



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 the e-newsletter for February 2025, showcasing the remarkable achievements and milestones that have marked the beginning of this year at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa.

January was a month of celebration, innovation, and progress. We started the new year by welcoming our faculties, students, and senior officers followed by retrospection and review of the previous year (2024) to identify the gaps between what we have planned and what we achieved and also to chalk out the future strategy and course of action to bridge the identified gaps. In this month we commemorated Swami Vivekananda's Jayanti on 13th January with inspiring cultural and literary programs that highlighted the exceptional talents of our students. The enthusiastic participation of our university community made this celebration truly memorable.

Our commitment to empowering farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs was evident through the seven-day training program on "Sugarcane Production, Processing, and Value-Addition," organized by our Sugarcane Research Institute. This initiative, conducted under the Bihar State Jaggery Industries Promotion Programme (4th Krishi Road Map, Govt. of Bihar), saw the participation of 42 individuals from various districts of Bihar, depicting our dedication to skill development and knowledge dissemination.

I am delighted to share that our 18th Research Council Meeting, held on January 16-17, underscored RPCAU's unique distinction of having at least one research project as a Principal Investigator by every scientist at our university. Besides, several status papers on various crops viz. Maize, Spices, Oilseeds, pigeon pea, Tuber Crops and a policy paper on "Sustainable Water Management" were released which were written by our learned scientists. This approach is fostering groundbreaking research aligned with national priorities and addressing critical challenges faced by our farming communities.

It brings me immense satisfaction to announce that our Agri-Innovation & Incubation Centre has secured second place at the state level for exemplary mentoring of startup entrepreneurs. This recognition reaffirms our commitment to nurturing agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship.

January 24th was a special day as we unveiled the statue of Bharat Ratna Jannayak Karpoori Thakur on his 101st birth anniversary, in the presence of Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Honorable Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. On the same day, he inaugurated our new Media Centre, enhancing our capabilities for agricultural communication through platforms like our university YouTube channel and community radio "89.6 FM - Radio Pusa Bihar". This is going to be a milestone in empowering the farmers and agri entrepreneurs.

Our extension activities continue to thrive, with 3,550 farmers, rural youth, women, and extension workers trained in various agricultural technologies during January. As we embrace the challenges and opportunities of February, let us continue our collective journey toward agricultural excellence, innovation, and service to society. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient agricultural ecosystem for Bihar and beyond.



(Dr. P. S. Pandey)

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Republic Day Celebration at RPCAU : Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU) celebrated Republic Day with a vibrant ceremony. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor official hoisted the national flag and addressed the gathering. During his address to the gathering, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor briefed the audience on the university's achievements on various aspects. He emphasized that, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, RPCAU demonstrated significant progress by implementing sixth-dean committee syllabus to enhance academic standards. The university released a comprehensive University at a Glance document detailing its academic achievements and diversity, while also introducing a new Blue Book outlining regulations



for Postgraduate and Doctoral programs.

The institution's research capabilities reached new heights with the development of three new sweet potato and maize varieties recommended for national approval. A particularly notable achievement was the patent for an innovative mushroom-based paneer, which has attracted considerable commercial interest. The university's research progress was further underscored by achieving 12 patents and two copyrights, reflecting its commitment to cutting-edge agricultural innovations.

The central library underwent modernization with RFID technology, and a new mobile app was launched to support sugarcane farmers. Community engagement remained a key focus, with the university implementing several impactful initiatives. The One Tree in Mother's Name campaign promoted environmental sustainability, while the Swachh Bharat 4.0 initiative successfully conducted an auction of obsolete items. A mobile knowledge vehicle reached out to 15,000 farmers across 150 villages, establishing 37 jaggery units and a dedicated Millets Center is in the process.

Looking ahead, RPCAU is developing an IVF laboratory for cattle under the National Gokul Mission and constructing a

statue in honor of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur. The university has also expanded its media and outreach efforts by launching Krishi Connect and introducing Radio Pusa Bihar 89.6 FM to disseminate agricultural information.

The tableau presented by various colleges on 76th Republic Day celebration at RPCAU, Pusa, the first position was secured by PGCA, RPCAU followed by CAET (securing the 2nd position) and TCA, Dholi (securing 3rd position) in Tableau in college category. NCC boys and girls cadets of the college got consolation prize for their performance on the occasion. This is first time in the history of this university when girls cadets of NCC performed during any occasion.

Media Center Inaugurated at RPCAU: Bridging Agricultural Knowledge and Community. In a significant stride towards agricultural communication and outreach, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU) inaugurated its Media Center. The ceremony was graced by Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, who was accompanied by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P.S. Pandey.



During the inauguration, Shri Choudhary emphasized the Media Center as a visionary initiative designed to revolutionize agricultural communication. He highlighted the center's critical role in disseminating cutting-edge farming techniques and research directly to farmers, bridging the knowledge gap between agricultural research institutions and the farming community.

The minister particularly commended the university's YouTube program Krishi Connection, noting its innovative approach to farmer-focused content. He also praised "89.6 FM - Radio Pusa Bihar", the community radio station, for its impactful agriculture-based programmes that has been instrumental in raising awareness in rural areas.

The new Media Center represents a strategic approach to agricultural extension, leveraging digital and traditional media platforms to ensure that the latest agricultural research, technologies, and best practices reach farmers effectively. By combining digital communication channels like YouTube with traditional media such as community radio, RPCAU is

demonstrating a comprehensive approach to knowledge dissemination.



Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur's Statue Unveiled at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University: In a momentous event commemorating the 101st birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur, a statue honoring the legendary leader was unveiled at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU). The ceremony was graced by Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, alongside Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P.S. Pandey.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Choudhary highlighted the profound connection between Karpoori Thakur's legacy and the agricultural development of the region. He emphasized that Pusa, the birthplace of this agricultural education and research, has consistently played a crucial role in farmers' development and prosperity.

The hon'ble minister praised the university's commitment to agricultural innovation, noting its proactive approach to research and technological development. He expressed pride in the institution's ongoing efforts to advance agricultural productivity and support to farming communities.

The statue unveiling ceremony symbolizes more than just a memorial; it represents a tribute to Karpoori Thakur's vision of rural empowerment and social justice. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, in his remarks, underscored the university's continued dedication to the principles of agricultural

innovation and farmer welfare that Karpoori Thakur championed throughout his life.



EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Students of TCA, Dholi participated in quiz competition in Bagwani Mahotsavat organized during 2nd to 5th January 2025 at Gandhi Maidan, Patna



During the celebration of Swami Vivekanand Jayanti Samaroh on 13th January 2025 at RPCAU, Pusa; Khushi Kumari (B.Sc. (Hons.) Ag., 5th Semester, TCA, Dholi) and Mr. Shibanshu Swayampragyan (B.Tech. Ag. Engg., 3rd Semester, CAET) secured first place in Hindi and English elocution competition, respectively at the university level.



Avanish Arya, (B.Tech., 8th semester) participated in National Inter-University Debate Competition, "YUVA-25 20th National awakening festival" organized during 12th - 13th January 2025 at G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand.

Ms. Kanak Aggarwal NAAS Girls Scholarship (2024-25) was awarded to Ms. Ankita Kumari and Ms. Anushka Raj, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, 1st Semester students of TCA, Dholi.



A 100% paid internship has been registered for PG diploma students on 'Agri-Warehouse Management' in leading company 'ERGOS'. Additionally, 27 students of B. Tech Food Tech. (8th semester) have registered 100% paid internship in leading companies such as Britannia, Vadilal, Mother dairy, Sudha Dairy, Nestle, Unique Foods, Mithila Makhana, MRG nuts, Top and Town Bakers, and others.

Five students of TCA, Dholi and 3 students of PGCA got selected in SDAO/Assistant Director posts of Govt. of Bihar. Besides, 40 students of TCA, Dholi and 13 students of PGCA got selected in BAO of Govt. of Bihar through BPSC.

B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (2021-25) students of TCA, Dholi performed exceptionally well in the CAT 2024, SNAP 2024, and NMAT 2024 entrance examinations.



An Industrial visit was organised for 69 students (Food Tech.-39 and Agri. Engg.-30) of B. Tech (3rd & 5th Semester) to Sudha Dairy, Barauni on 21st January, 2025. Another industrial visit was also arranged, for B.Tech. (Agril. Engg.) and M.Tech. students of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, CAET to M/s Bihar Maa Durga Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd., Pandaul.



Students of B.F.Sc. 8th semester enhanced their skills in fabricating glass aquariums and preparing different fish products during their practical and skilled development programme at College of Fisheries, Dholi.



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

18th Research Council Meet (Rabi 2024-25) Organized: The 18th Research Council Meeting (Rabi 2024-25) was held on the 16th and 17th January 2025. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor chaired the event along with Dr. Bikash Das, Director ICAR-National Litchi Research Centre, Muzaffarpur along with the virtual participation of prominent experts, including Dr. A.R. Pathak (Former Vice-Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University) and Dr. M.B. Chetti (Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad). Director of Research, RPCAU, Pusa highlighted the university's research achievements and the actions taken on the previous RCM decisions. He emphasized RPCAU's unique distinction, where every scientist leads at least one project as a Principal Investigator, fostering innovation to tackle critical agricultural challenges aligned with national priorities.



Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor directed that each scientist must deliver at least one product, process, method, technology, copyright, or patent annually. Deans, Directors, and Scientists presented their achievements from the past year and proposed an action plan for the upcoming Rabi season.

During the event, the Status Report of Spices, Tuber crops, Maize, Oilseed and Pigeon pea research in Bihar has been released by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor.

PDUCH&F organized Training Program in collaboration with the Bio-diversity Management Board, Bihar : PDUCH&F, Piprakothi organized a one-day training program on 15th Jan 2025 in collaboration with the Bio-Diversity Board, Bihar. On this occasion DFO, Motihari, Dean, PDUCH&F and members of the Biodiversity management Board were present. In this event a quiz and debate were organized among students of PDUCH&F, Piprakothi.



Kadam Bar developed Product Released : On 16-17, January 2025 during the 18th Research Council meeting Rabi 2024-25 the Kadam Bar—developed under the AICRP on PHET, Department of Processing and Food Engineering, CAET—was officially released by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa.



Training Program organized at SRI, RPCAU, Pusa : The Sugarcane Research Institute, RPCAU, Pusa organized a seven days training programme under 4th Krishi Road Map, Govt. of Bihar (2023-28) entitled “Sugarcane production processing and value addition” under Bihar State Jaggery Industry promotion programme. The program was inaugurated by Sri Anil Kumar Jha, Cane Commissioner, Cane Industry Department, Govt. of Bihar, with the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P.S. Pandey chairing the event. A total of 42 cane growers/entrepreneurs from various districts of Bihar participated in the training.

Monitoring team of ICAR-AICRP on Potato visited RPCAU, Pusa : A Monitoring team lead by Dr. Anil Kumar Choudhary, Principal Scientist, CPRI-Shimla visited AICRP-Potato trials at Dholi centre on 11.01.2025. During visit Dr. U. K. Behra, Director of Education, RPCAU, Pusa and R.P.C.A.U., Pusa

other associated scientists and staffs were also present.



RPCAU participated in the Exhibition : Dr. A.K. Mishra, PI, AICRP Spices, showcased various spice exhibits at the Bagwani Mahotsav, organized by the Directorate of Horticulture, Department of Agriculture, Bihar, during 2-5 January, 2025 at Gandhi Maidan, Patna. The stall was visited by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Bihar, Sri Mangal Pandey, along with other dignitaries from the Agriculture Department, Government of Bihar.

Scientific team of ICAR-AICRP on Rapeseed and Mustard, Dholi centre visited the FLD : Scientists of AICRP on Rapeseed & Mustard, TCA Dholi centre monitored the FLD field of 50 farmers of Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts of Bihar during 29-31 January, 2025. They also surveyed insects, pest and diseases occurring in the crop. Soil samples from the standing crop had also been collected for further identification of soil flora.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Directorate of Extension Education: DoEE experienced a notably productive month in January 2025 conducted four training on different topic like Integrated Farming System, Preservation and Processing of fruits and vegetables, Integrated Fish Farming (Pisciculture) and Millet production. More than 100 participants from Shiekhpora, Bhojpur, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Patna, Gaya and other districts attended the training session focused on empowering farmer with sustainable agriculture practices. In addition, a five-day training cum exposure visit was organized for 30 farmers from Pakur district, Jharkhand, during the same period. This initiative was conducted under the distinguished chairmanship

of Dr. Mayank Rai, Director of Extension Education, RPCAU, Pusa. Key highlights about this programme was learning through observation, practical application of farm machinery, peer to peer learning tailored to specific needs of the farmers and all the programmes were facilitated by university specialists. The farmers were taught about different working model of IFS Models, Millets Production, Mushroom Production & Value addition, Post-Harvest management, Disease management, Climate Resilient Agriculture practices, FPO's, High-Tech Horticulture & Fish Pond Management. This training was sponsored by the ATMA, Pakur.



RPCAU Krishi Gyan Vahan: In the month of January 2025, Krishi Gyan Vahan of RPCAU under 4th Krishi Road Map reached Sheohar district for facilitating an interaction programme for farmers and address numerous advisory queries related to agricultural and allied sectors. This initiative expanded its scope by imparting agricultural knowledge to farmers at their doorsteps, covering all five blocks of the district at various locations and engaging more than 700 progressive farmers. The Programme, spanning January to 1st February 2025 was conducted under the guidance of Head of KVK Sheohar, the farmers were enriched with technical video presentation and connected with scientists to share agricultural experiences highlighting key challenges faced. During the outreach efforts, farmers received technical guidance on Rabi crop management, cattle and goat care in adverse weather, crop residue management techniques, and Kisan Gosthi (farmer-scientist interactions). Additionally, a training session under the All India Coordinated Research



Project on Women in Agriculture (AICRP-WIA) was also organized, focusing on empowering women farmers with sustainable agricultural practices and crop diversification.

TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/ AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

Training Programs Organised by Centre of Excellence on Millets: A three-day residential training programme from 28-30 January 2025 was organized on "Value Addition and Marketing of Millets through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) organized by the Centre of Excellence in Millets Value Chain (CoEMVC), RPCAU, Pusa, Bihar. Thirty-five member farmers of Shri Prabhu Ram Farmer Producer Company Limited, Begusarai participated in this training program. CoEMVC, RPCAU, Pusa is nurturing FPOs in Bihar for fostering value chain linkages, promoting value addition and developing market linkages for millets in Bihar.



Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Parsauni: Scientists from KVK Parsauni engaged in Cluster Frontline Demonstration (CFLD) activities on oilseeds (Rapeseed - Rajendra Suflam-1), visiting fields in villages such as Horil Chhapra, Damodarpur, Sirni, Belhai, and Chatia in the Areraj block and had a fruitful discussion and interactions with the concerned farmers. Likewise, one day training program for extension functionaries (ATM/BTM/Agriculture Coordinator/Kisan Salahkaar) on the topic entitled "Nutrient Management in Rabi Crops" was also organized where 54 participants from four blocks of Areraj subdivision participated.



KVK Sheohar: Various training sessions and field visits under the CRA and CFLD programs in adopted villages in the month of January 2025 were organized where farmers were provided critical inputs such as insecticides, pesticides, and weedicides to enhance crop productivity. Geotagging of CFLD mustard fields was carried out using Krishi Mapper for enhanced monitoring and analysis. To support small farmers by reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing the shelf life of

their produce, KVK Sheohar has established a small-scale food processing center for drying and dehydrating seasonal vegetables.



KVK, Gopalganj: A 4-days training programme on Poultry Farming was organized for 25 farmers under SCSP programme in which lecture were delivered by subject experts on different aspects of poultry farming. Likewise, three training programs for 72 rural youths on Beekeeping, Vermicomposting and farm machinery in the month of January 2025 were also organized. An exposure visit for 50 farmers was arranged to showcase interventions under the CRA program at KVK Piprakothi, where participants visited demonstration units and fields of farmers associated with the CRA initiative.

KVK Vaishali: A 10 days RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) training on vermi-compost was conducted by the course instructor Dr. Jonah Dakho, SMS, Horticulture. The program included theoretical lessons, practical sessions, and an exposure visit for 30 trainees in January 2025. Additionally, a one-day workshop-cum-entrepreneurship meet under the Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) Project was also held, where 30 participants (10 female, 20 male) shared their insights. KVK Vaishali also organized three days training programme on value addition of millets for rural youths where value added products like Ragi Cookies, Dates Ragi-ladoo, Ragi Barfi, Cake, Idli, Chocolates were prepared by the 30 female trainees. KVK Vaishali and IFFCO jointly organized training program for Krishak Mitra Samuh on use and importance of Nano Urea and Nano DAP in the month of January 2025.

KVK Siwan: Two RPL training programs on beekeeping and vermicomposting were successfully conducted in January 2025 with 60 and 30 participants respectively. A training-cum-scientist-farmer interaction under the CRA program was held on January 25, 2025, focusing on the latest technological innovations in agriculture, farmers' feedback on standing rabi crops, and an action plan for summer moong cultivation.

KVK Turki: A 5 days rural youth training programme on PoshanVatika and one-day training programme on backyard poultry production under SCSP scheme were conducted in the month of January 2025 where a total of 25 farm women and 45 farmers participated.

AWARDS

Ph.D. Scholar bagged awards: Mr. Digvijay Singh, Research Scholar from the Department of Agronomy was conferred "The Best M.Sc. Thesis Award" for the year 2022 for his M.Sc. Thesis by the Indian Society of Dryland Agriculture (ISDA) in the 2nd International Conference on "Rainfed Agriculture: Building Pathways for Resilience and

Sustainable Livelihoods" at Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad from 29th to 31st January, 2025. Mr. Singh also bagged the "Best Poster Presentation Award" in the Conference.



VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

Shri Anil Kumar Jha

Cane Commissioner, Sugarcane Industries Department, Government of Bihar

Visited University on 21 January, 2025.

Dr. Vikas Das

Director, NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur

Visited University on 16 January, 2025.

Shri Bhagirath Choudhary

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India

Visited University on 24 January, 2025.

FAREWELL

A Farewell ceremony of the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 31 January, 2025 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa.

- Dr. D. K. Das**
Professor, PGCA, Pusa
- Dr. Rakesh Kumar**
STO (T-6), CBS&H, Pusa
- Shri Birendra Kumar Singh**
TO (T-5), SRI, Pusa
- Shri Dinesh Rai**
Assistant, Security Section, Pusa
- Shri Kamlesh Kr. Singh**
Assistant, CCC Scheme
- Smt. Punam Kumari**
STA (T-4), TCA, Dholi
- Shri Vinay Kumar**
Tech. Asstt. (T-3), SRI, Pusa
- Shri Chandradeo Dwivedi**
SSS, RRS, Biraul
- Sri Singheshwar Ram**
SSS, PGCA, Pusa
- Shri Jagdish Sahni**
SSS, TCA, Dholi
- Shri Hriday Rai**
SSS, CBS&H, Pusa



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