



**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 delighted to present the e-newsletter for the month of July 2024. It gives me immense pride to announce that RPCAU has been ranked 7th out of 50 top Central Universities of India in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) Ranking 2024 and 1st among Central Agricultural Universities of India State Agricultural Universities and all Central Universities of Bihar. This significant achievement is especially commendable considering our previous ranking which was 52 in 2023. This remarkable leap is a testament to the relentless efforts and dedication of our entire university community.

The month started with educating more than 100 farmers on the techniques and benefits of millet cultivation for enhancing food security and sustainability in a "Millet Field Day cum Awareness" programme organized at TCA, Dholi on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

The World Environment Day was celebrated on, 5th June, by organizing a Mega Plantation Programme "Mera Ped Mera Vishwavidyalaya," reinforcing our dedication of students and faculty members to environmental stewardship and the fight against climate change encouraging everyone to plant and care for a tree.

In continuation of our efforts to integrate traditional knowledge with modern research, in collaboration with the Indian Agro Economic Research Centre, New Delhi, University hosted a two-day national workshop on "Traditional Knowledge and Modern Perspectives in Indian Agriculture Amidst Climate Change" from 8th to 9th June 2024 facilitating exchange ideas of 100 delegates, including scientists, farmers, and students.

We also organized 16th RCM Special session from 10-11 June-2024 in the presence of domains expert like Dr. Naresh Chandra, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Economics, ICAR-RCER, Patna; Dr. S.K. Chaturvedi, Director Research, RLBCAU, Jhansi and Dr. N.R. Gangadharappa, Former Director Research, UAS, Bangalore, who reviewed the 59 research proposals submitted by the University Faculty Members.

As one of the important initiatives of digital learning and scientific communication the university organized a workshop on the implementation and development of SWAYAM MOOCs and blended learning on 12th June, enhancing digital learning and providing flexible, accessible education to a wider audience. Two learned guest speakers for the programme were Dr. G.R. Ramakrishna Murthy from NAARM, Hyderabad, and Mr. Shib Shankar Das from IIT Kharagpur. Similarly, a sensitization workshop on "Writing and Citing Good Scientific Papers" was also organized on 20th June 2024 for enhancing the scientific writing skills of our researchers, emphasizing the importance of proper citation and techniques for writing impactful scientific papers. Dr. Aruna T. Kumar, Former Chief Editor, DKMA, ICAR; Dr. Sridhar Gutam, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bangalore; and Dr. G. Ratna Sabhapati, University Librarian, TANUVAS, Chennai delivered insightful talks and shared essential elements of high impact scientific research articles writing.

International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June with the help of the Art of Living Foundation on the theme "Yoga for Self and Society," saw enthusiastic participation of officers, teachers, students, and staff, highlighting the holistic benefits of yoga for physical and mental well-being.

For the first time, RPCAU hosted a vibrant Mango Festival on 27th June, celebrating the diversity and richness of mango varieties and promoting their cultivation and consumption. The festival aimed to preserve mango diversity and educate stakeholders on various mango varieties. A workshop focused on "Making strategies for climate-resilient agriculture" was also organized on 28th June, underscoring our commitment to adapting agricultural practices to the changing climate. More than 15 scientists shared their international experiences and insights during the workshop, enriching knowledge with global perspectives.

Finally, the 18th National Statistics Day was organised on 29th June in virtual mode by the university on the theme of "Use of data for decision making" highlighting the importance of statistics in agricultural research and development.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all faculty members, students, and staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work for all these success. Together, let us continue to strive for excellence and innovation, making RPCAU a global leader in agricultural education and research.

Jai Hind!

(Dr. P. S. Pandey)

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## EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

➤ As per directives of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, GOI, World Bicycle Day was celebrated on 3rd June, 2024 by the students, scientists and staff of Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi, RPCAU, Pusa. Bicycle rally along with awareness banners were displayed by the students in the nearby villages of the campus.



➤ World Environment Day was celebrated on 5th June, 2024 at the University Pusa Campus and its constituents colleges. On this occasion many activities and environmental awareness programmes like elocution and poster competitions on the theme "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience" besides fruits tree saplings plantings were organized by the scientists and staff of the university under slogan of "Mera Ped Mera Vishwavidyalaya" and "One Student - One Plant".



➤ 8th semester students (04) of TCA, Dholi- Sushant Kumar, Aayush Kumar Gupta, Shweta Suman and Swagato Pain were selected as Jr. Assistant Manager in IDBI Bank.



Sushant Kumar



Aayush Kr  
Gupta



Shweta Suman



Swagato Pain

➤ Department of Food Technology, CAET celebrated World Food Safety Day on 7th June 2024. On this occasion, Dr Binod Kumar, Professor at NIFTEM Thanjavur (Research Centre Bhatinda), delivered a talk and interacted with students and faculties.



➤ On 12th June, 2024 a poignant farewell ceremony was held at Vidyapati Sabhaghar, RPCAU culminating another successful academic year. Dr. P S Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU addressed the gathering, reflecting on the achievements and challenges of the past year while emphasizing the importance of resilience and perseverance in academic pursuits.

➤ International Yoga Day (IYD) was celebrated on 21st June, 2024 at the Pusa Campus, RPCAU. The program was organised by the Directorate of Student Welfare in coordination with Yoga Club. Around 300 participants, includes teachers, students and staff participated in the program. Director, Extension Education, was the chief guest of the function.





➤ On 25th June, 2024, under Lecture Series, CBSH, an invited lecture entitled "Post Harvest Handling and Storage of Subtropical Fruits: Recent Approaches to Enhance Shelf Life" was delivered by Dr. A.K. Trivedi, Principal Scientist, Plant Physiology at ICAR-CISH, Kakori, Lucknow at 3:30 PM in online mode. The lecture was attended by faculty members, M.Sc., and Ph.D. scholars.



➤ B. Sc (Horticulture)-5th Semester students of PDDUCH&F, Piprakoti visited Banana Research Center, Gouraul and different units of RPCAU under Educational Tour Programme.



### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

➤ Field Day cum Awareness Programme on Small Millets was Organized in the experiment field of millet crop at TCA Dholi on 01.06.2024. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa graced the event as the Chief Guest along with the Deans, Directors, Professors, Principal Investigator and researchers with team working on small millets. Progressive millet growers and R.P.C.A.U., Pusa

entrepreneurs were also present.



➤ **Mega Tree Plantation Programme on World Environment Day – 2024** On the occasion of the World Environment Day – 2024 on 5th June 2024, a mega tree plantation programme was organised by the NSS Unit, Directorate of Student Welfare and Department of Forestry, PGCA. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor graced the event as the Chief Guest and District Forest Officer, Samastipur was the Guest of Honour. All the Deans, Directors, Faculties and students of the University planted more than 500 trees on this occasion. Hon'ble Vice Chacellor inagurated the new initiative 'My Plant for My University' to motivate the students for planting and maintaining atleast one-plant per student till they are in the campus.



➤ **National Workshop on 'Indian agriculture from traditional knowledge and modern perspective in the scenario of climate change'** A National workshop on 'Indian agriculture from traditional knowledge and modern perspective in the scenario of climate change' was organised on 8th and 9th June, 2024. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor inagurated the event. The programme was organised in the gracious presence of Dr. Dinesh



Dattatreya Kulkarni as the Guest of Honour along with the Dr. Makrand Karkare and Mr. Pramod Kumar Chaudhury from Indian Agroecomic Research Centre, New Delhi. Around 100 participants from different states participated in the deliberation.



➤ **16th Research Council Meeting (Special)** The 16th Research Council Meeting (Special) was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor in the gracious presence of Dr. S.K. Chaturvedi, Director Research, RLBCAU, Jhansi; Dr. Naresh Chandra, Principal Scientist (Agri. Econ.), Division of Socio Economics & Extension, RCER-ICAR, Patna and Dr. N. R. Gangadharappa, Ex. Director Research (Agri. Extension), UAS Bangalore. During his address, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor appealed scientists to take up at least one problem faced by farmers and carry out intensive research on it.



➤ **'Mango Fest-2024 and Workshop on Mango Growing'** RPCAU, Pusa organized the 'Mango Fest-2024 and Workshop on Mango Growing' on 27th June 2024. Dr. H P Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, RAU Pusa and Former DDG (Horticulture) inaugurated the event in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. P S Pandey and all the Deans, Directors, Faculties, Farmers and Students. Around 150 mango varieties and products from mangoes were exhibited and farmers were awarded for maintaining the diversity. The

Varietal strength of RPCAU, Pusa and present-day research activities on Mango were exhibited. In the workshop, the students and farmers were taught on various techniques such as orchard management, propagation and rejuvenation of mango orchards by the scientists of RPCAU, Pusa.



➤ **Vertical farming system installed under PFDC Project** Under the Precision Farming Development Centre (PFDC), College of Agricultural Engineering and



Technology, various types of frames were installed in a greenhouse to demonstrate advanced agricultural technologies, viz. hydroponic and aeroponic as the vertical agriculture. Such agriculture is becoming popular as an urban farming system for daily growing



green/ leafy vegetables in balcony/roof terrace. This project is funded by the National Committee on Precision Agriculture and Horticulture (NCPAH), MoA&FW, GoI. Short-term training programs were also organized by PFDC for progressive farmers on various topics associated with precision farming.

➤ **Digital Agriculture–Agri-IoT Device installed**  
Jiokrishi Agri IoT device equipped with sensors viz. soil moisture, soil/air temperature, RH, leaf area index, and rain gauge was installed. A cluster of 5 villages, including Kothiya, in the range of 2 km radius is covered under the system. 100 farmers in these 5 villages are connected with the system, and they get agricultural advisory services through the Jiokrishi app. This setup is installed under PFDC project (CAET, Pusa) funded by NCPAH, MoA&FW, GoI.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### RECOGNITION & SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

#### ➤ Special Attainment:

Dr. Sudhanand Prasad Lal (Assistant Professor cum Scientist, Agricultural Extension Education) had delivered the Keynote Paper in the 21 Days Summer School Training Program on “FARM TO TABLE: EXPLORING AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY” on the topic Blockchain-Powered Food Revolution: Farm to Fork in the Digital Era from 1 to 21st June, 2024 organized by University of Agricultural Sciences Raichur, Karnataka; Atal Bihari Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh and Agriculture Forum for Technical Education of Farming Society (AFTEFS) and VitalBioTech Publishing house.

➤ **Scientists from RPCAU participated in the Annual Review Meeting 2023-24** Dr. A. K. Mishra, Assoc. Prof. (Plant Pathology) & PI, Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Spices Development (Govt. of India) attended and presented the Achievement & progress of project work (2023-34) along with Annual Action Plan (2024-25) in the 18th Annual Review Meeting of Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Development, Calicut, Kerala held at SKUAST- Kashmir during 10-11th June, 2024.



➤ **Dr. Ashish Narayan, Principal Investigator AICRP**, Tuber crops and Dr. R.S Singh, Tuber Agronomist, TCA Dholi participated in AICRP on Tuber Crops Annual Group Meeting at NAU, Navsari, Gujarat from 25-27 June, 2024.

### TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/ AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

➤ **Post Graduate College of Agriculture:** The Department of Extension Education organized a 3-day national-level training (virtual mode) on the topic “Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture” (10-12th June 2024) in collaboration with the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad in which a total of 190 participants have participated.





➤ **RPCAU Kishi Gyan Vahan**, under 4th Bihar Krishi Road Map laid impact in promoting agricultural technologies among the farming community through various ICT initiatives. The RPCAU, Kishi Gyan Vahan has covered 3 blocks and 12 panchayats and reached more than 500 farmers belonging to different corners of Samastipur district. Different production techniques of Kharif crops were demonstrated and shared with farmers and also seed and soil samples were collected for scientific analysis. Officials of agricultural department's viz. Project director, ATMA, BAO, BTM, ATM, Agricultural Co-Ordinator along with scientists associated outlined the mandates of Vahan and explained about policies of state and Central government related to agriculture with special focus to marginal farmers and rural women.



➤ **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs), RPCAU, Pusa:** KVK Vaishali, KVK Turki and KVK Siwan, have organized live telecast of 17th PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna cum Kisaan Gosthi on 18th June 2024.



➤ **KVK Begusarai** conducted baseline survey for Oilseeds model villages under National Food Security Mission-Oilseeds at Gara, Makhwa and Kumbhi Villages from 11th to 13th June 2024. KVK Begusarai also organized four days Bee keeping training during 31st May to 4th June wherein 30 farmers and farm women participated.

➤ **A sensitization workshop on "How to Write and Cite Good Scientific Papers"** was organized for faculties

and scholars of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa featuring insightful talks by eminent experts in the field such as Dr. Aruna T. Kumar, former Chief Editor, DKMA, ICAR, Dr. Sridhar Gutam, Principal Scientist, ICAR- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru and Dr. G. Rathinasabapathy, University Librarian, TANUVAS, Chennai. The event was inaugurated in the gracious presence of Registrar, Director Research, Director Education along with other Deans and Directors, Faculties and Scholars of the University.



➤ **KVK Sheohar** organized three P/F training on the topics namely Integrated fish farming, Use of Happy Seeder and Zero tillage in Kharif crop production and Use of integrated nutrient management in kharif vegetable crops" on 22nd June and 25th June 2024, respectively, wherein all together 90 farmers have participated and got benefitted. Apart from trainings, KVK Sheohar also completed the Land Laser Levelling work in 80 acre (50 acre in CRA village and 30 acre in non-CRA village) in the month of June, 2024 and distributed inputs of 71 quintal paddy seeds for different adopted technology like DSR, Alternate wet and dry method (AWD), water harvesting in field bunding and INM farmers covering an area of more than 595 acres.



➤ **KVK, Bhagwanpur Hat, Siwan:** organized a lecture which was delivered by Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, Director Research, RLBCAU Jhansi, during 6th day of 15 days INM training Batch 7 on the topics of specifications, nutrients contents, handling, storage and transportation



of fertilizers on 1st June 2024. On 10th June 2024, a valedictory session of 7th batch of INM training was also organized. Likewise, five days Rural Youth training on Value addition of jackfruit and Mango was conducted from 18th June 2024 at Sonbarsha village. SMS plant protection delivered lectures on safe and judicious use of agrochemicals to pesticide dealers at DAO office Siwan on 19th June 2024. KVK, Siwan also organized Kishan Goshthi under the CRA Programme at CRV Sikatiya Block- Maharajganj and One day Extension functionaries training on 'Awareness about Nutritional Garden' among the Anganwadi workers at High school, Saaripatti, Bhagwanpur Hat on 24th and 25th June 2024, respectively.



➤ **KVK Turki:** organized Kharif Maha Abhiyan cum Kisan goshthi “Promotion of millets for nutritional security” on 1st June 2024 at Museri block and organized valedictory function of 30 days Skill Development training on Small Mushroom grower on 30th June 2024. Sri Gopal Meena (IAS), Commissioner Muzaffarpur and Sri Pramod Kumar, Dy. Superintendent of police, Muzaffarpur graced the programme as Chief Guest, respectively.



➤ **KVK Vaishali:** On 13th June, Kishan Vaigyanik Paricharya program on millets was organized by ATMA Vaishali in association with KVK Vaishali where Sr. Scientist and Head, KVK Vaishali, DAO Vaishali,

SDHO, ADH, DPD and other officials were present and delivered lectures. The program was attended by a total of 106 farmers from different blocks of Vaishali district.



## VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

### Dr. Naresh Chandra

Principal Scientist, Agricultural Economics,  
ICAR-RCER, Patna  
Visited on 10-06-2024

### Dr. S.K. Chaturvedi

Director of Research, RLBCAU, Jhansi  
Visited on 10-06-2024.

### Dr. N.R. Gangadharappa

Former Director Research, UAS, Bangalore  
Visited on 11-06-2024.

### Dr. G.R. Ramakrishna Murthy

NAARM, Hyderabad  
Visited on 12-06-2024.

### Mr. Shib Shankar Das

IIT Kharagpur  
Visited on 12-06-2024.

### Dr. Aruna T. Kumar

Former Chief Editor, DKMA, ICAR  
Visited on 20-06-2024.

### Dr. Sridhar Gutam

Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bangalore  
Visited on 20-06-2024.



## FAREWELL

➤ A Farewell ceremony of the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 30th June, 2024 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa.

**1. Shri Arvind Kumar Poddar**

Section Officer, CAET

**2. Shri Tarkeshwar Nath Singh**

Senior Technical Assistant- Security Section

**3. Shri Chandeshwar Pandir**

SSS, DSW

**4. Shri Shankar Paswan**

SSS, Directorate of P&F



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