

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848125

Vice-Chancellor's Message

Well, while I am writing this message for university newsletter for the month of March, my mind took me to last year's March month when Corona pandemic hit the country with lot of misery and havoc on precious human life, their livelihood and economy. We as an organization contributed a lot in warding off not only those misery and havocs but also completed successfully our academic and research activities through use of timely action and technology.

This time again we are almost in the similar situation due to 2nd/3rd wave of Covid pandemic but I am quite optimistic that we together will fight back with our rich experiences and come out of this situation. I sincerely appeal the students and university employees to adopt Covid-19 appropriate behaviour like masking, hand sanitization, maintaining social distancing and vaccination etc. In case of any positive case found in the campus, need not be panic rather get regular medical advice and be self quarantine.

I would like to congratulate the students who have qualified GATE and other competitive examinations, got campus placement in PIE Infocomm, Lucknow. Let us pray good for everyone in this pandemic time.



Dr. R. C. Srivastava
(Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor)

Vice-Chancellor's Engagements

- Participated in webinar on "Disaster Management in Agriculture" jointly organized by National Institute of Disaster Management & RPCAU, Pusa on 01.03.2021.
- Inaugurated Games and Sports Meet of RPCAU, 2021, on 04.03.2021 and chaired its valedictory function on 06.03.2021.
- Participated in Farmers Training Programme "Under Biotech Kisan Hub" at KVK, Khodawantpur, Begusarai in which Sri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister Animal Husbandry, Fisheries & Dairying, Govt of India was Chief Guest on 06.03.2021
- Participated in AAdya Samman organized by Zee-Bihar Jharkhand at Mourya Hotel, Patna on 07.03.2021.
- Participated in International Woman's Day organized by College of community Sciences in Vidyapati Auditorium, of RPCAU, Pusa on 08.03.2021 and also attended a video conferencing programme organized on this occasion by ICAR Hqtrs on "Woman Leadership in Agriculture: Entrepreneurship, Equity and Empowerment".
- Chaired the "Wheat Field Day" meeting at RPCAU, Pusa on 09.03.2021.
- Participated in the Field Day at Bariya Dhab, RPCAU, Pusa on 09.03.2021.
- Witnessed the MoU Signing Ceremony with NAV Ganga Pvt. Ltd. For silage in the Conference Hall of Directorate of Research on 12.03.2021.
- Inaugurated COVID-19 Vaccination drive at University Hospital, Pusa on 12.03.2021.
- Joined MoU Signing Ceremony with ICAR-IIWBR regarding Farmers Breeding Rights on 12.03.2021.
- Inaugurated "Farmers Awareness Programme on Promotion of Latest Varieties & Quality Seed Production of Wheat" as Chief Guest at RPCAU on 12.03.2021.
- Reviewed the Progress of the e-governance Project (Demonstration of the Developed Academic Management Module) on 15.03.2021.
- Inaugurated 5 days Farmers Training Programme on "Improved Technology for Sugarcane Cultivation" at SRI, Pusa on 16.03.2021.
- Chaired "Field Day on Crop Cultivation" through solar based boat mounted irrigation system at Piar dhab, Muzaffarpur on 17.03.2021.
- Participated in Inaugural Session of National webinar on "Sustainable Livelihood and Nutritional Security under Changing Climate in the North Western Himalayan Region: Issues, Strategies and Challenges on 19.03.2021.



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- Participated in Kisan Mela at KVK, Parsauni, East Champaran on 20.03.2021.
- Inaugurated Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela as Chief Guest at TCA, Dholi campus organized by AICRP on FIM&PHET of CAE, Pusa on 21.03.2021.
- Delivered a guest lecture on "Water for all" during webinar organized by ICAR- Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar on 22.03.2021.
- Delivered special lecture on World Water Day "New Paradigms in Water Management with Special Reference to IFS and organic farming" organized by ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram, Meerut on 22.03.2021.
- Participated in plenary session on "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Water Resources" and delivered keynote address during National Web-seminar on "Natural Resource Conservation and Management." organized by ICAR-CSSRI, RRS-Lucknow on 22.03.2021.
- Inaugurated the World Water Day jointly organized by College of Agricultural Engineering and ISAE (Bihar Chapter), Pusa 22.03.2021.
- Contributed in Vice-Chancellor's Conference regarding implementation of National Education Policy – 2020 and issues related to admission of students through AIEEA on 24.03.2021.
- Inaugurated workshop of "On Farm Trials- Horticulture disciplines" from different KVKs in Panchtantra hall on 25.03.2021.
- Participated as Chief Guest in the Field day on Climate Smart Agriculture at Birshingpur near Kalyanpur on 25.03.2021.
- Participated in the Executive Committee Meeting of Indian Agricultural Universities Association on 30.03.2021.
- Chaired a meeting of committee to decide on eligibility of B. Tech. (Biotechnology) for admission to various PG courses on 16-03-2021.



Education & Educational Activities



➤ ELP on Mushroom Production

In the ELP on Mushroom Production students demonstrated 'Low-cost substrate (Bhusa) sterilizer machine' for mushroom production during Technology Demonstration on 20th March 2021 at TCA, Dholi.

➤ Interaction meeting of students of CAE with Dean

Interaction meeting of first-and-third-year students with Dean CAE was held on 24th March 2021. While interacting

individually with each student Dean sought their feedback on progress of courses and preparedness of mid-term exam. In this meeting HoDs, Officer In-charge academic cell and other faculties were also present.

➤ CAE celebrated Fresher's Party

The College of Agricultural Engineering (CAE) organized a Fresher's Party on 2nd March, 2021 for newly admitted UG and PG students in 2020-21. Dr. M. N. Jha, Director of Education, was the Chief Guest of the function. On this occasion Dr Ambrish Kumar, Dean, CAE, Dr S. R. Chowdhury, Dean (Basic Science), Warden (Boy's Hostel, RPCAU), HODs and faculties of CAE congratulated the students on being part of CAE family and motivated them to excel in their studies and extra-curricular activities.

➤ Performance of CAE students

Thirteen students of CAE, Pusa cracked the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) -2021 in the discipline of Agricultural Engineering with All India 7th Rank by Mr. Shivam Kumar of 2017-18 batch of B.Tech. (Agril. Engg.) and rest 7 students ranked in top 100 position. Mr. Saurav Kumar, Ph.D. student and two alumni of the college cracked UPPSC. One alumnus got job in FCI while one final-year student got selected in IRMA for PG programme.



Research

➤ Memorandum of Agreement signed with ICAR- Indian Institute of Wheat & Barley Research, Karnal

RPCAU, Pusa and ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat & Barley Research signed the Memorandum of Agreement to foster the Breeding Rights of Wheat and Barley Varieties of ICAR-IIWBR namely DBW 187, DBW 252, DBW 107 and DWRB 137 in presence of Hon'ble Vice and the Director, ICAR-IIWBR Karnal, PI, Crop Improvement and the Nodal Officer (Seed) ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal on the 12th of March, 2021.



➤ Farmers' Awareness Program and Field Visit

One day farmers' awareness program on promotion of latest varieties and quality seed production in wheat was organized in collaboration with ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor in presence of Director, ICAR-IIWBR, National PI, Crop Improvement in wheat and Director Seed and Farm, RPCAU, Pusa and other delegates participated in the program. The director and other delegates from the ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal visited the experimental plots of ICAR-AICRP on Wheat and Barley at RPCAU, Pusa.



➤ Technology & Machinery Demonstration Mela Organized

Technology & Machinery Demonstration Mela was organized at TCA, Dholi on 21st March, 2021. The organizers were ICAR-AICRP on FIM and ICAR-AICRP on PHET, College of Agricultural Engineering, Pusa. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. Deans, Directors and other key officials along with the farmers graced the occasion.



➤ New Technology for Banana and Papaya released in Annual Group Discussion of ICAR-AICRP on Fruits

The scientists of ICAR-AICRP on Fruits, RPCAU, Pusa center participated in the 8th Annual Group Discussion organized from the 3rd to 6th of March, 2021 in virtual mode. In the meeting, two technologies viz., large scale production of banana and efficient input use technology in papaya has been recommended to be released for the agroclimatic condition of Bihar by the ICAR-AICRP on Fruits centre, RPCAU, Pusa



➤ Zonal Research & Extension Advisory Committee Kharif (ZREAC-Kharif) meeting for the Zone- 1 of Bihar organized

The meeting was organized on the 26th of March 2021. The event was inaugurated by the Dean, TCA. Various important agenda were discussed and targets were set for further action. All the Deans and Directors along with the scientists of the university, SMSs of different KVKs, Govt. Representatives and progressive farmers were participated in the meeting.



➤ National Level Monitoring Team Visit of the ICAR-AICRP on Rapeseed-Mustard

National level monitoring team visited the ICAR-AICRP on Rapeseed- Mustard trials being conducted at TCA, Dholi on the 19th of March, 2021. The team leader Dr. S. S. Rathore, Principal Scientist, Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi appreciated the on-going research activities at the Dholi center. All the associated scientist were present.



➤ Field Days Organized for Horticultural Crops

The Department of Horticulture, PG College of Agriculture organized two separate field days. The former was Cucurbits Field Day in the Dhab area of the river *Budhi Gandak* and the later one at the Hi-Tech Horticulture Centre on the 9th and 18th of March 2021, respectively. Hon'ble Vice chancellor along with the Director of Research graced the occasion. The associated scientists and post-graduate students demonstrated the work done by the respective units. The cucurbits field day was unique of its kind demonstrating various aspects of growing different cucurbitaceous crops in riverbed with solar based boat operated gravitational drip irrigation system.



➤ Wheat Field Day Organized

Wheat field day was organized by the ICAR-AICRP on Wheat and Barley on the 9th of March, 2021. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice chancellor in presence of other university officials. The associated scientists demonstrated the on-going research activities under the project.



Extension Activities

➤ Field Day organized in Climate Smart Agriculture

A field day on "Zero tillage sown wheat" and "Raised bed planted maize" was organized on 25.03.2021 at Birsinghpur village of Samastipur under "Scaling up climate smart agriculture through mainstreaming climate smart villages in Bihar" in which more than 300 farmers participated. The programme was chaired by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and graced by Director Research, Dean PGCA, Dean CAE and Associate Director Research of the University. Inauguration of Community Irrigation System was also done on the occasion for assured irrigation of the farming community. Speaking on the occasion, Honourable Vice-Chancellor said that agriculture productivity of Bihar can be enhanced through assured irrigation and 3-hp single phase submersible tube well.



➤ Custom Hiring Center: A big initiative under Climate Resilient Agriculture Programme

Climate Resiliency depends to a great extent on timely agricultural operations but due to lack of farm implements, sowing and harvesting operations are delayed and crops are damaged by several climatic stresses. It is also not feasible for all the farmers to have their own farm implements due to poor economic status and small land holdings. For meeting this demand, Custom Hiring Centers have been established by RPCAU Pusa in all the KVKs from where farmers can hire different farm implements of their choice at customized rates. The launching of the Custom Hiring Centers was done by Honourable Vice-Chancellor on 19.03.2021 with provision of Tractors, Laser land levelers, Multi-crop Planters and several others farm implements to all the KVKs of University.



➤ KVK Bhagwanpur Hat, Siwan organized Kishan Gosthi and Field Day Programme

KVK Bhagwanpur Hat, Siwan organized Kishan Gosthi Programme on 28 March, 2021 on topic of zero tillage sowing of green gram and a field day on mustard cropping in which more than 130 farmers and farm women participated.



➤ CRA Programme Progressive Farmer awarded on Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Divas



Sri Indranand Pandey, a progressive farmer of CRA Program of Sukhet Panchayat under KVK-Sukhet, district –Madhubani is awarded for his excellent work in Climate Resilient Agriculture Programme at BAMETI, Patna by Mr Sravan Kumar (Agriculture Secretary, Bihar Govt.) in presence of Director Agriculture, Director Horticulture, Principal Secretary (Rural Development) of Bihar Government during Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Divas on 1st March, 2021.

➤ World Water Day Celebrated

World Water Day was celebrated at RPCAU, Pusa and its KVK Campuses viz. KVK Begusarai, Saran, Sheohar, Piprakothi, Saraiya and others in collaboration with NGOs. Scientists of KVKs and RPCAU Campus organized some noteworthy awareness programme and highlighted the importance of water conservation.



➤ Collaborative webinar on “Disaster Management in Agriculture” by NIDM and CASCC

A collaborative webinar on “Disaster Management in Agriculture” was jointly organized by National Institute of Disaster Management and Center for Advance Studies on Climate Change, RPCAU Pusa on 01/03/2021. The programme was jointly



inaugurated by the Dr. Ramesh Chandra Srivastava, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and Major General Mr. Manoj Kumar Bindal, Executive Director of National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi. The key speakers were Dr. V. S. Prakash, Former Director, Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, Bangalore and Dr. Ratnesh Kumar Jha, Project Director, Centre for Advance Studies on Climate Change, RPCAU Pusa. The Valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Mithilesh Kumar, Director Research RPCAU Pusa



➤ 192 Travelling Seminar and Exposure Visits under CRA Programme in March

Climate Resilient Agriculture Programme conducts Travelling Seminar with Exposure visits from time to time for the farmers from non-CRA villages to CRA villages to get the opportunity to know about the technologies and interventions under CRA Programme. During March, 2021 around 192 exposure visit/ travelling seminars were conducted by the 14 KVKs in undergoing CRA Programme, under CASCC, RPCAU. Around 14,523 farmers and 2500 farmwomen got benefitted from the visits. This shows high rate of adoption and popularization of technology of CRA Programme amongst the members of the farmers.



➤ Farmers –Scientists Meet & Kishan Mela at KVK, Saran

Scientist from KVK-Saran participated and delivered lecture in Farmers Scientist meet organized by ATMA, Saran in different villages of Saran district on 26th and 27th March 2021. KVK Saran demonstrated recent climate resilient technology in Kisan mela organized by ATMA, Saran from 19-20th March, 2021.



➤ **Members from NITI Aayog interacted with the farmers and Scientists regarding CRA Programme**

Members from NITI Aayog interacted with the farmers and Scientists of KVK, Begusarai for popularization of technologies selected under CRA programme on 10.03.2021. CRA Programme under Jal Jeevan Hariyali started for the Rabi season 2020-21 at KVK Begusarai with nine interventions i.e., intercropping of maize with potato, raised bed planting (Maize), zero tillage of wheat, raised bed planting (Wheat), zero tillage lentil, raised bed planting mustard, nutrient expert, green seeker based nutrient management, INM, community irrigation, subsurface irrigation system, Potato based farming system. Another farmers' discussion programme was also organized at KVK premises on 06.03.2021, where more than 400 farmers participated.



➤ **Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela at CAE, Dholi**

Technology and Machinery Demonstration mela was organized on 21st March 2021 by ICAR-AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery, College of Agricultural Engineering, Dholi campus. More than 325 farmers from Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and Vaishali districts participated in it and 27 farm machinery and manufacturers of implements demonstrated their farm machines of various ranges/operations.



➤ **Training programme on Bee Keeping and Nursery Preparation by KVK, Saraiya**

KVK, Saraiya organized two training programme each of seven days duration on "Bee Keeping" wherein 25 farmers benefited in each training, sponsored by National Bee Board, scheduled between 9th - 15th March & 18th - 24th March, 2021 along with one online training of three days duration scheduled during 26th - 28th March, 2021. Another training programme, under SCSP Programme for three days duration on horticulture based small nursery production was also organized during 15th - 17th March, 2021 in which 20 rural youths participated and got benefited.



➤ **Training Programme on maize and spices production at TCA, Dholi**

A Training Programme on "Scientific Methods of Maize Production" was organized by AICRP, Maize at Conference Room of TCA, Dholi during 25th - 27th March, 2021. Fifty farmers from Muzaffarpur district were participated as trainees in this programme. Another event of Farmer's Training Programme on Spices Production Technology was also organized from 22-25th March, 2021 for fifty farmers under centrally sponsored scheme of Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Development, Calicut, Kerala (Govt. of India).



Awards, Sports, Important Days etc.

- Univesristy organised annual "Inter College Athlelets & Sports Meet 2021" at Sport Complex ,RPCAU Pusa during 4-6th March 2021 whereing students from different colleges of the university participated in various competitions and won prizes. Students from TCA, Dholi bagged 07 Gold, 09 Silver and 03 Bronze in Field & Track events and Runners in Badminton and Table Tannis (Women Category).



➤ **Dr. Neeraj Kumar**, Associated Professor, Department of Entomology, TCA, Dholi attended National Seminar on Beekeeping at BUAT, Banda on 23 & 24 March, 2021 and **chaired Technical Session IV** and **delivered two lead lectures** in the National Seminar.



- **Dr Ratnseh Kumar Jha**, Project Director, Centre for Advanced Studies on Climate Change, RPCAU, Pusa was awarded with the "**Scientist of the Year Award**" in recognition of his novelty, valuable contributions and achievements in field of research and extension during two days national conference on 'Doubling Farmers' Income for Sustainable and Harmonious Agriculture (DISHA-2021)' on 13th to 14th March at Dhanbad, Jharkhand.

