krishi Mela 2025 – Exhibition of Modern Farming Methods on 28 February 2025, under the Special Cotton Project in collaboration with the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur. The event focused on promoting closer spacing techniques in cotton and featured stalls showcasing innovations in agriculture and allied sectors. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Bharatbhai Sutaria, Member of Parliament, and the Vice Chancellor of JAU.

KVK Surendranagar held its Krishi Mela on 6 March 2025, to create awareness about *High-Density Planting System (HDPS) in cotton*. Experts demonstrated HDPS benefits and management practices, encouraging adoption among the 440 participating farmers, including many women. The event included interactive sessions and a technology exhibition.

KVK Targhadia organized Krishi Mela-2025 on 7 March 2025, under the Special Cotton Project supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles, and guided by ICAR-CICR, Nagpur. The mela aimed to popularize HDPS and emerging technologies among Rajkot district farmers. Over 350 farmers participated, along with dignitaries including Dr Vallabhbhai Kathiriya as Chief Guest. The event featured 20 exhibition stalls by agri-businesses and natural farming practitioners.

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University (MHU), Karnal

11th Mega Vegetable Expo-2025

- In this Mega Event, Maharana Pratap Horticultural University played a technical partner role.
 - Technical sessions were exclusively organized by MHU, Karnal in which several expert lectures were delivered by MHU Scientists.
 - Question-Answer Sessions during technical sessions were organized for participants and prizes were also given to winners.
- An Exhibition showcasing the technologies developed by MHU, Karnal for farming community was jointly organized with Department of Horticulture, Government of Haryana. The followings were the main features of the Exhibition by MHU, Karnal:
 - Application of Drone Technology in fruit and vegetable crops.
 - Cultivation of various types of Mushroom – Technical guidance and display of mushroom cultivation technology and also various value added products of mushrooms.
 - Display of value added products of fruits and vegetables.
 - Showcasing of value added products of flowers, technology regarding protected cultivation of vegetable crops and technology regarding cultivation of medicinal plants and spices crops.

Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar

Kisan Mela

OUAT farmers' fair-2025, a Mega Farmers' Fair was organized at the University during 18-19 February 2025. Around 1,000 farmers, representatives of FPOs visited/attended the Kisan Mela wherein latest agricultural technologies were displayed.



OUAT Farmers' Fair-2025

Trainings

- A 7- day training programme was organized by AICRP on Honeybee on *Scientific Beekeeping Integrated with Oil Seed Mission for Enhancing Honey Production along with Increasing Productivity of Oil Seeds* from 17 to 23 March 2025. There were 25 participants.
- A 21-day winter school on *Modern Techniques for Clinical Management of Ophthalmic Affections in Animals*, was organized in the College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry from 12 February 2025 with 23 participants from all over India.



Training on Scientific Honeybee Keeping

Conference/Seminar/Workshop

- 7th International conference on *Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition, Vision 2025* was organized at OUAT during 17-19 January 2025.
- International Conference on *Strengthening of R & D of Electro Homeopathy and Its Opportunities in Human and Animal Health Care System* was organized at College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, OUAT on 20 January 2025.
- National Seminar on *Resource Management for Climate Resilient Sustainable Food Production Systems*, was held in College of Agriculture, Bhubaneswar during 06-07 March 2025.

- A workshop on *Application of Geo-spatial Technology in Natural Resources Management*, was conducted for the B.Tech. (Agric. Engg.) students at the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology during 18-19 March 2025.

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana

Symposium/Seminar

- Five-day International Symposium on *Harnessing Genome Editing for Resilient Agriculture*, 3-7 March 2025 was organized at PAU, Ludhiana in collaboration with McGill University, Canada and GADVASU, Ludhiana.
- Conducted National Seminar on *Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Facet of Transition in Agriculture (CRAFT-2025)* on 17-18 March 2025 in the Department of Climate Change and Agricultural Meteorology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. A total of 165 participants attended the seminar.

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi

Kisan Mela

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, organized a 3-day Kisan Mela from 14-16 February 2025. The event served as an excellent platform for farmers, scientists, and agro-industry stakeholders to exchange knowledge and gain insights into the latest advancements in agricultural technologies. The central theme of the Kisan Mela was *Climate-Resilient Agricultural Systems*, focusing on promoting sustainable farming practices and ensuring food security in the face of changing climatic conditions.



Total 115 stalls were put up in the event, including ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), NGOs, and representatives from various government and private organizations. They showcased cutting-edge technologies, innovative products, and best practices across multiple domains such as agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and allied sectors.

The event highlighted climate-smart agriculture and encouraged collaboration among institutions and farmers to build a more resilient and productive agricultural ecosystem. Over 5,000 farmers from the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh actively participated in the farmers' fair. This fair featured a wide array of events and exhibitions designed to benefit farmers and stakeholders. The exhibition showcased modern farm machinery; crop cafeteria highlighting diverse crop cultivation techniques; honeybee and mushroom production and processing, value-added agricultural products; mobile plant health clinic, diagnostic services for plant health; improved and superior local livestock breeds and their management techniques; fisheries species and modern practices in fisheries etc. Besides displaying farm technologies, technical sessions were conducted on nutri-cereals, natural and organic farming. The farmers' fair was inaugurated by Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, Agriculture Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Dr Ashok Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor, RLBCAU, Jhansi on 14 February 2025. This event was also graced by other dignitaries, including Dr Mukesh Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand University; Dr Praveen Kumar Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Government of India; MLA, Sadar Jhansi, Shri Ravi Sharma; MLA, Garautha, Shri Jawaharlal Rajput; MLA, Mauanipur, Smt Rashmi Arya; Shri Shyam Bihari Gupta,

President, Gau Seva Aayog, U.P., Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, Smt Rama RP Niranjan; Shri Avinash Kumar, District Magistrate, Jhansi; and Shri LB Yadav, Joint Agriculture Director, Jhansi.

Shri Anurag Sharma, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jhansi and Lalitpur visited stalls on 15 February 2025 and also graced the kisan gosti. On the same day, Shri Abhay Mahajan, Organising Secretary, Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakut, Madhya Pradesh also took part in farmers' meeting and visited stalls. On next day, Shri Dinesh Kulkarni, Organizing Secretary, Bhartiya Kisan Sangh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He took keen interest in visiting all stalls and emphasized upon soil and water conservation to enhance environmental resilience in coming years. He also urged for promotion of natural farming.

National Conference on Extension Strategies for Sustainable Food Systems in Dryland Areas

The national conference on *Extension Strategies for Sustainable Food Systems in Dryland Areas* was successfully organized by RLBCAU, Jhansi, from 5-7 March 2025.

The conference aimed to identify, document, and disseminate the successful extension strategies, practices, and approaches for the sustainable development of dryland food systems, with special reference to the Bundelkhand region. The conference was attended by more than 100 participants from ICAR headquarters, SAUs and CAUs, ICAR institutes, MANAGE, NAARM, UNICEF, NABARD, etc., along with these academicians, the conference also witnessed the participation of Jal Saheli, an essential stakeholder in the conversation and development of water resources in dryland areas. The chairperson of PPV&FRA, Dr Trilochan Mohapatra and the founder Vice Chancellor of RLBCAU, Padma Shri awardee Dr Arvind Kumar inaugurated the conference. The lead speakers of the conference included renowned experts, including Dr P. Das, Former DDG (Agric. Extension), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr V. Sadamate, Former Advisor (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Government of India; Dr Ashok Mehta, Ex-ADG (Agric. Extension); Dr Randhir Singh, Ex-ADG (Agric. Extension); Dr Ranjay Singh, ADG (Agric. Extension); Dr R. R. Burman, ADG (Agric. Extension); and Dr R. N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extension), IARI, New Delhi.



Deliberations held during the conference covered major thematic areas, viz., (i) identification and promotion of sustainable dryland farming systems, (ii) innovations in technology dissemination, and (iii) prospects and strategies for the promotion of natural farming in dryland food systems, (iv) strengthening food systems: value chain, livelihood, and diversification; (v) dynamics of rural women and youth in dryland food systems; and (vi) socio-economic policies for sustainability of dryland food systems. Besides these technical sessions, a panel discussion was also held on the strategies for promoting nutri-cereals in dryland food systems.

The significant recommendations of the conference included equitable investment in the development of dryland food systems and the development of the ecosystem approach, consisting of four pillars, – package of practices, package of institutional arrangements, package of policies, and platform of stakeholders. The conference also highlighted the need for extension efforts throughout the food system, covering backward and forward linkages, technological backstopping, and creating required policy environments and platforms.

Farmers trained for fodder preservation

On 21 January 2025, the CoVAS, Datia, organized training cum front-line demonstration program at

Nauner Village, benefitting 65 farmers. The program focused on fodder preservation techniques, teaching farmers — the chopping of green fodder, compacting it properly, and storing it in airtight conditions to ensure high-quality silage for cattle feed.

This initiative is aimed to enhance the nutritional quality of livestock feed and also to improve the overall productivity of the farmers and dairy operations. Participants were encouraged to share their experiences and successes, fostering a collaborative learning environment that would benefit the entire community.

The CoVAS, Datia, also organized training cum FLD program on 03 February 2025, at Katili Village, where 40 farmers learned about cost-effective silage preparation methods suitable for small-scale farming.



College of Fisheries organized a series of training programmes

College of Fisheries, Datia (Madhya Pradesh) organized five 3-day non-residential training programmes funded by National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad, between January and March 2025 on Enhancing livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities through capacity-building training on value-added fish (27-29 January 2025), Water quality and health management in aquaculture to promote sustainable fish farming (5-7 February 2025), Fisheries enhancements in the open waters (18-20 February 2025), Entrepreneurship development in ornamental fish culture and aquarium fabrication (25-27 February 2025), and Integrated fish farming for improving sustainability, productivity and profitability of fish farmers (3-5 March 2025). In these training programmes, 150 trainees were trained.



College of Fisheries also organized ICAR- IISR, Lucknow funded 3 training programmes under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), namely Fish culture and its diversification during 27-29 January 2025 (Abhishek Srivastava, Neelesh Kumar, Sudhanshu Raman, Girija Saurabh Behere), Fish feed and feeding management during 5-7 February 2025 (Abhishek Srivastava, Sudhanshu Raman, Neelesh Kumar, Girija Saurabh Behere), and Fish processing and development of value-added products during 20-22 February 2025 (Abhishek Srivastava, Girija Saurabh Behere, Sudhanshu Raman, Partha Sarathi Tripathy) with 35 participants in each training programme.

Training programme on fruit production technology

A 3-day training program on fruit production technology was conducted from 14–16 February 2025, at university headquarters. During the training, farmers visited the fruit research farm of the university, and hands-on training was given regarding different cultural practices required in the fruit orchard. A total of 25 farmers participated in the training program. The SCSP fund of ICAR-IISR, Lucknow, provided funding for this training programme. Participants also engaged in discussions with experts about quality control, pest management, and disease control, which are crucial aspects of fruit production technology. Feedback from the participants indicated that the program significantly enhanced their understanding of modern fruit production techniques.



Training programmes on commercial goatery and dairy farming

The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia, as a part of its continued commitment to enhancing livestock farming in Bundelkhand by organizing targeted training programs and health camps. The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia, conducted a 3-day training program on commercial goat farming from 27 February to 01 March 2025, with 55 participants. Experts shared insights on breeding, nutrition, disease management, and market linkages, equipping farmers with modern techniques to boost productivity. From 19-21 March 2025, another 3-day program focused on commercial dairy farming, with the participation of 60 farmers from Karahar, Nauner, Udgawan, and Saliya Pawar villages. The sessions covered milk production, fodder management, and value-added dairy products development, aiming to enhance profitability for small- scale dairy farmers.



Training programme on Natural Farming

The RLBCAU, Jhansi, as a Centre of Natural Farming under National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) funded by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare, GoI organized four intensive training programmes between 9 and 30 March 2025 in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Government, and MANAGE, Hyderabad. Total of 108 participants including farmer master trainers (FMTs), Local Natural Farming Institutions (LNFI), and scientists from KVKS and SAUs of Uttar Pradesh actively participated in these 4-day training programmes. The primary objective was to impart practical knowledge on natural farming practices, input preparation and application, enable field demonstrations, and encourage its adoption as sustainable and eco-friendly means of farming that eventually decreased reliance on chemical inputs and improved the resilience of agricultural systems.



Farmers' training programme on fruits-based farming system

RLBCAU hosted a 3-day training program on fruit- based farming systems from 20 to 22 March 2025. The SCSP fund of ICAR-IISR, Lucknow, supported this training programme.



A total of 30 farmers from Birguan village participated in this training programme. The techniques of training and pruning, nutrient management, water management, and intercropping modules were demonstrated to the farmers under field conditions so they could apply them in their farms—the quality planting material of sweet orange, cv. Mosambi, acid lime, secateurs and loopers were also provided to the farmers at the end of the training program.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

Kisan Mela

A Kisan Mela on the theme Training-cum-Demonstration Centre for Agricultural Development, under Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalizing Agriculture in J&K was organized at Khoon block of

district Udhampur. Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N Tripathi, Director Research Prof. S.K Gupta, Director Extension Prof. Amrish Vaid, Director Agriculture Production & Farmer Welfare Department S. Arvinder Singh Reen and Prof. Vinod Gupta, Prof. and Head Division of Agricultural Extension Education were present. Expert lectures on modern agriculture and technologies were given by the experts.



Glimpse of the Kisan mela at Khoon block of district Udhampur

- Krishak Mela 2025 under SCSP Project was organized by KVK Jammu on 24 March 2025.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressing the delegates



Trainings Programmes organized under Extension are as follows

Three certificate courses of 15-day duration on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) were organized on 28 January to 14 February 2025, 18 February to 08 March 2025, and 25 February to 15 March 2025 with 22, 17 and 32 participants, respectively. These programmes were organized by KVKs of the university.



Conference

- The 41st Annual Convention of the Indian Society for Veterinary Medicine (ISVMCON-2025) and National Conference was inaugurated at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), R.S. Pura, SKUAST-Jammu. This prestigious 3-day event brings together leading veterinarians, researchers, academicians and industry experts from across the country to deliberate on *Futuristic Approach in Animal Health Care and Welfare through Specialty Medicine, Digital Health Technology and Artificial Intelligence*.
- A prestigious 2-day National Conference on *Emerging Innovations in Biochemistry and Biotechnology for Holistic Development in Agriculture*. The conference was organized under the aegis of the Annual Convention of the Society of Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology, New Delhi and has drawn more than 200 delegates, including eminent scientists, researchers, policymakers, research scholars, and students from leading universities and institutes across India.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore

45th Convocation

The 45th Convocation of TNAU was held on 25 March 2025 at University Convocation Hall, TNAU, Coimbatore. Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu; Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, Council for Leather Exports, Chennai; Dr V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU and other dignitaries graced the occasion. On this occasion, 4,434 candidates representing UG, PG and Ph.D. programmes received degrees. Of which, 1,536 candidates received In-person and 2,898 candidates In-absentia representing Constituent Colleges and Affiliated Colleges.



45th Convocation

Trainings

Training on Microbe Mediated Plant Growth Promotion

The Department of Agricultural Microbiology, TNAU, Coimbatore organized ICAR sponsored CAFT Training on *Microbe Mediated Plant Growth Promotion and Soil Health: New Insights in Exploring Bioinoculants and Biostimulants* at TNAU for 21 days from 05 to 25 February 2025. Dr U. Sivakumar, Professor and Head (Agric. Microbiology), gave the welcome speech and briefed about the training concept. A special address was given by Dr P. Balasubramaniam, Director (NRM). Dr R. Thamizh Vendan, Registrar, TNAU released the CAFT training manual, and delivered his inaugural address. Dr T. Kalaiselvi, Professor (Agric. Microbiology) gave a vote of thanks.



Training on Microbe Mediated Plant Growth Promotion

Unravelling the Innovative Approaches for Future Farming

The Centre for Advanced Faculty Training at Department of Agronomy organized the training on *Unraveling the innovative approaches for future farming* from 05 to 25 February 2025. In the inaugural address, Dr V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor informed that the innovative approaches for future farming is the need of the hour. Dr M.K. Kalarani, Director (Crop Management) welcomed the gathering and emphasized the participants to update their professional skills. Dr P. Parasuraman, Professor and Head and Course Director briefed about the importance of the training, and Dr R. Kalpana, Professor and Course coordinator narrated the various topics to be covered in the training including remote sensing applications in crop monitoring and yield estimation, Drones for smart delivery of agro inputs, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for farm decision making, etc. The Valedictory address was given by Dr R. Thamizh Vendan, Registrar, TNAU and he distributed certificates to the participants. Dr M.K. Kalarani, Director (DCM), Dr E. Somasundaram, Director (ABD) and Dr S. Pazhanivelan, Director (CWGS), TNAU, Coimbatore delivered felicitation addresses in the function.



Unravelling the Innovative Approaches for Future Farming

Training on Data Analytics

A short course on *Data Analytics using Machine Learning and Deep Learning Techniques for Social Sciences Research* funded by ICAR, New Delhi for ten days (11-20 February 2025) was conducted at the Computer Centre lab, AEC&RI, TNAU. Dr N. Venkatesa Palanichamy, Dean, AC&RI, Coimbatore, inaugurated the programme. Dr M. Chandrakumar, Professor (ARM) welcomed the participants. Dr M. Kalpana, Professor (Computer Science) coordinated the training with lectures, demonstrations, industry / field visits and hands-on-experience in Machine Learning and Deep Learning Techniques for Social Sciences Research to participants.



Training on Data Analytics

Training on Micro Irrigation Technologies

The Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, AEC&RI, Coimbatore, organized a one-week training programme (20-26 January 2025) on Micro Irrigation Technologies. It was sponsored by the Government of India - Precision Farming Development Centre (PFDC), and National Committee on Precision Agriculture and Horticulture (NCPAH), New Delhi. The training aimed to equip the participating farmers with advanced techniques for sustainable water management. The programme included a field visit to a hydroponics and aeroponics unit to enhance practical learning.



Training on Micro Irrigation Technologies

Training on Frontier Technologies on Biogas

A turnkey worker training programme for 15 days on *Frontier Technologies on Biogas based Transportation Fuel and Organic Manure* was inaugurated on 13 February 2025 at Department of Renewable Energy Engineering (REE), AEC&RI, Coimbatore. Dr P. Subramanian, Professor welcomed the dignitaries and the trainees. Dr A. Raviraj, Dean (Agric. Engg.) in his inaugural address, emphasized the employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the renewable energy fields especially in biogas domain for building green nation. Dr D. Ramesh, Professor and Head cum coordinator-BDTC, briefed about the ongoing research activities and highlighted the importance of the training programme for creating manpower in biogas field. Totally, 40 trainees participated in the event. The valedictory function was held on 27 February 2025 at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, TNAU Coimbatore.



Training on Frontier Technologies on Biogas

International Conference on Sustainable Food-Water-Energy-Mechanization Nexus and Whole Grains

The International Conference on Sustainable Food-Water-Energy-Mechanization Nexus and Whole Grains (SWEMF-NEXUS) was held during 27-28 January 2025 at AEC&RI, Kumulur, Trichy. Dr P. Rajkumar, Dean and Convener of the event, delivered the welcome address. The special guest, Member of Parliament from Perambalur Constituency, Shri K.N. Arun Nehru, emphasized the

challenges faced by Tamil Nadu's farming community and the need for technological advancements to support small and marginal farmers. Following his speech, Dr R. Thamizh Vendan, Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore, delivered the presidential address, highlighting the role of artificial intelligence and automation in agriculture. Dr V. Palanimuthu, Director, NIFTEM, Thanjavur briefed about the need for the advancement in food processing sectors for the benefit of farming communities. Other distinguished speakers included Dr A. Raviraj, Dean AEC&RI, Coimbatore; Dr S. Pazhanivelan, Director (CWGS); Dr S. Mohanasundaram, Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand; Mr C.P. Narayanan, Vice President, TAFE; Chennai, Er. A. Saravanakumar, General Manager, Bank of Baroda; Dr Rajesh Kumar Vishwakarma, Principal Scientist and Programme Coordinator, AICRP on PHT, Ludhiana; and Dr Jeyamkondan Subbaiah, Professor and Director, Oklahoma State University, USA. Awards were given to outstanding students in academics, sports and all-round performance. More than 400 participants, including research scholars and scientists, presented their research and shared their experiences.



International Conference on SWEMF-NEXUS

International Conference on Global Agribusiness Summit

A 2-day international conference on *Global Agribusiness Summit: Skill Development in the Era of Digital Transformation* was organized at Agricultural College and Research Institute, TNAU, Coimbatore from 30-31 January 2025. A total of 300 scientists, students attended the conference. Experts from United Kingdom, Sri Lanka and USA, participated in this conference. Dr N. Venkatesa Palanichamy, Dean (Agric.), as Convenor and Chief Organizing Secretary of the Programme, welcomed the gathering and highlighted about the conference theme. Dr V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore presided over the inaugural function. In the presidential address, she highlighted that global agribusiness sector, valued at over \$5 trillion, is the backbone of the world economy. It feeds over 8 billion people and provides livelihoods to billions more. Sustainable practices and digital innovation are no longer optional they are imperative. Over 500 million smallholder farms worldwide produce 80% of the food consumed in developing countries. Mr V. Alex Paul Menon, IAS, Development Commissioner, Madras Export Processing Zone, presented the awards to winners, and in his chief guest address he mentioned that India is not just feeding its 1.4 billion people, it is a global agricultural powerhouse. As the largest producer of milk and spices, and the second-largest producer of rice and wheat, India plays a pivotal role in global food security. Under the Digital India initiative, platforms like e-NAM and Kisan Rath are transforming how farmers access markets. The Indian government is committed to modernizing agriculture through initiatives like the Digital Agriculture Mission and the PM-KISAN Scheme. These programmes are empowering farmers with technology and financial support.



International Conference on Global Agribusiness Summit

International Conference on OHPGGR-2025

The Centre for Plant Protection Studies (CPPS), TNAU organized International Conference on *One Health Perspectives in Global Plant Protection Research (OHPGPR-2025)* during 19-21 February 2025. The inaugural function began with the welcome address by Dr M. Murugan, Professor and Head (Agricultural Entomology). Dr M. Shanthi, Director (CPPS), provided an overview of the conference. Dr V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU, in her presidential address, emphasized the university's commitment to promote sustainable agriculture and plant protection practices. Shri Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary (Extension, AIF, Investment and Price Support), Government of India, inaugurated the conference and delivered the keynote address. Dr T. Sonai Rajan, Assistant Director (Entomology), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India gave a special address in which he emphasized the importance of adopting a One Health approach in plant protection research, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and plant health. Dr V.V. Ramamurthy, President, Entomological Society of India gave a special address. The conference features a range of technical sessions, key note address, lead talks by the global and Indian experts and poster presentations on topics such as climate change and plant health, emerging plant diseases and pests, plant-microbe interactions, and digital plant protection focusing one health.



**International Conference on
OHPGGR-2025**

The conference was attended by over 500 delegates from India and abroad. The conference souvenir, abstract of papers and a mobile app on pest surveillance were released by the Vice Chancellor and the Chief guests. Dr K. Angappan, Professor and Head (Plant Pathology) delivered the vote of thanks. About forty retired Plant Protection Scientists were honoured during the inaugural session.

Dr P. Senthil Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, delivered the valedictory address, emphasizing the importance of a holistic 'One Health' approach that integrates agriculture, veterinary sciences, and human health. Dr P.K. Singh, Agricultural Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, underscored the importance of sustainable pest management practices, biodiversity conservation, and the use of bio-inputs for food security. Shri P. Sivakumar, IFS, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, advocated for pesticide-free sericulture and organic tea cultivation to sustain silkworm and muga silk production. Shri C. Shrimala Rao, DDM, NABARD, Coimbatore, commended the research findings and assured financial backing for eco-friendly agricultural products, particularly those benefiting rural youth. Shri Nihar Ranjan, IFS, Dean (Forestry), emphasized the role of botanical pesticides in maintaining ecosystem balance, and the potential of carbon crediting in forestry-linked sericulture. Dr M. Shanthi, Director (CPPS), summarized the key discussions and recommendations from the conference. The conference concluded with the presentation of awards for outstanding research contributions, and the release of textbooks and digital study materials.

National Conference on Innovations in Biology and Biotechnology for their Application in Agriculture and Animal Science for Food Security

The 2-day National Conference on *Innovations in Biology and Biotechnology for their Application in Agriculture and Animal Science for Food Security*, was jointly organized by National Academy of Biological Sciences (NABS), Chennai and AC&RI, Kudumiyamalai during 28-29 January 2025. The Secretary NABS, Dr T. Marimuthu introduced NABS to the gathering, and it was followed by the welcome address by Dr S. Nakkeeran, Dean, AC&RI, Kudumiyamalai. NABS and its contribution in the field of Science and human welfare was addressed by the President Dr D.J. Packiaraj. Inaugural address was delivered by Dr R.S. Paroda, the former Secretary DARE, Government of India and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The Presidential Address was delivered by Dr V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU. Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr T.L. Baskaran, Secretary – NABS. Dr V. Geethalakshmi, and Dr R.S. Paroda received Dr Abdul Kalam Life Time Achievement Award. Followed by it, Dr B.N. Chakraborty, Former Professor of North Bengal University received Dr S. Kannaiyan Life Time Achievement Award. Dr P. Jeyakumar, Director (Planning and Monitoring) and Dr M. Raveendran, Director of Research of TNAU, Coimbatore received the NABS Fellow Award for the year 2024 in the conference. Seven students from Department of Plant Pathology, TNAU participated and secured awards for the best oral and e-poster presentations. In the Ph.D. student award category, two scholars from TNAU secured the Noni Ratna Dr Kirti Singh Award for the best research findings from their Ph.D. thesis.



National Conference on Innovations in Biology and Biotechnology

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai

Trainings

- *Multifaceted Approach to Get Maximum Profit in Poultry Breeding in Climate Changing Era* was organized from 22 January to 11 February 2025 at Department of Poultry Science, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal with 21 participants. The participants are Assistant Professors / Scientists from Veterinary Colleges and Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. Topics covered were Current status and future challenges of poultry development in Namakkal; Biosecurity challenges and measures for poultry farms for adoption; Breeding strategy for meat and egg type quail; Maximising poultry production; Poultry carcass waste utilization; Recent trends in trace mineral nutrition; Strategies in management of poultry breeders; Gut health of poultry breeders; and Important zoonotic diseases transmitted by poultry.
- *Recent Updates in Veterinary Imaging, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Tools in Diagnosis of Farm and Pet Animal Diseases*, was organized from 22 January to 11 February 2025 at Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai, with 20 participants. The participants were from State Agricultural University and State Veterinary Universities, and Central Institutes. Topics were Ultrasonography, applied anatomy for imaging;

Endoscopy; Interventional techniques; AI and machine learning tools; IoT technology in Veterinary Medical Care;

Electrocardiography;

Echocardiography; Clinical procedures in small and large animals; Small animal urology and nephrology; Small animal dermatology; Canine reproductive disorders; Small animal medical oncology; Radiography and CT in Veterinary practice.

- *Innovation Training for Women Food Business Entrepreneurs* was organized from 28 February to 09 March 2025 at College of Food and Dairy Technology, Koduvalli with 25 participants. The topics covered were Dairy product development; Bakery products, pickles, millet products; Project proposal preparation; GST; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise registration, and FSSAI Certification.



Innovation Training for Women Food Business Entrepreneurs

National Conference

3rd National Veterinary Practitioners Conference on *Current Trends and Updates in Small Animal Practice* organized during 06-07 March 2025 at Madras Veterinary College, Chennai with 71 participants- PG students (15), Ph.D. scholars (2), Private Practitioners (30), and Veterinary Assistant Surgeons(24). Lead speakers and their topic were Dr M.G. Mohamed Ali: Surgical management of feline lower urinary tract disorder; Dr R. Sivashankar: Surgical Management of Corneal Ulcers in dogs and cats; Dr K. Jeyaraja: Chronic kidney disease in dogs and cat insights on diagnosis and management; Dr M. Chandrasekar:

Medical management of canine multicentric lymphoma and mast cell tumour; Dr N. Arunmozhi: Clinical challenges in feline reproduction- An overview; Dr T. Sathiamoorthy: An update on management of pyometra in bitches; Dr Shibu Simon: Care of pregnant bitches and neonates; Dr C. Sreekumar: Handling and restraint of exotic pets and reptiles; Dr R. Anil Kumar: Clinical care and



3rd National Veterinary Practitioners Conference on 'Current trends and updates in small animal practice' held at Madras Veterinary College

reproduction of rabbits; and Dr J. Venkatesh: Looking beyond the break even in pet practice- The know how!.

University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru

National Conference on New Frontiers in Apiculture

The AICRP on Honeybees and Pollinators, Department of Apiculture, UAS, GVK, in collaboration with AICRP on Honey Bees and Pollinators, New Delhi sponsored by National Bee Board, GoI and other



Inauguration of National Conference on New Frontiers in Apiculture by dignitaries

government and private agencies, organized the National Conference on *New Frontiers in Apiculture*, held on 06-07 March 2025 at GVK Bengaluru.

Trainings

- Fourteen weeks Certificate Course on Baking Technology, was organized by the Institute of Baking Technology and Value Addition, GVK, from 02 December 2024 to 10 March 2025. A total of 36 participants attended the training and benefited from the programme.



- Four weeks Baking Course, was organized by the Institute of Baking Technology and Value Addition, GVK, from 06-31 January 2025. A total of 40 participants attended the training and benefited from the programme.



- A 4-week Baking Course, was organized by Institute of Baking Technology and Value Addition, GVK, from 03-28 March 2025. A total of 21 participants attended the training and benefited from the programme.

- The Institute of Agribusiness Management, CoA, GVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Indian Society of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), Hyderabad, hosted the 38th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Marketing from 09-11 January 2025.

University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad

Amrut Mahotsav and Alumni meet-2025

College of Agriculture, UAS, Dharwad celebrated Amrut Mahotsav on 16-17 January 2025. Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the programme by unveiling the commemorative wheel and spoke on the occasion of Amrut Mahotsav in College of Agriculture, on completion of 75 glorious years. Hon'ble Vice President addressed gathering after inaugurating the Amrut Mahotsav of the College of Agriculture and Alumni Meet on 16 January 2025. In his speech he congratulated the alumni of College of Agriculture, who have contributed to agricultural growth of the country. He called for Viksit Bharat by achieving excellence and sustainability in agriculture. He highlighted the importance of synergistic efforts of agricultural universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other various institutions under ICAR.

The Alumni Meet was organized on 17 January 2025. The programme started with planting of 75 different tree species commemorating 75 years of establishment of College of Agriculture, Dharwad. Each batch from 1947-2025 planted three plants of one species.



Inauguration of the Mural by Hon'ble Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankar

Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani

26th Convocation

On 23 January 2025, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani, held its 26th Convocation Ceremony. Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the University, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, presided over the event.

During the convocation, Chancellor conferred honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) degrees upon Union Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari (*in absentia*) and Maharashtra Water Resources Minister, Shri Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil in recognition of their significant contributions to rural and agricultural development. During the ceremony, a total of 3,462 graduates from the academic year 2023–24 received their degrees across various disciplines. This included 29 doctoral degree recipients, 307 post-graduate degree holders, and 3,126 undergraduates.



26th Convocation of VNMKV, Parbhani

Outstanding students were also felicitated with medals and awards sponsored by the university and generous donors. A total of 60 medals and certificates were awarded, which included 14 university gold medals, 10 donor-sponsored gold medals, 1 silver medal, 11 cash prizes, and 24 merit certificates for excellence in postgraduate studies.

The convocation ceremony was graced by Adv. Manikrao Kokate, Agriculture Minister and Pro Chancellor of the University; Smt Meghana Sakore-Bordikar, Minister of State for Women and Child Development; Shri Pasha Patel, Chairman of the State Agricultural Price Commission; Prof. (Dr) Indra Mani, Vice Chancellor of VNMKV; and Prof. (Dr) V.K. Tewari, renowned agricultural engineer and former Director of IIT Kharagpur; Dr Rahul Patil, MLA and EC Member; Shri Ratnakar Gutte, MLA; Shri Rajesh Vitekar, MLA. Prof. (Dr) V.K. Tewari delivered the keynote address and provided valuable guidance to the gathering. The event was a testament to the university's commitment to academic excellence and agricultural advancement in the region.

Women Kisan Mela

On 3 January 2025, VNMKV, Parbhani, organized a grand Women Kisan Mela at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Khangaon, Gevrai Taluka, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule. The event was a collaborative effort involving the Directorate of Extension Education, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Agriculture Department, ATMA, MAVIM, UMED, IFFCO, and the Dhan Foundation of Beed. Presiding over the event, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr) Indra Mani emphasized the importance of economic advancement for women's empowerment. He highlighted that women should have decision-making authority and financial strength to achieve true empowerment. Women farmers (712) participated enthusiastically in the mela. Notably, the event's key guides and coordinators were women themselves, showcasing their leadership and organizational capabilities.



Women Kisan Mela

Mrs Sitabai Mohite, a successful entrepreneur from Ramnagar, Jalna, shared her experiences to inspire women. She highlighted the importance of consistency, perseverance, and maintaining product quality in entrepreneurship. In the technical session, university scientists demonstrated women friendly and drudgery reducing technologies developed by the university. An agricultural exhibition was also organized during the event. The programme honoured women farmers who have excelled in allied agricultural businesses with mementos, and certificates.

Successful Initiative: 'My Day with My Farmer' Across Marathwada

VNMKV, Parbhani, has been continuously implementing the unique outreach initiative 'My Day with My Farmer' on the second Wednesday of every month. Inspired by the sentiment *Shetkari Devo Bhava* (The Farmer is Divine), the initiative aims to strengthen the university's direct engagement with farmers across all eight districts of Marathwada. As part of this initiative, on 12 March 2025, 11 teams comprising 34 scientists from various research stations, colleges, and extension centers of the university visited multiple villages across the region. They interacted with 425 farmers, spending an entire day on the field with them. The teams organized



Special Extension Campaign 'My Day with My Farmer'

various activities including field visits, farmer meetings, interactive sessions, and technical guidance programmes. The scientists addressed the farmers' queries related to crop production, pest and disease management, modern farming technologies, and water management, offering practical and scientific solutions. Over the past three years, the university has reached more than 80,000 farm families of about 300 villages. This ongoing initiative by VNMKV is proving to be a model for farmer-centric agricultural development and a vital bridge between research and farming communities.

AICRP Workshop

The 19th National Annual Review Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) and the 12th National Meeting on *Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture* were jointly organized in collaboration with AICRPDA and the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad, from 6-8 January 2025. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr) Indra Mani. Dr Suresh Kumar Chaudhary, Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Distinguished guests were Dr V.K. Singh, Director, CRIDA, Hyderabad; Dr Sunil Kumar, Director, Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (IIFSR), Modipuram (Uttar Pradesh); Dr J.V.N.S. Prasad, Coordinator, AICRPDA; Dr K.S. Baig, Director of Research; and Dr W.H. Narkhede, Chief Scientist. The event witnessed the participation of 77 scientists from across the country, contributing valuable insights and discussions on advancements in dryland agriculture and climate resilience.

ICAR Sponsored Short Course

Ten-Day ICAR-Sponsored Short Course on *Role, Importance, and Techniques of Beneficial Phyto-Microbiome in Sustainable Agriculture* was organized from 27 January to 5 February 2025, by the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, VNMKV, Parbhani. Scientists (25) from seven states participated in the training programme. The course aimed to impart both theoretical insights and practical skills in microbial isolation, identification, bioformulation development, and their application in the field.

The course was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr) Indra Mani, who emphasized the role of microbial-based approaches in reducing reliance on chemical inputs in agriculture. Dr Seema Jaggi, Assistant Director General (ICAR), joined virtually as the Chief Guest. Senior university officials and faculty members also graced the occasion.

The programme covered key thematic areas including microbial diversity analysis, bioinformatics, biofertilizers, biopesticides, and microbial-based disease management strategies. Lectures (38) and practical sessions were delivered by eminent experts from ICAR institutes, national universities, and international organizations.



Ten Day ICAR Sponsored Short Course organized at VNMKV, Parbhani

MoUs**Agriculture University (AU), Kota****• MoU with University of Kota, Kota**

A strategic partnership agreement signed between Agriculture University, Kota and University of Kota, Kota for cooperation in education, research, and extension for a period of five years.

• MoU with Government Arts Girls College, Kota

A strategic partnership agreement signed between Agriculture University, Kota and Government Arts Girls College, Kota for cooperation in education, research and extension for a period of five years.

• MoU with RSAMB, Jaipur (Kota Unit)

Three partnership agreements signed between Agriculture University, Kota and RSAMB, Jaipur (Kota Unit) for cooperation in construction works:

- Establishment of Centre of Excellence for Seed Technology including Seed Production and Modern Processing Facility at MAF, Kota.
- Mushroom Production Unit for Self-employment of rural youth in Hadoti region of Rajasthan at KVK, Kota
- Weed Control Laboratory, ARS, Kota under various RKVY Projects.

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar**Non-Exclusive License Agreements**

The university signed following Non-Exclusive License Agreements:

- With Mahankaleswara Agri Tech Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad for HHB 67 Imp 2 on 21 January 2025 for four years.
- With Murlidhar Seeds Corporation, Kurnool for HHB 67 Imp 2 on 21 January 2025 for four years.
- With Star Agriseeds Pvt. Ltd, Sangaria, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan for MH 1772 and MH 1762 on 20 March 2025 for three Years.

Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry (Dr YSPUHF), Nauni

The university signed following MoUs:

- With M/s Barita Agribusiness Pvt. Ltd, VPO- Badehar, Teh. & Distt. Una (Himachal Pradesh) from 10 January 2025 (2 years) to 09 January 2027, to promote the competitiveness of technology and to expand the relationships with producers/ processors and entrepreneurs.
- With Nuts Cultivation Company- NCC1701 Ltd, 54 Ivane Javakhishvili Street, Tbilisi 0105 Georgia from 06 January 2025 (5 Years) to 05 January 2030, for development of cooperative efforts between YSPUHF and NCC to promote agro-ecological practices of natural farming, and to promote the interchange of academic information as well as support visits of faculty, natural farming experts and scholars from YSPUHF.

- With Hindustan Insecticide Limited (HIL, India), SCOPE Complex, Core-6, 7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi with Central Public Sector Enterprise from 06 January 2025 (5 years) to 05 January 2030, for Co-operation between the two institutions. It may be established within any field related to the project on Reduction of highly hazardous pesticides and promoting safer alternatives including bio and botanical pesticides.
- Integrated Development Project (HP-IDP), Solan with HP Forest Department on 13 March 2025 (Co terminus with project), for forest fire management in Himachal Pradesh through fuel load management, agricultural training, extension and technical support.

Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur

MoU was signed between IGKV and NIT

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National Institute of Technology (NIT) and IGKV on 27 January 2025 to strengthen ties between engineering and agriculture.

This collaboration aims to promote joint research in areas such as sustainable farming technologies, agricultural machinery design, and resource-efficient practices. Both institutions will also work together on faculty exchanges, student internships, and other collaborative projects. It marks a milestone in interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together two premier institutions for the betterment of society.

During this MoU Prof. N V Ramana Rao, Director, NIT; Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor; Dr V K Pandey, Dean College of Engineering, Raipur; Dr A.K. Dave, Dean, College of Food Technology, Raipur; Dr G.K. Das, Dean, College of Agriculture, Raipur; Dr G C Mishra, Dean, Research and Consultancy; and Dr Srinivasu G S, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering, were present.



Maharana Pratap Horticultural University (MHU), Karnal

The MHU signed an MoU with the Kochi University, Japan, to jointly work on the Internet of Plants, in the presence of Shri Nayab Singh Saini Ji, Chief Minister of Haryana. Under this, Prof. S.K. Malhotra, Vice Chancellor, MHU and Prof. Ramesh Goyal, Director Research, MHU visited Kochi University, Japan to identify joint areas of research collaborations. Further, the team of scientists from Kochi University, Japan visited Research Farm (Anjanthali), MHU and discussed strategies for future research collaborations.



MHU signed an MoU with the Kochi University, Japan, to jointly work on the “Internet of Plants” in the presence of Shri Nayab Singh Saini Ji, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Haryana.

Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar

An MoU was signed by OUAT and Odisha University of Technology & Research (OUTR) for Development and Implementation of Collaborative Research Projects on latest technologies including renewable energy, AI and Robotics in Agriculture in presence of Chief Minister, Odisha at *Make in Odisha Conclave* on 29 January 2025.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- Institute of Biotechnology signed MoU with Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC)- Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat on 07 March 2025.
- Krishi Branding Centre of ABI, SKUAST-Jammu signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with FPO for branding Basmati 370 on 13 March 2025. The MoA was signed between SKUAST-J and FPO namely J&K Basmati Farmers Producer Cooperative Limited.
- Memorandum of Agreement was signed between ABI Centre, SKUAST-Jammu through Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu and a start-up of 6th batch of agri-entrepreneurship training & funding programme, M/s Incarnation Retail Pvt. Ltd, founded by Mr Ashish Verma on 24 February 2025 for facilitating the disbursal of first instalment of seed stage grant-in-aid amounting to ₹ 7.5 lakh in his registered company account.



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore

TNAU inks MoA with Startup TN

Biotech Council for Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology (COXBIT) has been established in TNAU, to carry out research and development activities under public-private partnership mode. Dr N. Senthil, Director of Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology (COXBIT) and CPMB&B, TNAU, Coimbatore, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on behalf of Biotech Council for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology, Coimbatore, with M/s. StartupTN, Chennai, on 22 January 2025 to facilitate floor/knowledge space for fostering agri-entrepreneurship and research activities, in the presence of Dr Atul Anand, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Micro, Small, Medium and Enterprises Department; Mr Sivarajah Ramanathan, Chief Executive Officer of StartupTN and Mr Dinesh Kumar, Associate Vice President of StartupTN. Mr R. Ramkumar, CEO of COXBIT and other delegates attended the event. Dr V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU emphasized the need for collaboration with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and StartupTN to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and funding support for Agri and biotech startups at Tamil Nadu.



TNAU inks MoA with StartupTN

MoU between CSC&RI, Madurai and M/s. Frigoscan Post Harvest Technologies

Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Frigoscan Post Harvest Technologies on 28 January 2025 for operation and management of the Common Incubation centre established at CSC&RI, Madurai under PMFME scheme funded by Ministry of Food Processing Industry, New Delhi.

MoU with M/s Swelect HHV Solar Photovoltaics Pvt. Ltd

TNAU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Swelect HHV Solar Photovoltaics Pvt. Ltd, Kuppepalayam, Coimbatore. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor; Dr R. Thamizh Vendhan, Registrar; Dr A. Raviraj, Dean (Agric. Engg.), Dr S. Narayanan, Director-Operations (Swelect HHV Solar Photovoltaics Pvt. Ltd); Dr D. Ramesh, Professor and Head; and other scientists of Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, AEC&RI, Coimbatore. The purpose of MoU is providing internship opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students, fostering hands-on experience and skill development trainings in Solar PV domain, supporting career growth through robust placement programs, advancing innovative solutions including research and development of transparent solar modules and other solar photovoltaic technologies for agrarian applications including agro photovoltaics.



MoU with M/s. Swelect HHV Solar Photovoltaics Pvt. Ltd

University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru

- Amendment to MoU on Shodhganga Consortia for uploading the Ph.D. thesis to INFLIBNET website on 03 January 2025 for 3 years.
- For supporting UAS-B incubation to innovate and develop technologies, commercialization of agri based products with Organismic Technologies, Bengaluru on 24 January 2025 for 3 years.
- For conservation and promotion of landraces programme for preserving and promoting traditional seed varieties at UAS, Bengaluru with Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, Bengaluru on 29 January 2025 for 5 years.
- For collaborative research, academic and extension activities with Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru – IIHR on 28 February 2025 for 5 years.
- For establishment of Common Incubation Center and providing technical assistance under PMFME of GoI scheme with M/s SLD FPO, Veerayyanapura, Chamarajanagar on 10 March 2025 for 1 year.
- For assessment of current processes and practices involved in the procurement of food grains for kitchens and residential schools in Karnataka state with Department of Social Welfare, Government of Karnataka on 26 March 2025 for 1 year.
- For providing electrical Buggies to UAS, Bengaluru for campus use with New Space India Limited – NSIL, Bengaluru on 28 March 2025.



Glimpses from the MoU Signing Ceremony

Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (VNMKV), Parbhani

VNMKV & ITC Ltd. Signed MoU to Boost Sorghum Productivity and Farmers' Income

On 11 February 2025, VNMKV, Parbhani, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Tobacco Company Ltd (ITC), Nagpur, to jointly promote modern agricultural technologies for enhancing sorghum productivity and increasing farmers' income. The MoU was signed by Vice Chancellor of VNMKV, Prof. (Dr) Indra Mani and Mr Rahul Gaura, Vice President, ITC – Agri Business Division, NBD Mars.



MoU between VNMKV and ITC Ltd.

IPR

Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU), Junagadh

Registration of Design for the Unmanned Mechatronic Precision Planter

The Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, JAU, Junagadh, registered the design for the Unmanned Mechatronic Precision Planter under design number **435749-001** on 6 February 2025. This automated robotic vehicle features a mechatronic metering system, combining electronics and mechanics to improve planting accuracy. Its lightweight design and precise operation, with its electronic seed metering system controlled by an Arduino Mega 2560 microcontroller board, make it ideal for high-moisture conditions while providing a labour-free solution.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

Patents

Remote Controlled Tree Pruning Robot by Dr Lalit Upadhyay, Dr Sushil Kumar Gupta, Asha Upadhyay, Dr Arvinder Kumar Design No. 436973-001, Date of filling- 11/11/2024, Date of Grant 13/01/2025.

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- Copyright registered by the scientists vide Registration No. L-159452/2025.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore

Texturized Whey Protein isolate Fortified Multigrain Bar (Patent No. 563938 dt. 27.03.2025)

A Product patent was granted to Community Science College and Research Institute, Madurai for the invention of Texturized Whey Protein Isolate Fortified Multigrain Bar for the research work of Dr Devabattini Sharika (Ph.D. Scholar) mentored by Dr G. Hemalatha. The invention provides texturized

whey protein isolate fortified multigrain bar comprising main ingredients of nutri-cereals (millets, Kavuni rice), texturized whey protein isolate, brown sugar, honey and other ingredients. The multigrain bar has high energy (404 kcal/100 g) and protein content (16.53 g/100 g) with better sensory properties. The product is specially targeted for those who are looking for a meal replacement product with high energy and protein content along with essential amount of micronutrients.

University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad

Ready-To-Cook (RTC) Buckwheat Upma Mix

Buckwheat Upma Mix and Process for Preparation Thereof. Patent No.: 561755, Date of Grant: 03 March 2025. Being rich in micronutrients the buckwheat is often used in various dishes, including Upma Mix. Buckwheat *upma* with addition of green chilli powder, ginger powder, turmeric powder and curry leaves was found to be highly acceptable Ready-to-cook buckwheat *upma* mix having moisture – 7.41, fat – 1.81, crude fibre – 7.88, ash – 2.30, protein – 13.19 and total carbohydrate – 60.18 g per cent whereas energy was 380 Kcal. It had good amount of calcium (2.06), iron (0.031), manganese (0.005), magnesium (0.42), zinc (0.002) and copper (0.001) per 100g. *Upma* prepared from ready-to-cook buckwheat *upma* mix had overall acceptability score of 7.70. The *upma* mix has shelf life of 3-4 months when stored in laminated aluminium pouches. In *Upma* Mix, the inclusion of buckwheat semolina enhanced the nutritional profile of the buckwheat *upma* by providing good balance of complex carbohydrates, protein, dietary fiber, vitamins and minerals. Additionally, its gluten-free nature makes it accessible to a wider range of dietary preferences and restriction.

AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS

Agriculture University (AU), Kota

- Dr Abhay Kumar Vyas, Vice Chancellor, AU, Kota received Star National Associate Fellow Award with the cash prize of ₹ 50,000 for his outstanding works in field of Education, Research and Extension in the STAR National Conference on Current Trends in Agriculture Research and Extension Services in India, at RARI, Durgapura, Jaipur during 23-25 February 2025.
- Dr S.K. Jain, Director Research received Star Gold Medal Award for his contribution in Research on Post-Harvest Management and Administrative Deliveries during STAR National Conference on Current Trends in Agriculture Research and Extension Services in India at RARI, Durgapura, Jaipur during 23-25 February 2025.



Dr A.K. Vyas, Vice Chancellor Receiving Award during STAR Conference

Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand

AAU's Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Station Honoured with Best ICAR-AICRP Centre Award-2024

Under the dynamic leadership of Dr K. B. Kathiria, Vice Chancellor of AAU, Anand, the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Station received the prestigious Best ICAR-AICRP Medicinal and Aromatic

& Betelvine Centre Award-2024. Out of 26 centres in different states, the Anand centre got this award, during 32nd National Level Annual Group Meeting, held from 24-26 February 2025 at ICAR-DMAPR, Boriavi, Anand. This award is a testament to the outstanding contributions made by the Centre in Medicinal and Aromatic Plants research.

Since its inception in 1975, the center has been at the forefront of groundbreaking research, focusing on identifying and developing high-valued medicinal crop varieties. Till date, the centre has developed nine medicinal crop varieties, viz., Gujarat Isabgol 2, Gujarat Asalio 1, Anand Kalmegh 1, Anand Safed Musali 1, Gujarat Anand Senna 1, Gujarat Anand Basil 1, Gujarat Anand Ashwagandha1, Gujarat Anand Kuvarpathu1 and Gujarat Anand Black Tulsi 1. The *Ashwagandha* and *Black tulsi* varieties were released at the national level, while the Gujarat Aloe Vera 1 is the first-ever variety in India for this crop.

Over the past 12 years, the centre has given 16 recommendations for farmers and scientific communities, and developed good agricultural practices for 12 important medicinal crops for profitable cultivation. The centre also conducts farmers' training programs to educate farmers, and has trained more than 2,000 farmers in last 10 years.

Dr K. B. Kathiria, Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand; Dr M. K. Jhala, Director of Research and Dean PG Studies, and all university officers congratulated Dr K. V. Patel, Associate Research Scientist and Head, MAPRS, AAU, Anand and the team on receiving this award.



Associate Research Scientist and his team receiving the award

Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (Dr RPCAU), Pusa

Agri-Innovation & Incubation Centre at Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa achieved second place at the state level. This award was given for exemplary mentoring to startup entrepreneurs. The award was given at a programme organized at CIMP, Patna in the gracious presence of Chief Guest Shri Nitish Mishra, Minister, Department of Industries & Tourism, Government of Bihar.



Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry (Dr YSPUHF), Nauni

- Ms Cheering Butith, farmer from Tabo (Lahaul and Spiti) got award for entrepreneurship on ATARI Foundation day at ATARI, Ludhiana on 11 January 2025.
- Dr Rajneesh Thakur received the best thesis award for Studies on Utilization of Paddy Straw for Compost Preparation of Button Mushroom (*Agaricus bisporus*) in Second International Agriculture Conference *Natural Farming Innovations: Enhancing Soil Health and Seed Quality with AI and Drones for a Greener Agricultural Future* held at Hansraj College, University of Delhi during 3-5 November 2024.
- Dr Aditi Sharma received best paper presentation award for Endophytic Probiotics: Advancing Sustainable Horticulture for Enhanced Productivity and Stress Resilience at National Conference

on *Indigenous Knowledge System for Sustainable Future - A Roadmap to Viksit Bharat@2047* on 13-14 February 2025 held at College of Horticulture & Forestry, Dr YSP UHF, Thunag, Mandi.

- The Department of Environmental Science, Dr YSPUHF, Nauni received award of Excellence for Best Support Service as an IGNOU Work Centre on 05 March 2025. It was awarded by the IGNOU Regional Centre, Shimla.

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana

Faculty earns Prestigious Awards of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences

The University faculty bagged honours at the XXII Convocation cum National Scientific Convention of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS), India, held at Veterinary College, Bengaluru during 8-9 March 2025. Dr B.K. Bansal, Former Dean, College of Veterinary Science, Rampura Phul was conferred with Dr K.K. Baxi Outstanding Scientist Award. Dr R.S. Sethi, Additional Director, Research, and Dr H.S. Banga, Former Registrar, bagged the prestigious NAVS Fellowship for their outstanding achievements in respective field(s). Dr Jaswinder Singh, Prof.-cum-Head, Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education was bestowed with Dr R.K. Sharma Memorial Award. Dr(s). Randhir Singh, Vishal Mahajan, Rajesh Wagh, Chandra Sekhar Mukhopadhyay and Vikrant Sudan competitively won the Associate Fellowship/membership of NAVS. The awards were conferred during the event graced by Shri K. Venkatesh, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture, Government of Karnataka, as the Chief Guest.



University Research gets Dr G. Nirmalan Trust Research Award 2023

The research study addressing antimicrobial usage and resistance (AMR) by Dr Deepthi Vijay, Ph.D. scholar of Centre for One Health of the University earned the prestigious Dr G. Nirmalan Trust Research Award 2023, conferred by the Veterinary Welfare Society, Kerala on 12 January 2025. The research, carried out in dairy herds in Punjab through a One Health framework, under the guidance of Dr Jasbir Singh Bedi, Director of Centre for One Health, was part of the ICAR Niche area of excellence project titled *Antibiotic Resistance: Animal Human Interface*. The award includes a citation and a cash prize of ₹10,000.



Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur

IARI Innovative Farmer Award

Shri Avneesh Patra, Progressive farmer from Chichiya village, Devbhog block, brought laurels to Chhattisgarh by being recognised as an Innovative Farmer at the prestigious Krishi Vigyan Mela organized by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi from 22-24 February 2025, by Dr Himanshu Pathak, ICAR Director General for his contribution to agriculture and allied sectors.



Adopting an integrated farming system, he manages three acres for cereal crops, five acres for fruit orchards, and one acre for forestry, medicinal, and aromatic plants. Additionally, he operates a dairy farm with 22 cows and a poultry unit with 200 birds, significantly diversifying his income sources with the technical guidance from IGKV and KVK, Gariaband.

He pioneered betel leaf cultivation by integrating traditional knowledge with scientific advancements. Initially cultivating betel in shade-net structures, he later, in consultation with agricultural scientists, shifted the production to mango orchards, optimizing temperature and moisture conditions. This strategic shift enabled him to sustain commercial betel leaf production successfully for the past two years. He earns approximately ₹ 15 lakh annually, setting an inspiring benchmark for profitable farming. Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor and Dr S.S. Tuteja, Director Extension praised his dedication to advancing sustainable agriculture and rural prosperity.

National Innovative Farmer Award 2025

Shri Vidyadhar Patel, popularly known as Genda Baba of village Kodkel Lailunga received the National Innovation Farmer Award for innovation and excellent work in agriculture in a dignified felicitation ceremony organized at IIHR, Bengaluru on 27 February to 1 March 2025 by Shri H.D. Kumar Swamy, Union Industrial and Steel Minister. Under the guidance and direction of Dr B.S. Rajput, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Raigarh, Dr Manisa Choudhary, Dr K.D. Mahant, Dr K.L. Patel, Dr K.K. Painkra and Dr C.P.S. Solanki, Scientist, KVK, Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) in marigold cultivation in polybag since 2021 and last financial year he sold 1.5 lakh polybag marigold plant and earned more than ₹ 30 lakh.



Best Organic Farming Farmer Award National

Shri Jaylal Yadav, Progressive Farmer of KVK Dantewada was honored with the Best Farmer Organic/Natural Farming Award at the State-Level Farm and Food Agriculture Award Show 2025. The prestigious event organized by Delhi Press Magazine – Farm and Food took place on 28 February 2025, at Ravindra Bhawan, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). Jaylal Yadav currently cultivates paddy, urad, and mung on 5 acres of land along with animal husbandry under the guidance of KVK, Dandewada. His innovative and sustainable farming practices have set a remarkable example for other farmers in the district, promoting eco-friendly agriculture and self-reliance.



Best Dairy Farmer Award 2025

Shri Virendra Agarwal the progressive farmer of Balodabazar district was honored as Best Dairy Farmer in Farm Food Krishi Samman 2025 in the field of animal husbandry and dairy production. Under the technical guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhatapara, he has adopted scientific methods to achieve remarkable growth in milk production. His livestock management practices include balanced nutrition, hygiene, health management, and the integration of modern techniques, making his dairy unit highly productive. Through his awareness and continuous efforts, he has successfully reared high-yield dairy animals, and not only enhanced his family's income but also inspired other farmers in the region.



Best Male Farmer Award 2025

Shri Milan Vishwakarma, Progressive Farmer of village Kurrubhata, block Bagbahera, District Mahasamund was awarded with a Best Male Farmer during Farm Food Krishi Samman Award 2025 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. He has adopted farming as profession. He owns 8 ha of land where he is doing lac cultivation along with horticultural and agronomical crops at his field. He is actively engaged in cultivation of Apple ber from last five years. He is cultivating Apple ber on 20 acres of land, and earning a net return of ₹ 1.20 lakh / acre under the guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mahasamund. He also motivates other farmers to adopt Apple Ber cultivation, lac cultivation on fallow land for making it a remunerative besides taking the traditional paddy crop.



Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU), Junagadh

Best Performing Groundnut Breeder Seed Producing Centre

The Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Groundnut was held from 18-20 March 2025, at Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur (Rajasthan). The Main Oilseeds Research Station, Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU), Junagadh, received the award for Best Performing Groundnut Breeder Seed Producing Centre among all AICRP centres across India. Dr V.P. Chovatia, Vice Chancellor; Dr A.G. Pansuriya, Director of Research; and Dr N.B. Jadav, Director of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh, applauded the commendable efforts of Dr R.B. Madariya, Research Scientist (Groundnut), Dr N.D. Dholariya, and their team for this outstanding achievement.



JAU officials showing certificate for Best Performing Groundnut Breeder Seed Producing Centre

Best Performing Groundnut Seed Hub Centre

In the above mentioned Annual Group Meeting, Groundnut Seed Hub Creation of Seed-Hubs for Enhancing Quality Seeds Availability of Major Oilseed Crops – Groundnut, running at the Department of Seed Science and Technology, JAU, Junagadh was adjudged as the Best Performing Groundnut Seed Hub Centre in 2024-25. The award with certificate received by Dr J.B. Patel, Professor and Head, Department of SST from the hands of Dr Arvind Verma, Director of Research, MPUAT, Udaipur in the auspicious presence of Dr S.K. Bera, Director, ICAR- Indian Institute of Groundnut Research, Junagadh.



Best Performing Groundnut Seed Hub Centre Award

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University (MHU), Karnal

- The Vice Chancellor of MHU, Dr Suresh Kumar Malhotra was awarded with M.H. Marigowda Award on 16 January 2025 during 5th International Agriculture Conference (NUTRIENT – 2025).
- First prize in the Exhibition during National Dairy Mela & Agri.Expo-2025 organized by ICAR-NDRI, Karnal from 27 February to 1 March 2025.



Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar

Prof. Pravat Kumar Roul, Vice Chancellor, OUAT got the Outstanding Vice Chancellor of India, award for the year 2025 at India Education Summit-25 on 12 February 2025 at New Delhi.



Prof. P.K. Roul

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana

- Dr Satinder Kaur, Principal Molecular Geneticist was awarded the honorary fellowship by Punjab Academy of Sciences on 7 February 2025.
- The Dr Darshan Singh Brar Young Scientist Award—2025 was conferred upon Dr Gurupkar Singh, Senior Fruit Biotechnologist, in recognition of his research excellence in horticulture.
- Prof. S. Venkatraman Best Paper Award Agricultural Meteorology on Biotic and Abiotic Stress Management during the National Seminar (AGMET-2025) held at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam from 13-15 February 2025 was awarded to the paper—Coupling the Interactive Effects of Solar Radiation, Temperature and Nitrogen on Performance of Transplanted Rice authored by Garima, S.S. Sandhu, M.S. Bons, Amarjeet Kaur, Prabhjyot Kaur, K.K. Gill and S.S. Walia published in the Journal of Agricultural Science (Cambridge) (2023) 161:521-535.

- Dr Harleen Kaur, Assistant Professor in the Department of Climate Change & Agricultural Meteorology, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), was conferred with the Best Oral Presentation Award for the paper entitled Role of Resource Intensive Irrigated Wheat Cultivation in Enhancing Climate Change in Different Regions of Punjab, India, authored by Harleen Kaur and Prabhjyot Kaur during the National Seminar on Frontiers Technologies for Weather and Climate based Decisions in Agriculture and Allied Sectors, (AGMET-2025) held at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam from 13-15 February 2025.
- Kuldeep Patel received best poster presentation award under the Theme-6 in CRAFT 2025, for presentation on Performance Evaluation of MODIS Actual Evapotranspiration for Rice over Major Rice Growing Regions of Tamil Nadu, authored by Kuldeep Patel, S. Kokilavani and S.P. Ramanathan in the Department of Climate Change and Agricultural Meteorology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana and Agro Climate Research Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
- Dr Sukhjeet Kaur received best poster presentation award under the Theme-2 in CRAFT 2025, for presentation on Wheat Versus Heat: A Global Challenge to Feed Billions in the Era of Climate Change, authored by Sukhjeet Kaur and P K Kingra in the Department of Climate Change and Agricultural Meteorology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- Prof. (Dr) Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist and Head KVK Samba was bestowed with Award of Honour on the occasion of Radio Kisan Diwas on 15 February 2025 by the PRASAR BHARTI, Government of India, Jammu for his exceptional services and dedication towards the farming community.
- Prof. (Dr) Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist and Head KVK Samba was awarded with certificate of appreciation by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India through its Regional Director RCFC NR-II on 11 February 2025 for production of quality planting material of MAPs in the herbal vatika, conducting of training programmes and stakeholder meetings.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore

TNAU Student Received Award from Hon'ble Governor

A State-Level Essay Competition for school and college students across Tamil Nadu, with the topic Constitutional Fund Amental Duties: Balancing Rights and Responsibilities, was held on 15 September 2024. Ms K.J. Gayathri, a second year B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture student at Agricultural College and Research Institute, Vazhavachanur, secured 2nd place in the competition. She received the award on Republic Day 26 January 2025, at Raj Bhavan, from the Hon'ble Governor and Chancellor of TNAU, Shri R.N. Ravi.



TNAU Student Received Award from Hon'ble Governor

National Awards for TNAU Scientists

- The 39th Convocation of Dr Panjabrao Desmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth was held on 05 February 2025 at Akola, Maharashtra. During the convocation Dr R. Ravikesavan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics of TNAU was honoured with Dr P.S Khankhoje Gold medal for his outstanding research work in Agriculture including Animal Science, Fisheries and Agricultural Engineering; particularly for his contribution in the field of Plant Breeding research in cotton, maize and millet crops. The medal was given by H'E Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan, Governor of Maharashtra. Minister for Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra and the Vice Chancellor, Dr Panjabrao Desmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth were present during the occasion.
- Dr M. Shanthi, Director (CPPS) was honored with the Fellow award of the Society of Biocontrol Advancement in recognition of her contributions in Plant Protection Research. She received the award from the Dr S. N. Puri, Former Vice Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, and Former Director, ICAR-NRIIPM during the Valedictory Session of the Second International Conference on Biological Control organized by the ICAR – National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru, from 25-28 February 2025.



National Awards for TNAU Scientists

Best Performing AICRP Center

Regional Research Station, Virudhachalam bagged best performing AICRP-Groundnut Main centre award during the Annual Group Meeting of AICRP-Groundnut held at Rajasthan college of Agriculture, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur during 18-20 March 2025. Award Certificate and shield were received by a team of scientists Dr R. Baskaran, Professor and Head, Dr A. Mothilal, Dr B. Geetha and Dr V. Ravichandran for excellent performance in AICRP Groundnut research activities on improvement, production and protection, seed hub activities and release of groundnut varieties. The award was presented by the Director of Research (MPUAT) in the presence of the Director (IIGR, Junagadh).



AICRP Best Performing Center

University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru

- Dr H.S. Shivaramu, Director of Research, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru is elected as Vice President, Association of Agrometeorologists, Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat, India
- Team of scientists of All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture, GKVK, Bengaluru was credited as the Outstanding Interdisciplinary Team: Dr Gajjala Ravindra Chary Award, for the year 2024 for their contribution in dryland agricultural research, extension and development by Indian Society of Dryland Agriculture held at CRIDA, Hyderabad



Dr Mudalgiriyappa, Chief Scientific Officer, AICRP for Dryland Agriculture, receiving Outstanding Interdisciplinary Team: 'Dr Gajjala Ravindra Chary Award'

during 2nd International Conference on Rainfed Agriculture: Building for Resilience & Sustainable Livelihoods held from 29-31 January 2025.

- Centre of Excellence on Nutri-cereals, UAS, GVK, Bengaluru was awarded with third prize in the category research institutes by Jaivik India Awards supported by APEDA during 5th Jaivik India awards held at Bengaluru on 22 January 2025.



Dr Suresh, K. B., Professor, Centre of Excellence on Nutri-cereals, UASB receiving third prize

- Dr D.V. Naveen, Assistant Professor of Soil Science and Agric. Chemistry, CoS, Chintamani, participated and presented a paper in the international conference titled Economic Resilience and Sustainable Growth: Strategies for Transforming Business, Management, Social Science, Agriculture, held at Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar on 01 March 2025 and was awarded with Best Academic of the Year Award for his contribution in the field of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry.



- Shri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthna Math, Nagamangala Tq., organized national level Vijnatham Uthsav- 2025 programme on 19-20 February 2025 at Shri Kshetra Adichunchanagiri. University college students participated in this Project Exhibition entitled AI & IoT in Agriculture for Food Security and secured Second place with a cash prize of ₹ 15,000.

- Ms Mihika Shetty, III B. Tech. (Agric. Engg.) was selected to attend the PCTC army Attachment Camp scheduled during 30 December 2024 to 10 January 2025. She was also selected to represent Karnataka State for her essay on *Enhancing Productivity in Agriculture in the Viksit Bharat*, during National Youth festival held during 11-12 January 2025 at Bharath Mandapam, New Delhi.



- Dr Channabasva received Best M.Sc. Thesis Award from Indian Society for Spices, Kozhikode, Kerala during 11th Symposium on Spices and Aromatic Crops held on 07 January 2025 at IISR Calicut.

- Bhavana and Priya Ph.D. Students from Department of Food Science and Nutrition received Best Anveshan Award at South zone student research convention held at Ramaiah University, Bengaluru on 20-21 February 2025 and participated in international convention at Chandigarh on 11 March 2025 and secured second prize there.

- Ms Sushma, H. A., PAMB 1049, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agronomy, CoA, GVK, Bengaluru received Best Research Scholar Award at



International Conference on Global Research Initiatives for Agriculture, Science and Technology (GRIAST-2025) Jointly organized by IGKV, Raipur, Chhattisgarh and NADCI, Baramulla, J&K from 20-22 January 2025 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

- Vidya Kumar Jagalur, Amrutha Basavaraj, Ph.D. Student received first place in Best Research Paper Award (Oral and Poster) during National Conference on *Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through Extension Services for Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Allied Sectors* jointly organized by UAS-Raichur, UAS-Bengaluru, Indian Society of Extension Education (ISSE) – South Zone Karnataka Chapter, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru and Hyderabad from 09-10 January 2025.

Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani

Dr B.V. Asewar Conferred ISDA Fellow Award

Dr B.V. Asewar, Director of Instruction and Dean, VNMKV, Parbhani was honoured with the prestigious ISDA Fellow Award, 2023 by the Indian Society of Dryland Agriculture (ISDA) for his exceptional contributions in rainfed agriculture research. The recognition was conferred during the *2nd International Conference on Rainfed Agriculture: Building Pathways for Resilience & Sustainable Livelihoods (RAINBURS-2025)*, held at ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad, from 29-31 January 2025.

FSRDA Fellow Award to Dr W.H. Narkhede

The Integrated Farming Systems Research Centre, VNMKV, Parbhani was awarded six national-level awards by the Farming Systems Research and Development Board (FSRDA), Modipuram, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. These awards include the FSRDA Fellow Award to Chief Scientist Dr W.H. Narkhede as well as the progressive farmers who are farming under the guidance of the scientists of this project. Mr Prataprao Kale, Mr Gyanoba Pardhe, Mr Janardhan Avargand and Mr Ratnakar Dhage received a total of six awards, including the Best Farmer Award and the Best Dissertation Award for the thesis submitted on this project. The awards presented by dignitaries at the first International Integrated Farming Systems Conference held in Modipuram from 7-9 March 2025.

RESEARCH PUBLICATION (>15 NAAS RATING)

Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry (Dr YSPUHF), Nauni

- Singh P., Vaidya M., Guleria A., Adhale P., Bhoi P.B., Bhoi A.K. and Barsocchi P. 2025. Climatic vulnerability and adaptation strategies for vegetable production in the Northern Himalayan region. *Science of The Total Environment* **969**: 178343. 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.178343 (**NAAS-15.80**)

Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar

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LIMELIGHTS**Agriculture University (AU), Kota****National Educational Tour**

National Educational tour (11-day) of B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture IV year students was organized by the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Jhalawar from 25 February to 7 March 2025. Forty-nine students visited Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal; KVK-CIAE, Bhopal; NBSS&LUP, Nagpur; CCRI, Nagpur; PDKV, Akola; MPKV, Rahuri; KVK, Baramati; College of Agriculture, Pune; National Research Centre for Grapes and Directorate of Floricultural Research at Pune; Navsari Agriculture University, Navsari; Anand Agriculture University, Anand; Directorate of Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Research, Anand; and Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Godhra, Gujarat.



National Educational Tour

Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand**Striving for Excellence: CAET, Godhra Students' Remarkable Feat in GATE-2025**

ANKIT KUMAR
B.Tech. Final Year
GATE-2025 RANK: 69



RAYPURA KRUNAL
B.Tech. Final Year
GATE-2025 RANK: 74



SWAPNA RANI PRADHAN
B.Tech. Third Year
GATE-2025 RANK: 83



BHASKAR TIWARI
B.Tech. Final Year
GATE-2025 RANK: 103

The students of B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering) from the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, AAU, have once again secured good ranks in the highly competitive Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE-2025). Their achievement is a testament to their hard work and unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

Each of these students exhibited extraordinary dedication in preparing for GATE, an examination that demands not just technical knowledge but also strategic planning, problem-solving skills, and consistent practice. The journey to this accomplishment was filled with long study hours, overcoming self-doubts, and staying motivated despite challenges.

Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (Dr RPCAU), Pusa

- A statue of Bharat Ratna Jannayak Karpoori Thakur was unveiled by Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 24 January 2025 in the distinguished presence of Dr P.S. Pandey, Vice Chancellor of Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, marking the 101st birth anniversary of Shri Karpoori Thakur.
- Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare inaugurated the new Media Center at Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, in Bihar on 24 January 2025 in the distinguished presence of Vice Chancellor, Dr P.S. Pandey. The Minister highlighted the center's significance in facilitating agricultural communication and knowledge dissemination. He particularly praised the university's YouTube channel Dr RPCAU and the community radio 89.6 FM - Radio Pusa Bihar, for their crucial role in empowering farmers with latest agricultural information and techniques.



Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana

Fish Festival

College of Fisheries organized Fish Festival on 12 March 2025 to create awareness for promoting fish consumption, attracted a huge public response. The Festival was inaugurated by Shri Jitendra Jorwal, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana as the Chief Guest and Dr J.P S. Gill, Vice Chancellor as the Guest of Honour. Shri Jorwal impressed upon the need for organizing such festivals to educate people, promote entrepreneurship and get public feedback. Dr Gill underpinned the pivotal role of the University in developing shrimp farming in inland saline water-logged wastelands of the state and providing technical support for entrepreneurial push to youth for self-reliance. The event promoted fish as healthy food, educated the visitors with the health benefits of fish, and demonstrated value added ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat fish products of regional flavour. The festival highlighted fish processing as an entrepreneurial activity for youth and the aspiring farming community. Different ornamental fish species presented eye-catching vibrance for fish hobbyists. A survey was also conducted to record animal protein consumption preferences of the visitors to evaluate gaps pertaining to fish consumption.



Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur

Hon'ble Governor released IGKV-Krishi Panchang

On 3 January, 2025, Krishi Panchang 2025 of IGKV was released by Shri Ramen Deka, Hon'ble Governor at Raj Bhawan. Commending the efforts of IGKV Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor and his team, he expressed delight over the Panchang's comprehensive inclusion of cutting-edge agricultural technologies, State and Central Government schemes, and IGKV's pioneering research and extension activities.



Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Governor highlighted the practical importance of the Krishi Panchang for farmers, noting its role in disseminating valuable knowledge on agricultural advancements. "This Panchang will serve as a critical resource for farmers, providing them with timely information on modern farming techniques, crop innovations and welfare schemes, ultimately aiding in their prosperity," he remarked.

Krishi Darshika was released by Agriculture Minister

On 3 January 2025, Krishi Darshika 2025 of IGKV was released by Shri Ramvichar Netam, Agriculture Minister. He said that Krishi Darshika includes information about research and extension work being done by Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) as well as the latest agricultural technology and various schemes run by the Central and State Government for farmers. This Krishi Darshika will be very useful for the farmers. He expressed hope that the Agricultural University should continue to make continuous efforts in the interest of the farmers of Chhattisgarh. Shri Netam congratulated the Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor, IGKV and his colleagues for the publication of Krishi Darshika.



76th Republic Day

On the occasion of the 76th Republic Day, Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor hoisted the tricolor and took the salute of the parade at the university level at College of Agriculture, Raipur. He appealed to the officers, professors, scientists and employees of the University to work with full dedication and devotion for the progress of the University.

Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor felicitated the non-teaching staff of the university for their outstanding work in the Republic Day function. On this occasion, senior scientists and subject matter experts of various Krishi Vigyan Kendra's were also felicitated for taking modern agricultural research and advance technologies to the farmers' fields.

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University (MHU), Karnal

- To address the region-specific needs in horticulture, Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Chief Minister of Haryana, inaugurated the Horticulture Research Centre of MHU at Chandsoli (Ambala) on 20 January 2025.



- *Haryana Baagwani* (Quarterly Hindi Magazine, Jan.-March, 2025) for the farming community, published by Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal was released by Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Chief Minister of Haryana, on the occasion of 11th Mega Vegetable Expo-2025.



Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana

- Dr B.K. Babbar, Senior Zoologist (Rodents) made oral presentation during 21st *Wildlife damage management conference* organized by Mississippi State University and US Department of Agriculture at MSU, Starkville MS, USA from 24-28 March 2025.
- The Department of Agricultural Journalism, Languages and Culture, in collaboration with the Communication Centre, organised a *Media Conclave: Reaping Stories, Sowing Ideas*. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of alumni, faculty, and media professionals. Discussions focused on the evolving role of journalism, media ethics and challenges in the digital age. The achievements of department in agricultural communication were highlighted.
- PAU Faculty data available in IRNIS. IRNIS is web-based Research Information Management (RIM) service developed by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre. The portal facilitates the academics, R&D organizations and faculty members, scientists to collect, curate and showcase the scholarly communication activities and provide an opportunity to create the scholarly network.

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi

Animal Health camp organized at Nauner

On 26 March 2025, CoVAS, Datia, arranged a free animal health camp in Nauner village, offering veterinary check-ups, vaccinations, and deworming services. Farmers also received guidance on preventive healthcare and disease control for their livestock. These initiatives highlight the college's commitment to rural empowerment and sustainable farming. The programs aim to enhance farmer income, improve animal health, and promote agri-entrepreneurship in the Bundelkhand region by offering scientific knowledge and practical training.



RLBCAU, Jhansi celebrated Nation's 76th Republic Day

The 76th Republic Day was celebrated with great patriotism and enthusiasm at both Jhansi and Datiya campus of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, unfurled the national flag and addressed the gathering. He emphasized the importance of the Constitution and highlighted the role of agriculture in shaping a self-reliant India. He encouraged students and staff to uphold the values of unity, discipline, and service to the nation. The celebration featured cultural performances. Also, as a part of the event, blankets were distributed to the needy people.



RLBCAU celebrates International Women's Day 2025

On 8 March 2025, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU) in Jhansi celebrated International Women's Day. The event highlighted the need to expedite progress toward gender parity. Dr S.K. Singh, Director of Extension Education, gave the introductory remarks, setting the context for the day's deliberations. Dr Rashmi Arya, MLA Mauranipur, chaired the event. In her address, Dr Arya highlighted the pivotal role of women in society, drawing inspiration from the rich cultural heritage of the Bundelkhand region. She underscored the contributions of women in various spheres and motivated the audience to participate actively in initiatives promoting gender equality. Vice Chancellor Dr A.K. Singh spoke on the significance of International Women's Day and highlighted women's social, economic, cultural, and political accomplishments worldwide.



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- **Radio Kisan Diwas 2025** was celebrated at KVK Samba on 15 February 2025 in which about 100 progressive farmers/farm women actively participated. The programme was organized by KVK Samba in collaboration with Prasar Bharati Jammu.
- **Farmer awareness cum distribution programme of Agril. Inputs** was organized at village Meshian, Miran Sahib, Jammu under AICRPAM on 17 January 2025 with the objective to aware the farmers to climate change and its impact on agriculture and also distribution of agricultural inputs among SC farmers for enhancing their production and to increase their farm income. Dr Narinder Singh Raina, MLA (South-Jammu and R.S. Pura), Assembly Constituency graced the occasion as a Chief Guest of the event. Prof. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu was the Guest of Honour of the programme in which more than 104 farmers including male and female participated.
- **Krishi Branding Center of SKUAST-Jammu Organized Webinar** on Practical Approach of Designing, Branding and Packaging and its tactical understanding on regulatory compliance on 17 January 2025 under HADP Project No. 04 Strengthening Agricultural Marketing in UT of J&K. Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor was the Chief Guest on the occasion and Prof. S. K. Gupta, Director Research was Guest of Honour. Mr Pathan Rahamat Ali Creative Head/ Graphic Designer, Hyderabad delivered a lecture and the event was organized by Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, PI/CEO.
- Agri Startup Webinar on Practical approach of designing, branding & packaging and its tactical understanding on regulatory compliance (04 CPD Hours), was conducted on 17 January 2025 for 113 participants which included Incubatee startups, CEOs of FPOs, Agri-Entrepreneurs, Progressive Farmers and RBSHs applicants.



- An awareness programme was organized on 3 March 2025 to commemorate World Wildlife Day'. This year's theme, 'Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet, highlights the crucial role of sustainable funding in conservation efforts.
- National Service Scheme, SKUAST-Jammu, organized a Programme to commemorate World water Day, on 24 March 2025. This year the theme is Glacier Preservation.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore

7th Covai Flower Show 2025 at TNAU

TNAU organized the 7th TNAU Covai Flower Show during 6-12 February 2025 at the University Botanical Garden. The flower show was inaugurated by the Minister for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Shri M.R.K. Panneerselvam in the presence of Shri V. Senthilbalaji, Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Dr V. Geethalakshmi, Vice Chancellor, TNAU and University Officers. The flower show was organized for the benefit of school children, public, agricultural and horticultural scientists, students and entrepreneurs. More than 200 varieties of flowers such as celosia, lotus, aster, petunia, salvia, pansy and cut flowers such as rose, anthurium, orchid, lily, carnation, gerbera, lisanthus, bird of paradise, heliconia, gypsophila, statice and rare exotic flowers like banksias, leucospermum, ornamental brassica, hypericum, peony, kochia, protea, etc., were displayed in different forms and structures in the show. Exhibition on fruit crops, vegetables, dry flower arrangements, indoor plants, coconut products and orchids were also arranged. The flower arches, vertical garden, rainforest flower arrangements, cacti and succulent plants attracted a large number of visitors.



7th Covai Flower Show

University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru

- The five KVKS and EEU, Naganahalli celebrated World Water Day on 22 March 2025. The theme of the year is Glacier Preservation, and a lecture on water management and conservation was arranged. A total of 182 farmers and farm women participated in the programme.
- The ICAR-KVK, Chamarajanagara organized Krishi Vignana Kendra Day on 24 March 2025 by inviting farmers and other stakeholders from all the taluks of Chamarajanagara district. KVK Chamarajanagara organized exhibition of Kisan Samriddhi technology products, indigenous varieties of paddy, wild pulses germplasm, briquettes made out of mulberry stalks, edible and non-edible products prepared from banana pseudostem and banana fibre and bio-agents. KVK staff and progressive farmers like Shri Nataraj and Srinivasprasad, Shri Shivarudrappa, Member of Udigala FPO and Shri Suresh CEO of Souharda FPO graced the occasion.
- ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tiptur, Tumkur-I, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, organized the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi program on 24 February 2025 at



Expressing the need to adopt water saving cutting edge irrigation technologies



Farmer's active participation in Kisan Samriddhi technology products exhibition

Gurukulaananda Ashrama Kalyana Mantapa in Tiptur, and was graced by the presence of V. Somanna, the Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.



Hon'ble Minister Mr Somanna in PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme



Celebration of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme

- KV, V.C. Farm, Mandya in collaboration with ATARI, Bengaluru; PPVFRA, New Delhi; KV Hassan; Tumkur, Chamarajanagara and Mandya organized one-day training and exhibition programme on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act-2001 at Coleman Hall, ZARS, Mandya on 27 March 2025. Eleven farmers and NGO's showcased their conserved varieties. The certificate of appreciation was given to the farmers who displayed their varieties in the exhibition. More than 114 farmers/farm women/scientists and staff of KV, V.C. Farm, Mandya, Mysore, Hassan, Chamarajanagar, Tumkur participated in the programme.
- An Awareness-Creating Training program on Farmers Rights under PPV&FR act 2001, under ICAR SC-SP Program in collaboration with Skill Development Centre, UAS-B organized by Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture, GKVK on 17 January 2025 for more than 120 farmers from in and around Doddaballapura and other gramantara Jilla Bengaluru Rural, for creating an awareness among the farmers regarding farmers' rights and privileges and rewards and recognition for their work in conservation and bringing forward the plant Genetic material for future breeding programs.
- Six-day capacity building programme on preparation of cocoon crafts from cut and waste silkworm cocoons under the theme 'Waste to Wealth', was conducted at ICAR-KVK, Chamarajanagara from 06-11 January 2025. 18 participants attended this skill programme. Distributed the training completion certificates. The trainees prepared 25 number of garlands, 04 number of photo frames, 15 number of bouquets and 15 number of vases worth ₹ 15,000 from 5 kg cut-and-waste cocoons costing ₹ 7,500.



Emphasizing on importance of local varieties and conserving bio-diversity



Skill training on Cocoon crafting, value addition to cut & waste silkworm



FUTURE PROGRAMMES

Agriculture University (AU), Kota

- University scheduled four-day Training on Administrative and Financial Management for Senior officers of Agriculture University, Kota in 2025.

Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry (Dr YSPUHF), Nauni

- Department of Plant Pathology will strengthen the medicinal mushrooms production technology.
- Department of Environmental Science will explore the possibilities of consultancies on various aspects of environmental science and develop certificate courses on environment like waste management, Environmental Impact Assessment, Climate contingency planning, etc.
- RHRSS & KVK, Tabo will organize training programmes on natural farming and other aspects of farming in cold desert and conduct research on fruits, vegetables and forestry for cold desert and set up demonstration unit of temperate grass and fodder species.

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University (MHU), Karnal

- Establishment of Mini Honey Testing Laboratory at MHU Karnal under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission.
- Development of farms at various Regional Research Centers.
- Organizing various trainings and workshops for farmers.
- Conducting research trials on horticultural crops.

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana

- Habitat analysis, distribution of major vertebrate pests and development of their management technologies.
- Study of breeding potential and vermicomposting efficacy of indigenous earthworms.
- Study of ameliorative effect of dietary components against environmental contaminants/insecticides.
- Development of plant based sustainable and ecofriendly larvical formulations for the control of mosquitoes.
- Organizing the 11th All India Conference of Linguistics and Folklore 2025 from 8-10 October 2025, on the theme *The Role of Folklore, Language and Culture in Education and Nation-Building: NEP 2020*. The conference aims to promote academic exchange on language, folklore, and cultural preservation.
- The new Dr Surjit Patar Chair is set to launch several literary initiatives. Future programs include student-focused open mics, Meet the Poet sessions, workshops, and seminars. Research will be supported by a dedicated shelf of Dr Patar's writings, while plans are underway for collaborations to promote Punjabi literature globally.
- Manuals will be revised and updated with new contents. New teaching manuals will also be prepared for new courses introduced in the current session.
- Online training on the usage of ONOS by Library Faculty.

- Lectures on ONOS to PAU faculty and PG students at all Colleges and respective departments of PAU and at all KVKs and Research Stations for maximum utilization of E-resources through this platform by Library Faculty.
- Training of Library In-charges of Regional Research Stations/KVKs for automated issue and return of books.
- Automation of Libraries of KVKs and Research Stations.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- To work on emerging zoonoses and study the epidemiology of important livestock diseases.
- To organize Student Congress on High Altitude Entomology and Innovative Agro-technologies w.e.f 28th -29th June 2025 at Patnitop/Sanasar.
- Institutionalization of M. Tech. Biotechnology from the Academic Session 2025-26.
- Establishment of SAIC/ Institute of Aqua-Culture at SKUAST-Jammu.
- Cryopreservation, semen handling and artificial insemination.
- Augmentation of fertility and control of calving interval through synchronized induction of oestrus and ovulation.
- Development of cost effective progestogen implant for estrus induction in dairy animals.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore

Department of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore, will organize an International Conference on Ornamental Horticulture (ICOH 2025) 'From Science to Society', during 26-28 June 2025 at Coimbatore.

University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru

- As part of the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, the College of Sericulture, Chintamani, is scheduled to organize a National Seminar titled *Challenges and New Horizons for Sustained Livelihood in Agriculture, Sericulture, and Allied Sciences* in August 2025.
- PG Science Week 2025: Students Symposium is tentatively scheduled in August, 2025.

NEW VICE CHANCELLORS

Banda University of Agriculture and Technology (BUAT), Banda

Prof. S.V.S. Raju

Prof. S.V.S. Raju, joined as Vice Chancellor of Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda on 13 January 2025. Before joining as Vice Chancellor of BUAT, he held various administrative positions as Director, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU, Varanasi; Professor and Head, Department of Entomology, BHU, Varanasi; and Chairman, International Centre, BHU, etc. His research specialization is in Integrated insect-pest management in agricultural crops; Biological control of insect-pests of horticultural crops; Molecular



mechanism of insecticide resistance and developing IRM strategies; Beekeeping; and Impact of climate change on severity of agricultural pest populations.

Prof. Raju is also Consulting Editor of American Bibliographical Institute, USA; Editor of *Journal of Aphidology*, Aphidological Society of India. He is a member of Management Committee, Board of Agricultural Sciences and Rural development, Nagaland Central University; Research Advisory Committee, ICAR-Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums, Ranchi; Management Committee, Kendriya Vidyalaya, BHU, Varanasi; University Task Force for Excellence in Research & Education, BHU; Advisory Board, World Bee Project, U.K.

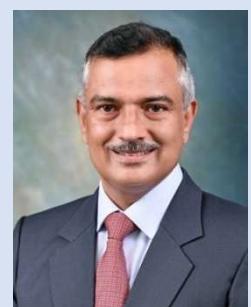
He has supervised 46 M.Sc. and 19 Ph.D. students. He has completed several extramural projects on agricultural pest management. Dr Raju published more than 120 research papers, 02- books, several book chapters and bulletins, and edited 11 books. At International level for academic and collaborative research purposes, he visited China, UK, France, USA, Singapore, Netherland, Switzerland, Australia, etc.

He received various prestigious awards like Lifetime Achievement Award-2023 conferred by Himachal Pradesh University, and Agricultural Technology Development Society, Ghaziabad; Mahima Fellow of Society Award-2022 by Mahima Research Foundation and Social Welfare, Varanasi; Outstanding Achievement Award-2021 by Jaipur National University and Agricultural Technology Development Society, Ghaziabad; T. B. Fletcher Memorial Award-2020 by Dr B. Vasantha Raj David Foundation, Chennai; Distinguished Scientist Award-2020 by Green Agri Professional Society, Jharkhand; SPS India Fellow by Society of Pesticide Science, IARI-ICAR, New Delhi; Agriculturist Achievement Award-2019 by University of Allahabad, Prayagraj; Dr Anand Prakash Award-2018 by AZRA, Odisha; Eminent Scientist Award-2018 by Agro Environmental Development Society, U.P.; Environmental Conservation Award-2017 by BRIATS, Prayagraj; Fellow of Entomological Society of India, New Delhi, etc. He also received National Award for topping in 28th SDRC, Air Force Administrative College (AFAC), Coimbatore, 2002; Best Associate NCC Officer Award-2015, 2016 and 2017 by NCC Directorate U.P.

Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU), Patna

Dr Inderjeet Singh

Dr Inderjeet Singh, a distinguished Researcher, Academician and Educational administrator assumed the charge of Vice Chancellor, Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna on 20 January 2025. Earlier he was Vice Chancellor of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana since June 2020 and also worked as Director of Animal Husbandry Department, Punjab, for over one- and a-half years after shifting to Punjab in November 2018. Prior to that Dr Singh provided his services in ICAR as Director of the Central Instituted for Research on Buffaloes, Hisar for nearly 5½ years and as Principal Scientist, and Head of Division for nearly 12 years. Apart from these education, research and development management positions, he also served as a faculty in College of Veterinary Sciences at HAU, Hisar for over 15 years.



Dr Singh did his Ph.D. in Animal Reproduction from University of Liverpool, United Kingdom as a Commonwealth Scholar sponsored by the Association of Commonwealth Universities and UGC, India. Dr Singh was decorated with Fellowships of renowned scientific academies / societies like Fellow National Academy of Veterinary Sciences; Fellow, National Academy of Dairy Sciences (India), and Fellow, Indian Society for Study of Animal Reproduction (ISSAR). Dr Singh was awarded with Distinguished Scientist Award by the ISBD and with Prof. CR Sane Oration award by the ISSAR. He

obtained international recognition as Executive Officer (Asia) - International Buffalo Federation (IBF), Member, Standing Committee of the IBF and Country Representative (India) to the IBF. He has been the President, Vice-President as well as the General Secretary of the Asian Buffalo Association during various periods. For his enormous contribution in buffalo research and development, he is popularly known as the *Murrah Man*.

He has been invited as guest / expert / lead speaker in various international scientific events in countries like the Philippines, China, Germany, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, etc. Apart from that, he also visited France, the Netherlands, USA, UAE, UK, Ireland for similar scientific pursuits. Dr Singh served on various policy making committees of the Government of India; Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Department of Biotechnology; ICAR; and State Animal Husbandry departments, Livestock Development Board(s) and universities/ICAR institutes in several states of the country for research and developmental activities.

Dr Inderjeet Singh is credited with giving a new dimension to university administration through streamlining the efficiencies and promoting transparency. This entails better work output of staff and faculty resulting into improved learning outcome of students at the same time, he geared extension and research wings of the university for forging stronger ties with the ultimate stakeholders – the farmers. Under his leadership, the University inked various inter-organizational MoUs, strengthening the industry-academia relations for promoting entrepreneurship. He has been instrumental in getting projects worth multi-crore from state government and other funding agencies to address the research and development gaps in animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries sectors across the state with modern technological interventions. His focus is on harnessing the potential of livestock and fisheries sectors as harbingers of rural prosperity through integrated farming models.

Mahatma Gandhi Udyanikee Evam Vanikee Vishwavidyalaya (MGUVV), Durg

Dr (Prof.) Ravi R. Saxena

Dr Ravi R. Saxena, Professor, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur, joined as Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Udyanikee Evam Vanikee Vishwavidyalaya (MGUVV), Durg on 22 January 2025.



P.V. Narsimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University (PVNRTVU), Hyderabad

Dr M. Gnana Prakash

Dr M. Gnana Prakash joined as Vice Chancellor of P.V. Narsimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University (PVNRTU), Hyderabad on 22 February 2025.



West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences (WBUAIFS), Kolkata, West Bengal

Dr Tirtha Kumar Datta

Dr Tirtha Kumar Datta joined as Vice Chancellor, WBUAIFS, Kolkata (West Bengal) on 22 January 2025. Dr Tirtha Kumar Datta was born in 1963 and did his B V Sc & AH from BCKV, Mohanpur in 1985 and subsequently his Masters and PhD from prestigious IVRI, Izatnagar and NDRI, Karnal, respectively. Beyond Ph.D. he had his Post Doc research at University of Laval, Canada and Michigan State University, USA. He has also served as Director, ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hisar, Haryana.

With basic training in Animal Genetics and Biotechnology, Dr Datta joined the Agricultural Research Service of ICAR in 1993. Over the period of last more than 30 years he has remained deeply involved in research, basically oriented towards reproduction genomics of farm animals and looking for new avenues and novel targets of intervention aiming augmentation of fertility and treating infertility. He pioneered work on oocytes and embryo genomics in India. Through a series of funded projects, he has worked on differential oocyte competence vis-a-vis expression of developmentally important genes, chronology of embryonic development in buffalo, unique nature of embryonic genome activation in buffalo embryos, epigenetic control mechanism of gene expression in buffalo oocyte, etc. Dr Datta also pioneered research on epigenetics of sperm DNA/Histones in relation to differential bull fertility and sperm membrane remodeling to impart artificial competence to spermatozoa enhancing their fertilizing ability.

Dr Datta received several awards, most prominent ones— Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award, Hari Om Trust award of ICAR, Chellappa Memorial oration award of ISVPT, TEDx speaker award of IIM Kashipur, Young Scientist award of ISSAR, Distinguished Scientist of ISBD, fellowship of NAVSI and NADSI, etc. Apart from his efforts in initiating high quality research he has also recognized as an outstanding teacher, and has inspired students to develop passion for academics. He mentored more than 30 Masters and Ph.D. Students who have established themselves as leaders in their own field and are engaged in leading laboratories in India, Europe and America. Dr Datta published more than 200 research papers in high impact referred journals, and delivered several invited lectures both in India and abroad.

He is a widely travelled person and has visited USA, Canada, Germany, Venezuela, Denmark, Kenya, Thailand, UAE and Nepal to name a few.



IAUA heartily congratulates the new Vice Chancellors, Prof. S.V.S. Raju, Vice Chancellor, BUAT, Banda; Dr Inderjeet Singh, BASU, Patna; Dr (Prof.) Ravi R. Saxena, Vice Chancellor, MGUVV, Durg; Dr M. Gnana Prakash, Vice Chancellor, PVNRTU, Hyderabad; and Dr Tirtha Kumar Datta, Vice Chancellor, WBUAIFS, West Bengal; and wish them a very successful and rewarding tenure.

The IAUA sincerely thanks the following outgoing (during January-March 2025) Vice Chancellors for their kind cooperation and support to the Association

**Dr S.K. Jain
Vice Chancellor
BHU, Varanasi**



**Dr V. Geethalakshmi
Vice Chancellor
TNAU, Coimbatore**



**Dr A.K. Srivastava
Vice Chancellor
DUVASU, Mathura**



OBITUARY

The Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA) is deeply grieved on the sad demise of Dr P.G. Patil, Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri and Dr J.V. Goud, first Vice Chancellor of UAS, Dharwad.

DR P. G. PATIL (26 JUNE 1970 - 29 JANUARY 2025)

Dr Prashantkumar Gulabrao Patil (26.06.1970-29.01.2025) former Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri, and former Director, ICAR-CIRCOT, Mumbai, was well-known for his honest and sincere character, with great administrative skills and heightened visionary power.

Borne in Kavathe Ekand, a small village in the Sangli district of Maharashtra, Dr Patil spent his childhood in Khanapur, Sangli district of Maharashtra alongside his brother Pravinkumar Patil, B.Tech. Agric. Engg. and two sisters Tejashri and Rajashree. Both his parents were government primary school teachers.



A bright student from an early age, Dr Patil secured the first position in the Maharashtra State Board Class X and XII examination at the district levels. Dr Patil earned his B.Tech. in Agricultural Engineering from MPKV, Rahuri (1991), followed by M.Tech. from IIT, Kharagpur (1993), and later completed his Ph.D. from VNIT, Nagpur (2007).

Dr Patil developed and commercialized 17 novel technologies on processing of cotton, by-product utilization and nano-cellulose production technology. He has a patent on DR Gin improvements to his credit. He published more than 120 research papers in reputed National and International Journals, and 4 books.

He worked as Ginning Consultant, Technology Mission on Cotton, Ministry of Textiles and has made significant contribution in modernization of cotton ginning industry in India.

He actively contributed to the development of the cotton sector in African Countries, namely, Benin, Uganda, Malawi and Tanzania. He was instrumental in establishing Ginning Knowledge Cluster in Benin under Cotton TAP for Africa Programme of Government of India. He worked with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva on development of cotton by-products sector of Eastern and Southern African countries, viz., Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Uganda. He also held the position of Chairman, Asian Cotton Research and Development Network (ACRDN) of International Cotton Advisory Committee, Washington, USA.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs Vaishali Patil, M.Tech. in Electronics Engg, and two sons, Er. Amit Patil and Mr Sumit Patil.

Dr J.V. Goud (31 March 1937 - 17 March 2025)

Dr J.V. Goud, the first Vice Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad has been a great teacher, scientist and an administrator. He was the youngest Professor and Head of the Department of Genetics and Plant breeding, and served for 13 years in that position at Dharwad campus of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. For about 7 years before this position, he served as Cytogenetist, Sorghum Breeder and Dryland Agriculture breeder in different campuses of university.



Borne in village Jigenahalli, Sandur, Bellari district, Karnataka Dr J.V. Goud was student of Bharat Ratna awardee Late Dr M. S. Swaminathan for his Ph.D. and post-doctoral studies at the Indian Institute of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, and also a favorite student of

late Dr S.W. Mensinkai, the architect of the College of Agriculture, Dharwad in 1950s. Under Dr Goud, 50 M.Sc. and 25 Ph.D. research scholars worked in Genetics and Plant breeding especially in the areas of Cytogenetics and Mutation breeding in crops like rice, wheat, sorghum, chilli, navane, ragi and sunflower. A total of 13 varieties were developed under his leadership. Over 300 research publications including 50 research papers in International Journals are some significant contributions to the scientific field in crop breeding.

His Work either untiring and efforts put UAS, Dharwad a new State Agriculture University born in 1986, a path of progress and glory. This accounts with exemplary leadership helped to UAS, Dharwad to excel in Agricultural services to farming community, and laid a strong foundation. Dr J.V. Goud is respected and remembered for his leadership and guidance to generation of Agricultural Scientist.

The IAUA mourns the death of Dr P.G. Patil and Dr J.V. Goud, and pray to the Almighty to grant heavenly peace to the departed souls and give enough strength and courage to their family members to bear this irreparable loss.