



Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University

Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848 125

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FROM THE DESK OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present to you the University e-newsletter for March 2024. This month has been filled with notable accomplishments and advancements across various aspects of our university's mission. February has been a month filled with remarkable endeavours and significant milestones. Our dedicated faculty, staff, and students have continued to excel in various domains, furthering university's mission of academic excellence, research innovation, and societal impact.

We all know that Entrepreneurship refers to the process of identifying, creating, and pursuing opportunities to develop innovative solutions, products and services that address market needs. Entrepreneurs are individuals who take on the risk and responsibility of starting and managing a new business venture, often with the aim of achieving financial success and creating value for society. As per the ancient Indian scripture, the Mahabharata उद्यमेन हि सिध्यन्ति कार्याणि न मनोरथैः । न हि सुप्तस्य सिंहस्य प्रविशन्ति मुखे मृगाः ॥ which translates that deeds are accomplished through effort, not merely by wishing. Recognizing the significance of entrepreneurship skills, our E-Cell team from CAET, the Dynamic Innovators, achieved a remarkable feat by securing the 2nd rank (1st runner-up) in the Advanced track of the National Entrepreneurship Challenge Programme organized by E-Cell, IIT Mumbai from February 2nd to 5th, 2024. Their outstanding performance earned them a cash prize of Rs. 70,000/- (Seventy thousand rupees), highlighting their notable achievement in this prestigious competition hosted by E-Cell, IIT Mumbai.

I am extremely pleased to share that our university has successfully hosted two major farmer fairs, one at the Pusa Campus and another at the Piprakothi campus. This success reflects our meticulous planning, precise execution, and excellent organizational capacity. Three-day Farmers Fair on the theme "खाद्य सुरक्षा से पोषण सुरक्षा की ओर" attracted large number of Farmer's from different parts of the country (more than seven thousand five hundred) and 174 stalls from different Government and private organizations working in agriculture sector. ICAR Research institutes, Agricultural universities from various parts of the country along with many private organizations participated and displayed their innovative technologies and Products. This important farmer fair was inaugurated by Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Honourable Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister of the Bihar Government, with visionary words. Distinguished guests at the event included Shri Ram Nath Thakur, Honourable Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Dr. Tarun Kumar, Member of Bihar Legislative Council, Samastipur; Shri Virendra Kumar, Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly, Rosera; Shri Sudhanshu Shekhar Das, Regional Manager, PNB, Circle Office, Patna; Padma Shri Rajkumari Devi popularly known as Kisan Chachi, and other esteemed dignitaries.

In one of the another successful event of the university a three-day " आत्मनिर्भर कृषि सह बागवानी विस्तार एवं पशुधन कल्याण मेला-2024" was inaugurated virtually at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Piprakothi by Honourable Member of Parliament and former Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, along with Dr. Neelam Patel, Senior Advisor (Agriculture), NITI Aayog.

Accomplishing all these events successfully was undoubtedly a challenging task, especially within a limited time frame. However, our faculty and staff members not only collaborated seamlessly but also went above and beyond their regular call of duties to ensure the events' success. I thank them all for their untiring effort.



(Dr. P. S. Pandey)

EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The month of February witnessed the activities of formal and informal education emanated from preparation of different prototypes, models, educative videos, charts, and graphs by the students under the supervision of their faculty mentors to showcase the university developed technological innovation, products, and services in Kisan Mela 2024. This exercise not only sharpen the intellectual capabilities of students but also their organizing capacity of academic and extension experiences with communication skills.

This whole exercise provides opportunity to students to learn the lab to land and vice versa concepts togetherwith practical experiences and insights for researchable issues. In addition to students and faculties participating farmers also got benefitted by different educational videos, models, stalls organized in Kisan Mela 2024 depicting University developed technologies products and services togetherwith persoanl interaction with scientists and students.

➤ **Dr. U.K. Behera, Director Education, RPCAU, Pusa** visited TCA, Dholi campus on 8th February 2024 and interacted with faculties and students. Dr. Behera was happy to see the academic and research activities of the college and also gave his valuable suggestions.



➤ **All India Educational Tour was organised for students of B. Sc. (Hons) Ag. Batch 2021-25 of Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi** from 10-02-2024 to 16-02-2024. The students visited the research farms, experimental trials, laboratories, library, museum, and many other different facilities at GBPUA&T, Pantnagar, ICAR-IISWC and FRI, Dehradun. The students also interacted with the scientists and students of the campus during their visit.

➤ **CAET E-cell runner up in E-summit 2024** : Students of E-Cell, College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, RPCAU Pusa has secured 2nd position with Rs 70000/- cash in

all India E-Summit contest organised under National Entrepreneurship Challenge (NEC) at IIT, Mumbai from 2nd to 4th February 2024. 900 colleges from entire country participated in the Advance Track Contest. CAET Pusa got direct entry in Advance Track contest on the basis of last year's best performance in Basic Track Contest. 1500 colleges participated in both Basic and Advance Track contest this year. Dean, CAET celebrated the extraordinary performance at the college and appreciated this remarkable achievement of E-Cell with CAET students, faculty and staff.



➤ **College of Community Science, Pusa, Samastipur, organised four (04) days Educational Tour** for the students of 5th semester, B.Sc. (Hons.) Community Science of Batch 2021-25 from 14.2.2024 to 17.02.2024. During the Educational Tour the students got opportunity to visit various academic and research institutes like Weavers Service Centre, Varanasi, Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, Varanasi and Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi.

➤ **Campus placement of UG and PG students** Placement Cell, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa is continuously conducting campus placement of UG and PG students passing out of the university in the year 2024.



During February 2024, the placement cell invited a total of 06 companies for campus placement. In which M/s Mother Dairy, New Delhi, Jeevika, Patna, Pradan, Noida, Satya Micro Capital, New Delhi, Rallis India Pvt. Ltd. and TAFE, Chennai are included. These companies have selected a total of 27 students from different college of the university. The students who got placements included 05 from B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering), 03 from B.Sc (Agriculture), 02 from B.F.Sc (Fisheries), 14 from M.B.A. (Agri-Business) and 03 from M.B.A. (Rural Management) students.

Expressing his happiness with the placement of all these students, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University, expressed his best wishes and blessings to the selected students.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

➤ **Delegates from CIMMYT, Mexico visited RPCAU, Pusa,** Dr. Velu Govindan, Wheat Breeder, CIMMYT and Dr. Keith Gardner, Geneticist, CIMMYT, Mexico visited wheat experimental plots of RPCAU, Pusa. The visitors interacted with the researchers and student research scholars engaged in wheat research programme of the University. The visitors discussed the ongoing wheat research programme and possible avenues of collaborative research between CIMMYT and the University in presence of the Dean, PG College of Agriculture, RPCAU, Pusa.



➤ **Spice Buyer-Seller Meeting Organised at TCA, Dholi,** ICAR-AICRP on Spices, TCA, Dholi in collaboration with Spices Board, Kochi, Kerala, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India organized an one-day Spices Buyer-Seller Meeting on 29.02.2024 at TCA, Dholi. The meeting was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa. On this occasion, Sri B.N.Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board, Koch, Kerala along with the Director Research, RPCAU, Pusa and Dean, TCA, Dholi, RPCAU graced the event. In this meeting, 05 importers from Nepal, 30 spices exporters, 150 turmeric growers and 35 scientists participated. Hon'ble Vice

Chancellor assured full support and commitment of the university for establishing Bihar as an leader in spices export in his inauguration statement.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

➤ **Kisan Mela 2024**



Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa successfully organized three days Kisan Mela-2024 “Moving towards Nutritional Security from Food Security” during 24 to 26 February 2024 in a grand manner. It was inaugurated by Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister, Govt. of Bihar, accompanied by Shri Ramnath Thakur, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha, Dr. P. S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa, Shri Sudhanshu Sekhar Das, Manager, PNB Zonal Office. Participants from various ICAR Institutes, State Universities & other Institutes like NABARD, PNB, BISA, CSSISA and others have participated in the Kisan Mela and showcased their technologies. On 2nd & 3rd day of Kisan Mela, Shri Maheshwar Hajari, Hon'ble member of Bihar Legislative Assembly and Shri Dinesh Chandra Rai Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, BR Ambedkar University, Muzaffarpur were the Chief Guests, respectively. More than



7000 farmers participated in Kisan Mela. Apart from the dignitaries, hundreds of farmers, students and other stakeholders from across the state have attended the Kisan Mela. In this occasion a total of 180 Stalls were available for the display of agriculture and allied technologies, farm implements and tools, quality planting materials & seeds, pesticides & chemicals by different institutes of RPCAU, Pusa, ICAR & other organizations.

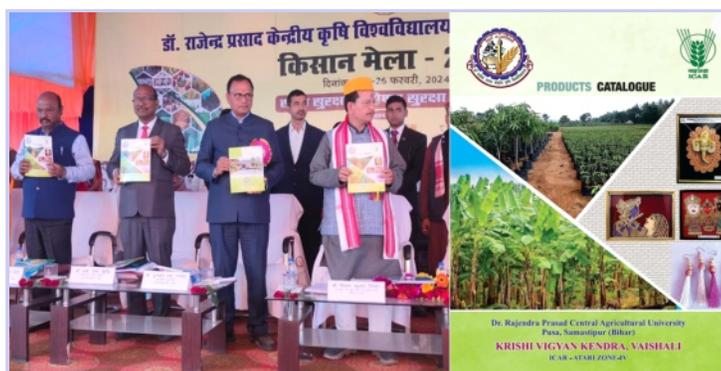
➤ **Atma Nirbhar Krishi Sah Bagbhani Vistar Evam Pashudhan Kalyan Mela-2024** Inauguration of three days "Atma nirbhar Krishi sah Bagbhani Vistar evam Pashudhan Kalyan Mela-2024" was successfully commenced at KVK Piprakothi with virtual presence of Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Motihari and Ex-Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI and with gracious presence of Dr. Neelam Patel, Senior Advisor(Agriculture), NITI Aayog, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa, Dr. P. S. Pandey, Dr. Lal Babu Gupta ji, Deputy Mayor, Motihari, Shri Ganesh Paswan, DPM, Jeevika, Director of Extension, Dr. M S Kundu and respected Directors and Deans, RPCAU, Pusa. All the dignitaries bestowed profound encouragement with kind words and addressed the event. FSSAI licensed value-added products were launched adding one more feather to the colourful milestone of the KVK and two books entitled "Safalta ki Kahani Kisano ki Jubani" and "Unnat Takniki and Atma Nirvar Krishi" was released in the inaugural ceremony of the mela by the dignitaries.



➤ **KVK Sukhet: Conducted 5 days Rural Youth Training programme** at Maran Toal village, Rakhwari, (Madubani) during 19th – 23rd February 2024 and one day Krishak Gosthi programme at KVK Sukhet on “Natural Farming”. Total of 25 trainees have participated in 5 days Rural Youth Training programme and 118 farmers have participated the one day Krishak Gosthi programme. The participants of both the events have received complete information related to natural farming practices as well as different plant management practices like preparation and use of Beejaamrit, Ghanamrit, Neeamastra, Baramhastra etc. Likewise, in collaboration with Dept. of Plant Pathology, RPCAU, Pusa, under TSP (Tribal and Schedule Caste Programme). KVK Sukhet conducted Off Campus Awareness cum Training Programme in Pachmaniya village (Madhubani) on the topic “Management of Plant Parasitic nematode”. A total of 100 (Male-10; Female- 90) farmer from ST community have participated in the awareness programme.



➤ **KVK Vaishali: an Extension bulletin (Product catalogue)** prepared by KVK Vaishali team, was released by Hon'ble Deputy CM and Agriculture Minister, Govt of Bihar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, PUSA along with other higher officials and dignitaries on the occasion of inaugural session of Kisan Mela-2024 at RPCAU, Pusa on 24.02.2024



➤ **CAET participated in Agro-Bihar Mela-2024**
Dean, CAET and faculty members of CAET participated in Agro-Bihar Mela from 8-11 Feb, 2024. In the Agro-Bihar Mela Dean, CAET, submitted viewpoints for establishing a new Directorate of Agril Engg in Dept of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture (GoB). Hon' ble Secretary Agriculture, GoB listened

the points and also expressed his concerns on role and capability of Agril engineers. Dr Amrish Kumar and other faculties of CAET participated in B2G dialogue on 'Current Status and future strategies' held in Agro- Bihar 2024 at Patna on 9 Feb 2024 (8-11 Feb), sponsored by CII. Around 40 manufacturers from Bihar and others states participated and gave significant inputs and feedback for improving mechanization level in Bihar.



RECOGNITION & SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

➤ **Dr. Abdus Sattar, Associate Professor of Agrometeorology, CASCC, RPCAU, Pusa received the Award of "Fellow of the Association of Agrometeorologists (FAAM)"** in the Inaugural Function of the International Conference on Climate Change and Agroecosystem: Threats, Opportunities and Solutions (AGMET 2024) held at BHU, Varanasi during 8-10 February 2024, which was jointly organized by AAM, BHU, IMD and SAFOAM.



➤ **Invited Talk** : Dr. U.K. Behera, Director Education delivered an invited talk on “Farming System Approaches in Natural Farming” on 13.02.2024 on the CAFT training on “Natural Farming- A way forward for Resource Conservation and Ecological Balance” organized by MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

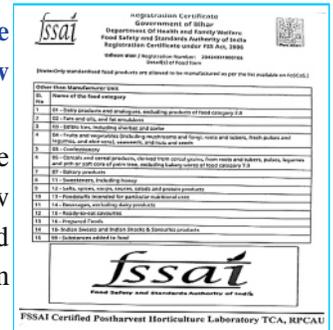
➤ Dr. U. K. Behera, Director Education delivered invited lecture on "Integrated Farming System for Climate resistant Agriculture and Rural Bio-entrepreneurship” on 8th February 2024 in the NABARD programme, organized at RPCAU, Pusa

R.P.C.A.U., Pusa

under Farm sector promotion Fund in the review meeting of project implementation. Dr. P. S. Pandey & Dr. M.S. Kundu graced the NABARD meeting on 8th February as Chief Guest & Guest of Honour respectively & addressed the participants on rural development & technology transfer.

➤ **Postharvest Horticulture Laboratory, TCA Dholi is now FSSAI Registered**

Postharvest Horticulture Laboratory, TCA Dholi is now FSSAI Registered & Certified Laboratory. The Registration Certificate No. is 20424331000106.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

➤ **21-days’ ICAR Sponsored winter school organised,** A 21-days’ ICAR-sponsored winter school entitles as ‘Epigenetic regulation as drivers of insecticide resistance and resilience to climate change in agricultural pests’ was organised by the Department of Entomology, PG College of Agriculture from the 29th January to 18th February 2024. The valedictory ceremony was held in chairmanship of Hon’ble Vice Chancellor.



➤ Dr. S.K. Patel, Professor, CAET and Er. I. B. Bhagat attended training workshop on 5G use case lab at IIT, Guwahati during 12-13 February, 2024.

TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

➤ **An International Conference on “Advanced Agricultural Technologies For Self Reliant Farmers And Developed India”** was also organised concomitantly with the mela on dated 11th February 2024, at KVK, Piprakothi entitled as International Conference On “Advanced Agricultural Technologies For Self-Reliant Farmers And Developed India” which was flamboyantly applauded with participation of 407 participants from all over the country through hybrid mode (Online and Offline).This

international conference was well-endowed with presence of lead speakers from foreign soil also.



➤ **One day farmers training-cum-awareness programs organized at Department of Processing & Food Engineering, CAET,** Three one day farmers training-cum-awareness programs on “Primary processing and value addition” were organised at Department of Processing & Food Engineering, CAET, Pusa under SC-SP of AICRP on PHET on dated 24, 25 & 26-02-2024. In total 147 farmers (140 females + 7 males) participated. The participated farmers of SC/ST community were from Goraul, Ladaura, Birsinghpur, Kalyanpur and Thahra Gopalpur villages of Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts of Bihar. Farmers were trained and awareness was created through practical demonstration of different post-harvest primary processing machines and technologies along with lectures.



➤ **“Farm machinery Repair & Maintenance” skill development training program successfully completed**

The valedictory and inaugural function of 1st and 2nd batches of skill development training programme on “Farm machinery Repair & Maintenance” were successfully organized on 29 February 2024. The trainees from Vaishali, Madhubani, Begusarai and Samastipur district participated in the training program. Dean, CAET, HoD, FMPE, Er. Rishu Kumar AD (AE) Samastipur and all faculty of the department were present

during the Program. The participants provided their satisfactory feedback regarding whole training program.



➤ **Training programme on “Food Processing and Value Addition- An Opportunity for Entrepreneurship Development of Farm Women,** A three (03) days training programme on “Food Processing and Value Addition- An Opportunity for Entrepreneurship Development of Farm Women” under AICRP on Women in Agriculture was organised from 27th to 29th February, 2024 at College of Community Science, Pusa. During the training programme farm women gained Hands on Training for food processing and preparation of cereals, millets and pulses-based value-added products. A session for packaging of food products was also conducted for their capacity building.



➤ **The Nematode Awareness programme cum TSP (Tribal Sub plan) was organized.** The Nematode Awareness programme cum TSP (Tribal Sub plan) was organized at village, Panchmania of block, Jhanjhpur in the district, Madhubani on 17.02.2024 by the department of Plant Pathology and Nematology, PGCA, RPCAU, Pusa under AICRP (Nematodes). More than 100 farmers and farm women have participated the programme. HOD of the Department and Principal Investigator, AICRP

(Nematodes) distributed the inputs (spade and khurpi) among the ST community and the farmers were told about the importance of human and animal parasitic nematodes in our society, plant parasitic nematodes, their aboveground and belowground symptoms, losses and their eco-friendly management techniques. The folders on nematodes, were also distributed to the farmers.



➤ **ARYA Zonal Workshop.** On 22.02.2024 Banana Fiber Entrepreneur Jagat Kalyan from Rampur Nausahan, Vaishali presented a project during 2 days ARYA Zonal Workshop at Gaya. He was also honoured with appreciation certificate for the project presented by Dr. Kokate, DDG Extension, Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director-ATARI and other higher officials.

BRIEF ABOUT THE NEW OFFICERS

➤ **Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Director, Sugarcane Research Institute, RPCAU Pusa, has joined** the position of Director Research of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar on 21.02.2024. Born in Kuba Khas of Azamgarh in UP, Dr. Singh has completed Graduation, Master's and Ph.D degree from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He has been actively associated as PI and Co-PI in 24 externally funded projects and more than 110 Research Projects, 35 ICAR-AICRP projects and 45 university funded projects. Dr. Singh has published more than 80 Research Papers in National and International Journals, 15 Review Articles, 76 Popular Articles, 9 Books, 56 Training Manual and Short Communications, 04 Papers Published on Policy issues.



Dr. Singh has received several Awards and Honours including the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Gyan Vigyan National Award 2012 by Hon'ble President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Puraskar, ICAR, 2013, Noel Deerr Gold Medal, 2016, Uttar Pradesh Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Lucknow, 2016, Eminent scientist award, BHU, 2019, Fellow of Indian society of Agronomy, (2015) with ISA-Gold Medal 2021.

➤ **The Saraswati Puja celebration** held at RPCAU, Pusa, Bihar on 14th February, 2024. The event graced by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa. The gathering included faculty members, officers, staff, and students from RPCAU, who came together to honor the goddess of knowledge and wisdom, fostering a spirit of unity and academic excellence within the institution.

VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha

Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister, Bihar
Visited on 24-02-2024.

Shri Surya Pratap Shahi

Minister of Agriculture & Research Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
Visited on 12-02-2024.

Shri Ramnath Thakur

Member of Parliament, Rajyasabha
Visited on 24-02-2024

Dr. Bijendra Singh

Vice Chancellor, Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
Visited on 12-02-2024.

Dr. Nilam Patel

Advisor (Agri.), NITI Ayog, Govt. of India
Visited on 12-02-2024.

Mr. Sudhansu Sekhar Das

Zonal Manager, Punjab National Bank
Visited on 24-02-2024

Dr. R.R. Singh

Director Extension Education, Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh
Visited on 12-02-2024.

Md. Abid Siddqui,

Circle Head, Punjab National Bank
Visited on 24-02-2024

Smt. Padmshri. Rajkumari Devi (Kisan Chachi)

Visited on 24-02-2024

Shri Maheshwar Hajari,

Deputy Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly
Visited on 25-02-2024

Mr. Rakesh Kumar

Senior Supritendent of Police, Muzaffarpur
Visited on 25-02-2024

Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

Vice-Chancellor, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur
Visited on 26-02-2024

Dr. R. K. Jat

Centre Head, Borlaug Institute of South Asia, Pusa
Visited on 26-02-2024

FAREWELL

➤ A farewell ceremony for the following university employees who superannuated from university service on 29th February 2024 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa

1. Shri Ravi Prakash Singh

STO,

Department of Agril. Economics,
RPCAU, Pusa

2. Shri Ashok Kumar Sahu

TO,

Directorate of Research
RPCAU, Pusa

3. Shri. Deepak Kumar Sinha

Assistant, CBS&H, RPCAU, Pusa

4. Shri Chandradev Rai

SSS, Cattle Farm, RPCAU, Pusa

5. Shri Yogendra Pandit

SSS, TCA, Dholi

6. Shri Piyare Sahani

SSS, Department of Horticulture,
RPCAU, Pusa

7. Shri Raj Narayan Rai

SSS, CAET, RPCAU, Pusa



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