



**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University**

Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848 125

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## FROM THE DESK OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to connect with you through this November edition of our university's e-newsletter. It has been an inspiring month filled with activities and achievements that exemplify our commitment to excellence in education, research, and extension.

At the outset, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all readers for very auspicious festival of Diwali and Chhath Puja. May these festivals bring prosperity, happiness, and success to all members of the RPCAU family.

One of the highlights of this month was the Deeksharambh-2024 Program. On October 18, 2024, the university inaugurated the Deeksharambh-2024 Program, a 15-days orientation programme for newly admitted students. Mr. Sudhanshu Ranjan, Former ADG, Doordarshan and Akash Vani, Government of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. This program focuses on holistic personality and character development, offering training in arts, crafts, yoga, sports, literature, drama, music, and more. In series of activities many renowned motivational speakers and meditational experts including Shri Abhyanand Ji Ex-ADG (Bihar Police) and the founder of Super 30, and Dr. Rajiv Shrivastava, Meditation expert, Heartfulness foundation, Hyderabad delivered motivational lectures/ talks and practical demonstrations on Yoga and Meditation. Initiated in 2023, this program is a pioneering effort by RPCAU and is now being implemented across universities in India under UGC and ICAR directives.

The university celebrated Gandhi Jayanti by organizing a Special Swachhata Campaign 4.0 aimed at promoting cleanliness on October 2, 2024,. A Prabhat Pheri (morning march) was held with enthusiastic participation from deans, directors, heads of departments, faculty members, staff, and students. It was emphasized that the importance of cleanliness is not only a health necessity but also a cultural and social responsibility. I appeal to everyone to maintain a high degree of cleanliness in their surroundings besides in thoughts and action.

The 8th Extension Education Council Meeting, held on October 5, 2024 aimed on restructuring extension activities for a region with focused approach. The meeting was graced by eminent experts such as Dr. A. K. Singh, Former Vice-Chancellor, BAU, Sabour; Dr. S. K. Sharma, Former Director, IIFSR, Modipuram, Meerut; and Dr. Randhir Singh, Former ADG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi. Heads of KVKs presented their progress reports and outlined action plans for the upcoming season.

In pursuits to farmer empowerment through knowledge and technology dissemination, the university trained 4,327 farmers, rural youth, and women in October. These training programs covered critical areas such as beekeeping, mushroom production, vermicomposting, pest management for stored grains, and soil testing. Our efforts were further amplified through online advisory services, ensuring that farmers could access guidance and support anytime, anywhere.

Besides, above, the university has also conducted successfully its Academic Council Meeting on 14-10-2024 and UG/PG admission process on 15 and 16 October, 2024 successfully.

As we look ahead, these milestones inspire us to continue our efforts with even greater determination and resolve. Every member of the RPCAU family deserves my rich appreciation and thanks for their unwavering dedication and contributions. Together, let us strive to elevate our university to greater heights, making it a beacon of innovation, excellence, and service to the society.

**Jai Hind!**

(Dr. P. S. Pandey)

## EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### ➤ “3rd Deeksharambh: Empowering Future Leaders - University Foundation Course (2024)”

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University launched the third edition of its unique concept induction programme, “Deeksharambh,” on 18th October 2024 for newly admitted undergraduate students. This programme, now part of the UGC curriculum, aims to holistic development and empower students to face the challenges of an ever-changing world with the new environment from school to college and the university education system.

The inauguration was chaired by Dr. P.S. Pandey, Vice Chancellor of RPCAU, with Shri Sudhanshu Ranjan, Ex-ADG of Doordarshan and Akashwani, as the Chief Guest. The 15-days long induction programme helped students in keeping healthy mind and body hence this programme was structured with diverse activities like—Yoga, Games & Sports, Art & Craft, Dance & Music, Drama & Theatre, Soft Skill Development, Cultural and Literary events etc with a focus on practical learning, including visits to Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to explore agricultural applications.



Eminent guests like by Shri Abhayananda, founder of Super-30, Motivational speakers Shri

Shashikant Rai, and officials like Shri Ashok Kumar Mishra (SP, Samastipur) and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh (Lead Consultant, Dimensions Education) graced the programme and inspired the students with potential to face and resolve the challenges of life from time to time with utmost grace and perseverance.



The auspicious event was the “Deepotsav” on the eve of Diwali festival, where approx. 50K diyas were lit, creating a spectacular visual moment. The Heartfulness meditation session was conducted by Dr. Nivedita Shreyansh, and a cyber-awareness programme was led by Dr. Neeti Goel, a cyberbullying expert.

The successful journey of 3rd Deeksharambh-2024 concluded with the “Pradakshina” valedictory function on 1st November 2024, graced by Dr. R.C. Agarwal, DDG (Education) at ICAR, New Delhi. The Deeksharambh initiative was coordinated by Dr. Mrutunjay Kumar, Registrar, RPCAU, with support from Dr. Bineeta Satpathy, Head of the Dept. of Agricultural Extension, and Dr. Kumari Anjani, Assistant Professor, CBS&H.

➤ **Newly admitted Undergraduate students visited** different colleges situated in three campuses of the university. Visits were also arranged to different units like Hi-tech horticulture polyhouse,



biodiversity park, etc. and KVKs with intent to acclimatize students with the university surroundings.



➤ **Kabaddi team of RPCAU, Pusa participated in Chancellor's Trophy (Kabaddi)** which was held at Pataliputra complex, Patna from 15-10-2024 to 19-10-2024. A total of 24 universities from different districts of Bihar participated. Three students (two boys and one girl) were honored with the prestigious "Best Raider of the Match" titles with a cash prize of Rs. 1,000 in recognition of their outstanding performances. Dr. Meera Kumari (Asstt. Professor, TCA, Dholi) and Dr. Neeraj Kumar (Asstt. Professor, Horticulture, PGCA) lead the Team as Team Managers.



➤ **Ten students from PDUCH&F, Piprakothi successfully cleared ICAR-AIEEA examination.**





## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

➤ **RPCAU participated in the National Consultation on Food System for Sustainability and Profitability of millets** from 5th to 6th October, 2024 at RLBCAU, Jhansi. The key research accomplishments and ongoing research on millet in RPCAU were exhibited during the programme.





➤ **Two Maize varieties** Rajendra Pop Corn-1 & Rajendra Baby Corn-1 of RPCAU, Pusa was notified by Gazette, Government of India.

Two Maize hybrids Rajendra Baby Corn-1 & Rajendra Pop Corn-1 has been released & notified by CVR.C. S.O. 4388(E), 08.10.2024	
1. <b>Rajendra Baby Corn-1 (MBC-11-15)</b> Plant Height: 180 cm Maturity : 85-90 days Yield : 12-15 q/ha Season : <i>Kharif</i>	
2. <b>Rajendra Pop Corn-1 (MPC-1-15)</b> Popping % : 95 Maturity : 100-105 days Yield : 30-35 q/ha Season : <i>Kharif</i>	

➤ **Scientist from ICAR-National Research Centre on Banana, Tiruchirapalli visited RPCAU, Pusa** Dr. A. Mohanasundaram, Senior Scientist (Entomology) from ICAR-NRCB, Tiruchirapalli visited RPCAU from 2nd to 8th October 2024. During this visit, he monitored the ongoing trials of bananas under the ICAR-AICRP on Fruits project. All the scientists and staffs associated with ICAR-AICRP on Fruits were present. The ongoing research activity and scope of collaboration between RPCAU, Pusa and ICAR-NRCB, Trichy were discussed.



➤ **Explorative Survey conducted in the Banana growing belts of Muzaffarpur and Vaishali District** An exploratory survey was conducted in the

traditional banana growing belts of Muzaffarpur and Vaishali District on 24th October, 2024 by the scientific team of RPCAU Pusa working on Banana. The long-term banana-based farming system in the Hajipur area were explored. The team identified and collected one unique landrace each of Chinia and Malbhog bananas.



➤ **Millets-based value-added products developed** from RPCAU Pusa, were launched by FPO-Poshan Aahaar at Knowledge Centre, Gangapur, Bihar on 29th October 2024. The scientists associated with Centre of Excellence on Millets, ICAR-AICRP on Women in Agriculture were present during the event.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

➤ **KVK Madhopur organized an Animal Health camp** Animal Health camp under the TDC, NICRA- SCSP Project on 24th October 2024, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Bihar at Parsa village, of Manjhalia Parkahand. Farmers were briefed about



animal stress due to climatic factors and diseases. Experts guided the dairy farmers on shelter management, clean milk production, reproduction management, supplementary feed and fodder management. A total of 138 animals, including cows, buffaloes, and goats, were treated during the camp. Additionally, mineral mixtures, deworming tablets, and other essential veterinary medicines were distributed to the beneficiaries..



➤ **KVK Vaishali in collaboration with Green TV India organized a “Kisan Chaupal”** on 24th October 2024 focusing on Chilli Cultivation and Scientific Seed Development of Vegetable Crops. A total of 235 Farmers participated in the Kisan Chaupal where various technical sessions such as: importance of soil testing and nutrients fertilizers management in vegetable crop, Modern agriculture technology & important government schemes, Importance of value addition in Chilli crop, Package and practices of major vegetable crop, etc. were conducted by KVK scientists. During the event, progressive farmers were felicitated for their contributions and innovative approaches to farming practices. Additionally, a 3-day Demonstration cum Hands-on Training Program entitled “Protected

Cultivation of Exotic Fruit Crops” was conducted from 26th to 28th October 2024 for rural youth and women. After successful completion of the training program, certificates were distributed to 35 trainees. In the same month, under the ARYA Project, KVK Vaishali distributed planting materials of exotic varieties of capsicum, cauliflower, broccoli, tomato, and brinjal to farmers to promote advanced cultivation practices.



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

➤ **KVK Turki** have organized one day awareness cum training programme on “Importance of agri-drone in agriculture and integrated crop management practices and a one day awareness cum kisangosthi on “organic seed production and vermin-composting” on 21st and 22nd October 2024, respectively. Likewise, they also conducted field visit cum practicing farmers training on IMP in brinjal.





Others events were also conducted like scientific goat farmers training, oilseed production technology, and demonstration on mustard seed variety Rajendra Suflam at KVK adopted villages on 17.10.2024 at Aurai block.

➤ **Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sheohar:** KVK Sheohar in collaboration with the District Horticulture Department, conducted two training programs on mushroom production and beekeeping on 18th to 19th October and 22nd to 24th October 2024, respectively. Both the training programmes were designed to enhance the local agricultural practices and promote sustainable livelihoods in the region. Cluster frontline demonstrations (CFLDs) on rapeseed (Rajendra Suflam-1) were started by KVK Sheohar by imparting training to 500 farmers and distributed critical inputs to enhance crop production and improve farming techniques. They also initiated climate-resilient program for Rabi 2025 in five adopted villages, initiating line sowing of lentils to promote sustainable agricultural practices.



➤ **KVK Saraiya organized training programme on “Scientific cultivation of Mustard”** under Cluster Frontline Demonstration (CFLD) on oilseed on 08th October 2024 where the SMS (Crop Production) deliberated on agronomic practices,

weed, pests and disease management. Following the session, critical inputs were provided to the participants. A total of 70 farmers participated. Demonstration on line sowing of Rapeseed and mustard (Var. R. Suflam) was carried out at Dwarikanathpur village under CRA Programme on 24th October, 2024. A vocational training program on "Goat Production" was conducted for rural youth from October 25 to 30, 2024, with a total of 42 participants. Similarly, on 30th October 2024, a field day and crop cutting under the Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) Programme for yield estimation of the paddy crop were carried out at Dwarikanathpur village, in the presence of district line department officials.



### SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT/RECOGNITION

Dr. Sudhanand Prasad Lal (Assistant Professor cum Scientist, Agricultural Extension Education) delivered lead lecture dated 16-10-24 on topic “Adaptation Strategies vis-à-vis Climate Smart Agriculture: Unleashing factors through multinominal Logistics & Neural Networks in Green

Revolution states of India” in 2nd International Conference on Agritech Intelligence and Beyond: Cutting Edge Innovations in Agriculture and Allied Sciences organized by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Srinagar, Kashmir in association with Agriculture Forum for Technical Education of Farming Society & VITAL BIOTECH, Kota from October 15-17, 2024.

### AWARDS

Dr. Sudhanand Prasad Lal (Assistant Professor cum Scientist, Agricultural Extension Education) has been awarded the ‘Eminent Scientist Award’ in the International Conference on Agritech Intelligence and Beyond: Cutting Edge Innovations in Agriculture and Allied Sciences organized by SKUAST, Srinagar, Kashmir.



### VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

#### Dr. A. K. Singh

Former Vice-Chancellor, BAU, Sabour

Visited our university on 05 October, 2024

#### Dr. S. K. Sharma

Former Director, IIFSR, Modipuram, Meerut

Visited our university on 05 October, 2024

#### Dr. Randhir Singh

Former ADG (Agricultural Extension)

Visited our university on 05 October, 2024

#### Mr. Sudhanshu Ranjan

Former ADG, Doordarshan and Akash Vani, Government of India

Visited our university on 18 October, 2024.

#### Shri Abhyanand

Ex-ADG (Bihar Police) and Founder of Super 30

Visited our university on 20 October, 2024.

#### Dr. Rajiv Shrivastava

Meditation Expert, Heartfulness Foundation, Hyderabad

Visited our university on 28 October, 2024.



## FAREWELL

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

**1. Dr. Renu Kumari**

STO, C.C.Sc., Pusa

**2. Shri Purnendu Kumar**

STO, (Assistant Engineer), Pusa

**3. Md. Zubair Ahmad**

S.O., Account Section, Pusa

**4. Shri Binod Pathak**

SSS, SRI, Pusa

**5. Shri Rajeshwar Rai**

SSS, TCA, Dholi

**6. Shri Satrugan Prasad Singh**

SSS, C.C.Sc., Pusa



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