



Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University

Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848 125

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CONTENTS

- ❖ **Labelling of Fruit Crops** P. 2
- ❖ **CBS&H Lecture Series** P. 2
- ❖ **Placement cell** P. 3
- ❖ **Litchi Diversity Show-2024** P. 3
- ❖ **16th Research Council Meeting** P. 4
- ❖ **IoT device** P.5
- ❖ **Visit of Dignitaries** P. 7
- ❖ **Farewell Ceremony for Superannuating Staff** P. 8

FROM THE DESK OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to present the e-newsletter for June 2024, highlighting several significant events that have shaped our university's trajectory. Several significant and notable events were successfully orchestrated during this month, including the 16th Special Research Council Meeting, three-day training program on 'Livelihood Opportunities in Agri-Marketing' in partnership with MANAGE, Sensitization Workshop on 'Author Profiles Registration and Scientific Visibility through IRINS' and eagerly awaited Litchi Diversity Show. These events underscore our unwavering dedication, effective teamwork, and strong commitment to excellence in academics, research and extension.

The month commenced with the 16th Research Council Meeting (Special) during 6-7th May, 2024. This productive gathering involved the review and discussion of 74 new research project proposals. Esteemed experts, including Dr. Vinod Kumar, Former Professor & Head, Department of Agronomy, PGCA, Pusa; Dr U. D. Singh, Former Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi; Dr. Indu Shekhar Singh, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-RCER, Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga; Dr. Md. Monobrullah, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Entomology), ICAR- ATARI, Patna; Dr. Lipi Das, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension), ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar; Dr. Bikas Das, Director, ICAR-NRC on Litchi, Muzaffarpur; and Dr. Ved Prakash Saini, Dean, College of Fisheries, (BASU), Kishanganj Bihar, provided valuable feedback to refine these proposals before their final submission.

RPCAU collaborated with MANAGE to host an intensive three-day training program titled "Livelihood Opportunities in Agri-Marketing." During 20-22nd May, 2024. This initiative aimed to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge in agricultural marketing, empowering them to contribute effectively to the agricultural sector.

Besides, The University Library conducted college wise 9 sessions each of two hours sensitization workshop on "Research Matrices and Visibility" and "Authors Profile Registration" on different research platform like Google Scholar, ORCID, Scopus, Web of Science, and Vidwan (IRINS) databases as part of capacity building programme of faculties and research scholars during May 8 to 24, 2024. The workshop, focused on "Author Profiles and Scientific Visibility" aimed to enhance understanding of author identifiers and increase scientific visibility through prominent research sharing databases. The active participation of faculty members (177) and their positive response underscored the success of the initiative.

The month culminated with the eagerly awaited Litchi Diversity Show-2024 on 30 May 2024 under gracious presence of Dr N.K. Krishan Kumar, Former DDG (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr P.K. Ray, Former Professor (Horticulture), RAU, Pusa and Dr Bikas Das, Director, ICAR-NRC on Litchi, Muzaffarpur. The Litchi Show celebrated the rich diversity of Shahi Litchi from Muzaffarpur, Bihar, featuring over 20 varieties of Litchi and showcased value-added products, including a captivating Litchi-eating competition. Discussions during the event focused on advancing Litchi production through scientific advancements and regional strategies.

I commend everyone involved for their dedication and contributions to the success of these initiatives. Our efforts have significantly enhanced our university's commitment to excellence in agricultural education and research.

Jai Hind!

(Dr. P. S. Pandey)

EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

➤ **Labelling of Fruit Crops at TCA, Dholi** Students under the course fundamentals of Horticulture had done labelling of more than 60 commercial fruit crops of the campus in the form of instructional garden. The plants are labelled with basic information along with the QR code which provides the detailed information upon scanning. Visitors are getting benefit of this practical activity of students. The interesting part of this drive was that fruits of all the three categories such as tropical, sub-tropical and temperate were covered in the instructional garden.



➤ **The innovative idea** of Mr. Argha Das, 3rd semester, B.Sc. (Hons) Ag. Student of TCA, Dholi has been recognised and shortlisted by IIT Mumbai among the top 450 start-ups out of 17000 registrations by E-cell, IIT,

Mumbai.



➤ **Dr. U. P. Singh, Dean**, Institute of Agricultural Science, BHU, Varanasi visited TCA Dholi campus and interacted with faculties and students.



➤ **PGCA, Pusa:** 03 Ph.D. and 12 M. Sc. students have qualified BPSC Agricultural services.

➤ **CBS&H Lecture series:** On the eve of International Day for Biological Diversity, on 22nd of May, 2024, "CBS&H Lecture series" were launched. Dr. Sunil Pabbi, former Head & Professor, Division of Microbiology, IARI-New Delhi delivered a lecture on "Green Microbiology: A Way to sustainability" through online mode. All the faculty and students of CBS&H attended the lecture.



➤ **CCS, Pusa:** Dr. Gitanjali Chaudhary, Associate Professor-cum-Senior Scientist and Dr. Neelam Kumari, Assistant Professor-cum-Scientist, Dept. of Food Science and Nutrition, College of Community Science conducted two classes for two batches (I & II) for Module-12 (Food Processing and Product Development) under PM SHREE Internship Development Programme for students of PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Birauli, Samastipur on 08th and 10th April, 2024.

➤ **Placement cell:** 12 students of B. Sc. (Community science), 01 student of MBA (Ag. Business) and 04 students of B. Sc. (Ag.) (in total 17 students) have been placed in different organizations (Dosa Fincare Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata and Paradeep Phosphate Pvt. Ltd., Bhuvaneshwar) in the month of May, 2024.



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

➤ **Litchi Diversity Show-2024 Organized:** The exceptionally delicacy and existing diversity of litchi in Bihar, particularly in Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts were celebrated by organizing Litchi Diversity

Show - 2024 at RPCAU, Pusa in collaboration with ICAR-NRC on litchi, Muzaffarpur on 30.04.2024. The varietal diversity from RPCAU Pusa, ICAR-RCER, Patna and ICAR-NRCL, Muzaffarpur were exhibited. Around 40 promising litchi genotypes were exhibited along with the processed products from litchi. Twenty-five farmers and the PG and PhD students participated. All the Deans, Directors of RPCAU, Pusa and faculties of PGCA, Pusa participated in the event. Dr NK Krishnakumar, former Deputy Director General (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi graced the event as the Chief Guest and Dr PK Ray, Retired Professor (Horticulture), RPCAU as the Guest of Honour. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa chaired the programme. Dr. Bikash Das, Director, ICAR-NRC on Litchi along with their scientists and Scientist representative from ICAR-RCER, Patna, were present. Litchi eating competition among the faculties and students and litchi rangoli were the main attraction of the event. A technical brainstorming session under the chairmanship of the Chief Guest were also organized.



The eminent researchers and progressive farmers expressed their insights on litchi.



➤ **Nutri-Smart Village Programme of ICAR-AICRP on Women in Agriculture:** Under the Nutri-Smart Village programme of ICAR-AICRP on Women in Agriculture, RPCAU, Pusa distributed nutri-Seeds (Radish, Bottle Gourd F1 Hybrid, Cucumber, Sponge Gourd, Satputia Ridge Gourd/Jhingi/, Lady's finger,



Kashi Kanchan Cowpea Seeds, bitter gourd, F1 Hybrid Pumpkin Seed, Coriander/Dhaniya, Lal Saag, Hybrid Corn Seed along with seasonal fruit seeds) on 04-05-2024 among 30 beneficiaries in Pilkhi Gajpatti village of Muraul block in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

➤ **The 16th Research Council Meeting (Special)-2024**, was organised from 06th – 07th May 2024 at Vidypati Sabhagar, RPCAU, Pusa to discuss newly submitted university-funded project proposals under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey. On the first day, Dr. Vinod Kumar, Former Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, PGCA, RPCAU, Pusa along with Dr. Indu Shekhar Singh, Principal Scientist and Head ICAR-RCER Research Center for Makhana, Darbhanga, and Dr. Ved Prakash Saini, Dean, College of Fisheries, Kishangang, Bihar were the invited experts. On Day 2, Dr. Lipi Das, Principal Scientist (Agril. Extension), ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, joined online, along with Dr. Bikas Das, Director, ICAR, NRC Litchi, Dr. U. D. Singh, Former Principal Scientist, (Plant Pathology), IARI, New Delhi, and Dr. Md. Monobrullah, Principal Scientist, Agril. Entomology, ICAR-ATARI, Patna joined as the experts providing invaluable suggestions to shape the project proposals.



➤ **A total of 74 new project proposals** were presented across various disciplines, including Animal and Fisheries Science – 10, Agronomy – 16, Soil Science – 11, Community Science – 10, Horticulture – 02, Entomology – 13, and Plant Pathology & Nematology –

12. Over the course of the intensive two-day meeting, 52 projects were approved, with advice to resubmission incorporating suggested modifications.



➤ **Vertical farming system installed at CAET under PFDC Project :** Framed structures for Vertical farming, Hydroponics, and Aeroponics accommodating various types of vegetable and horti plant are installed in a playhouse under a recently granted project by the National Committee on Precision Agriculture and Horticulture (NCPAH), MoA&FW, GoI, costing Rs 11.55 lacs. This project with high-end cultivation technology is being initiated at the PFDC of the CAET, Pusa.



➤ **Under the digital agriculture component of the same project,** an agri IoT device is being installed at the farmer's field (Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Village: Kothiya, Samastipur) to assess the efficacy of real-time data transfer and advisory services such as weather, plant

health and soil moisture, irrigation requirement, etc.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

RECOGNITION & SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

➤ **Dr. Shiveshwar Pratap Singh, Associate Professor, Soil Science, PGCA, RPCAU, Pusa,** presented an invited paper on "Zinc: essential for soil health" in one day Workshop on 'Soil Health Management' organized by Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) Eastern Region, Kolkata on 22nd May, 2024 at Patna, Bihar.



Dr. Sudhanand Prasad Lal (Assistant Professor cum Scientist, Agricultural Extension Education) had been invited to act as an expert for evaluating the assignments for Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension Management- Massive open online course PGDAEM-MOOCs by National Centre for Management of Agricultural Extension (MANAGE) at Hyderabad, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/ AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

➤ The University Library conducted college wise 9 sessions each of two hours sensitization workshop on "Research Matrices and Visibility" and "Authors Profile Registration" on different research platform like Google Scholar, ORCID, Scopus, Web of Science, and Vidwan (IRINS) databases as part of capacity building programme of faculties and research scholars during May 8 to 24, 2024. The workshop, focused on "Author Profiles and Scientific Visibility" aimed to enhance understanding of author identifiers and increase scientific visibility through prominent research sharing databases. The active participation of faculty members (177) and their positive response underscored the success of the initiative.



➤ **Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Turki** conducted field visit cum training on Off-season vegetable cultivation for enhancing income of farmers' per unit area on 27.05.2024 at Salaha village in Bochhaha block and field day cum crop harvesting programme using improved maize combine harvester on hybrid maize variety Saktiman 5 on 30.05.2024 at CRA adopted village Patsara where 53 farmers participated. Similarly, they organized Kisan Diwas cum Awareness programme on Poshan Maha Abhiyan at KVK campus on 17.05.2024

where 78 farmwomen participated.



➤ **KVK, Narkatiyaganj**, organized a field day cum awareness programme on summer millets production, in collaboration with Center of Excellence in Millets and Value Chain, RPCAU, Pusa on 30.05.2024. Dr. RP Singh, Head, KVK Narkatiyaganj, Dr. Kaushal Kishor, Assit. Prof. Agronomy, and Mr. GS Giri, Assit. Prof. Entomology, RPCAU, highlighted about the importance of nutritional benefits of millets, package and practices for millets production to the 42 farmers. In total, 36 different millets varieties were demonstrated at millet cafeteria cum evaluation trial.



➤ **KVK Gopalganj** conducted five days training programme on Cattle production with a total of 21 participants, where the importance of cattle production, breeds, nutrition, disease management (prevention, treatment and control), housing, project formation and State and Central Govt schemes have been discussed with the farmers. They also organized four training programmes for practicing farmers and one training programme for extension functionaries constituting 121 participants at different villages. In these programmes, the identification of the symptoms and cause of diseases of litchi and papaya were discussed with the farmers and the recommendations based on integrated management practices have been disseminated to the farmers. Similarly, trainings have been organized to more than

207 farmers on various topics viz., Direct Seeding of rice through drum seeder, Paddy seeding through DSR, Direct seeded rice through rice wheat seeder, Operation and maintenance of laser land leveler by the KVK Gopalganj in the month of may 2024.



➤ **KVK, Parsauni organized one day off campus training on Care and Maintenance of Farm Machineries and equipments at village-** Naya Tola of Turkauliya Block where 18 farmers benefitted through this training program. They also conducted On Farm Trial (OFT) entitled "Assessment of management practices for Red banded caterpillar in Mango" at village Amwa block-Paharpur, three days rural youth training program on "Cow farming and Management" at KVK campus, demonstrated spraying of agro chemicals for pest management using Agri-drone for sugarcane crop at farmers fields in Bahuarwa village, Sugauli Block, jointly organized field day programme on Millets under Front Line Demonstration at KVK Parsauni farm in collaboration with Centre of Excellence in Millets and Value Chain, RPCAU PUSA in the month of May 2024.



VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

Dr. U.P. Singh

Dean, Institute of Agril. Science, BHU, Varanasi

Visited on 02-05-2024. to PGCA, RPCAU, Pusa, Bihar

Dr. Vinod Kumar

Former Professor & Head, Department of Agronomy, PGCA, Pusa

Visited on 06-07, May, 2024

Dr. Indu Shekhar Singh

Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR- RCER, Research Centre for Makhana, Darbhanga

Visited on 06-07, May, 2024

Dr. U. D. Singh

Former Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

Visited on 06-07, May, 2024

Dr. Md. Monobrullah

Principal Scientist (Agricultural Entomology), ICAR-ATARI, Patna

Visited on 06-07, May, 2024

Dr. Bikas Das

Director, ICAR-NRC on Litchi, Muzaffarpur

Visited on 06-07, May, 2024

Dr. Ved Prakash Saini

Dean, College of Fisheries, (BASU), Kishanganj Bihar

Visited on 06-07, May, 2024

Dr. N.K. Krishnakumar

Former DDG (Horticulture), ICAR New Delhi

Visited on 30-05-2024

Dr. P.K. Ray

Former Professor (Horticulture), RAU, Pusa

Visited on 30-05-2024

FAREWELL

➤ A Farewell ceremony of the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 31st May, 2024 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa.

1. Dr. Mukesh Kumar

Professor, PGCA, Pusa

2. Shri Raju Pandit

SSS, PGCA, Pusa



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