

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

Vice-Chancellor's Message

The month of April has been very turbulent and trying time in view of second wave of Covid 19 pandemic. But it is my firm believe that trying times bring out our best abilities to endure, prevail and emerge stronger, kind and wiser. And I am happy that our team has proved it by sufficiently controlling the spreading of Covid-19 virus in the Campus with their hard work and dedication. Now People in the campus need to be very alert and should follow the Covid-19 protocol strictly such as masking, social distancing and washing the hands regularly. I urge the employees to extend the possible help to their members of society and all needy persons. Let us put up our efforts in continuing the teaching learning process through virtual mode. It's a matter of great satisfaction that our faculty members are maintaining the research progress with safety and precaution. I pray God for the good health of all my students, faculties and their family members in current pandemic times.



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

Vice-Chancellor's Engagements

- Inaugurated Mass Vaccination programme in the campus by having 1st dose of vaccine.
- Participated in steering committee meeting of climate resilient agriculture on 07/04/2021.
- Participated in the Golden AIM Conference & Awards for Excellence & Leadership in Education on 08.04.2021.
- Participated in the Six-monthly Review meeting of the XXV Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. II through video conferencing on 12.04.2021.
- Attended the inaugural session of 95th Annual Meet and National Seminar of Vice-Chancellors (AIU) on Implementing NEP-2020 to transform Higher Education in India through virtual mode on 14.04.2021.
- Attended the meeting regarding Technical Collaboration with IRRI and CIP on 16.04.2021.
- Attended the Hybrid meeting "Remembering Prof. V. L. Chopra, organized by NAAS by virtual mode on 18.04.2021.
- Chaired the 3rd Education Council meeting of RPCAU on virtual mode on 19.04.2021.
- Attended the condolence meeting in memory of Dr. M. L. Chaudhary, Former Vice-Chancellor of RAU, Pusa and other colleagues on 19.04.2021.
- Chaired the meeting regarding enhancement of seed potato availability through Apical Rooted Cutting (ARC) Technology on 22.04.2021.
- Participated in the ICAR-NRRI Platinum Jubilee Foundation Day Celebration (Jubilee National Seminar on "Way Forward for Rice Research & Development in India) through video conferencing on 23.04.2021.
- Participated in the first meeting of Bihar State Organic Mission, under Department of Agriculture through video conferencing on 26.04.2021.
- Chaired the Review meeting of KVKs of RPCAU through video conferencing on 27.04.2021.
- Chaired a meeting to discuss to establish a system for maintenance of solar energy in KVKs and CRA Project through video conferencing on 28.04.2021



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Chief Patron:

Dr. R. C. Srivastava
Vice-Chancellor

Compiled & edited by:

(Drs.) R. M. Sharma,
R. K. Jha
P. K. Pranav
A. Jamwal
A. K. Panda
G. Trivedi

Tech. Asstt.:
Manish Kumar

Published by:

Publication Division,
RPCAU, Pusa.

Contact:

www.rpcau.ac.in

publicationdivision@rpcau.ac.in

➤ **RPCAU, Pusa switches to online classes due to Corona Pandemic:**

All the campuses under RPCAU, Pusa have switched to online classes

due to the infestation of 2nd wave of Covid-19 pandemic. Course Instructors and faculties of RPCAU, Pusa, College of Basic Sciences, College of Community Sciences, College of Fisheries, Dholi, College of TCA, Dholi etc. are using the online teaching platforms like google meet, zoom, webex, etc. for doubt clearing and teaching sessions. The classes are being conducted through smart classrooms equipped with smart podium and connected with webcam and wifi.



➤ **CAE Students bagged First prize in A-HACK 2021 BAU AGRI-HACKATHON**

CAE M. Tech (FMPE) students Ms. Apoorva Sharma, Mr. Ravi Kumar Sahoo and Mentor Dr. P. K.

Pranav came off with flying colours as they bagged first prize in A-Hack, 2021, BAU Agri-Hackthon organized by Bihar Agriculture University, Sabour, Bhagalpur, Bihar. They represented RPCAU, Pusa as a team of "Fruit Harvesting Crew" and presented on the topic "Development of guava harvester with Auto-maturity detection using image processing and sensor" under thematic area "Technology ideas to improve agricultural production and productivity"



➤ **Lecture at CAE Pusa Alumni Association Lecture Series**

A motivational lecture was delivered by Er. Jyoti Prasad, CAE Alumni (Batch -1997) on "Let's Engage, Explore, Exploit and Expand" under the Alumni Lecture Series program hosted by CAE on 30th April, 2021. She is a noted alumnus of CAE, Pusa and Co-Founder to Reti Uno Technologies and presently Group Manager, HCL Technologies, Bangalore. Dr. P. K. Pranav, Assoc Professor coordinated the program and all the faculties along with students joined the talk.



➤ **The students of Tirhut College of Agriculture – RPCAU, Dholi produced 27.75 Kg of raw drumstick honey and 216 Kg of raw litchi honey as a part of their experiential learning programme. The honey after processing and packaging is available for sale at TCA Dholi @ Rs.350/kg in one and half kg pack.**



➤ Conducted Frontline Demonstrations at Farmers Field

Under the ICAR-AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery, Reaper-cum-binder machine was demonstrated at farmer's field in three different villages i.e. Madanpur, Parna and Harpur of Kalyanpur block. About 6.1 ha crop area were harvested by Reaper-cum-binder and a total of 50 farmers including 10 farm women of 3 villages participated in this demonstration.



➤ New Research Project sanctioned under ELP on Honey Bee at TCA, Dholi:

A new research project entitled 'Effects of bee pollination on oilseeds and horticultural crops' has been sanctioned by National Bee Board New Delhi with a budgetary provision of Rs. 21.17 lacks for 2021-24. Dr. Neeraj Kumar, Assoc. Prof. Entomology is the PI of the project and Sri G.S. Giri, Asstt. Prof. Entomology is the Co-PI of the project.

➤ Workshop on "Drone: A modern tool for sustainable agriculture"

Dr. Ambrish Kumar, Dean CAE, RPCAU delivered lecture in workshop on "Drone - A Modern tool for Sustainable Agriculture" organized by Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee on 16th April, 2021. He elaborated the importance and need of modern tools like drone, robotics etc. for sustainable agriculture. He also discussed various points on using drone technology in the agriculture, its Scope & Opportunities, Precision Agriculture, Field layout & mapping, Spray application, LOCUST Control, Way Forward & Challenges in Indian Agriculture. More than 150 academicians, researchers, agricultural officers, leading farmers and students joined the online workshop.



Extension

➤ System intensification through green gram in CRA Programme

System intensification was done through sowing of green gram (Var. IPM -02-14) in about 3000 acres of land in the farmers' field by the KVKs after on time harvesting of wheat under CRA Program. The timely harvesting of wheat gave space for green gram as third crop in the cropping system that can be green manured in the soil before transplanting of paddy after 2-3 plucking. Thus, the farmers could get an additional crop with 300% cropping intensity apart from additional benefits of green manuring.



➤ Community Irrigation proved a boon to the farmers

Seventeen four inches tube wells fitted with 3-hp single phase submersible pumps were installed in 17 adopted villages under community irrigation of Climate Resilient Agriculture Programme in Kharif 2020, each having a command area of 15-20 acres. In Kharif season Rajendra Mahsuri-1 was sown on 20th – 25th May in nursery and transplanted between 11th to 20th June. The crop was harvested in the last week of October giving an overall productivity of 5.2 t/ha. Then HD-2967 variety of wheat was sown in the first fortnight of November and harvested in the first week of April with an average productivity of 4.9 t/ha. Timely sowing of both rice and wheat under assured irrigation could brought a radical change in the system productivity with Rice Equivalent Yield of 10.1 t/ha.

➤ Virtual Training of the farmers by KVKs of RPCAU Pusa

Seeing the spread of Corona pandemic in Bihar and visualizing the impacts of complete lockdown on future agricultural challenges, the KVKs of Dr. RPCAU Pusa have started virtual training to the farmers on different topics like Laser leveling, System Intensification through green gram, Operationalization of Custom Hiring Center, Benefits of timely sowing of rice under assured irrigation and many more. Farmers are taking keen interest in such virtual trainings and learning different technologies from the scientists and experts.

➤ ICAR Lecture Series and Virtual Meeting at College of Fisheries, Dholi

Dean, Scientists and M.F.Sc. students of College of Fisheries, Dholi participated in ICAR lecture series entitled "Aquaculture: Avenue for Assuring FISH" delivered by Deputy Director General, ICAR, Dr. Joykrushna Jena on 16th April, 2021 in Virtual mode.

Dean and all the scientist of COF, Dholi participated in discussion on "Effective Use of Google Classroom, Google Breakup, Google Meet attendance Tracking etc" in virtual mode on 27th April, 2021.



Award, Sports & other activities:

Fighting Covid-19 at RPCAU- A Team Effort

To Contain the spread of Covid-19 strict control measure viz. sealing university gate, restriction on employees movement from town, sending pregnant ladies and challenged employees on leave were adopted besides following steps: -

1. Mass level RT-PCR & Antigen Test were arranged in the campus for students, employees and their family members, labourers in the University hospital, PHC, CHC in University campus.



2. Mass level immunization/vaccination programme was organized for University employees and their family members who were more than 45 years of age with help of district medical authorities.
3. Employees travelling from Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and other nearby cities, towns were strictly prohibited to attend the office in view of outbreak of Covid in their areas.
4. Differently disabled and pregnant women employees were advised to proceed on leave.
5. Mass level sanitization of classroom, Administrative buildings, library and other point of contacts were done.
6. Staggering of staffs and partial closure of different academic units were implemented.
7. Strict vigilance and adherence of Covid appropriate behavior ensured by enforcing ID based, negative RT-PCR, Antigen report basis entry in the campus.
8. Staffs/students suspected of Covid infection were immediately admitted in University hospital for complete treatment and recovery in isolation.
9. University employees and their family members were advised to not leave the campus unless and until there is any kind of emergency that too with proper permission of their controlling officers.
10. All gates of University entry were closed, only one gate was open with police surveillance to ensure the strict adherence of Covid protocols.

