



**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 April 2025, highlighting the remarkable activities and achievements of our university in March. These accomplishments reflect our collective dedication to academic excellence, research innovation, and community engagement.

One of the landmark events of this month was the 75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS) during 20-22 March 2025. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Mangla Rai, Former Secretary, DARE & DG ICAR, in the esteemed presence of eminent statisticians and agricultural scientists, including Dr. Padam Singh, Former Additional DG, ICMR and Executive President, ISAS; Dr. Rajendar Parsad, Director, ICAR-IASRI and Secretary, ISAS; Dr. S.D. Sharma, Former Director, ICAR-IASRI and Dr. A.K. Paul, Head Statistical Genetics, ICAR-IASRI and Joint Secretary, ISAS. The conference provided an enriching platform to discuss the role of Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Bioinformatics in agriculture and allied sectors, as well as the roadmap for Vikshit Bharat and secondary agriculture. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the dignitaries, experts, and participants for making this conference a great success.

Our research endeavours continued with the successful organization of a Wheat Field Day on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the esteemed presence of leading researchers and scientists. This important event showcased our cutting-edge research on terminal heat stress, biofortification, pre-harvest sprouting, drought management, spot blotch resistance, and aphid management—all critical areas for enhancing wheat productivity in changing climatic conditions.

Fostering holistic development, RPCAU successfully hosted the VII<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-College Games & Sports Meet from March 25-27, 2025. The event commenced with an inaugural ceremony graced by distinguished guests, including the Chief Guest Sri Vishwajeet Dayal, IPS, City SP, Muzaffarpur. With the enthusiastic participation of 359 students from seven colleges competing in various individual and team events, the meet reflected the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie. I was particularly delighted to witness the energy and competitive zeal of our students, and I look forward to hosting the All India Agricultural Universities Games & Sports Meet at RPCAU in the near future.

A remarkable step towards empowering women in agriculture was taken through the Women Farmers' Fair at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Turki, on March 29, 2025. The event was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Sudhir Kumar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Muzaffarpur, Bihar Government. With an overwhelming participation of more than 2500 women farmers from nine blocks of Muzaffarpur district, the event served as an excellent platform to promote digital agriculture and advanced farming techniques. I firmly believe that women farmers play a pivotal role in agricultural transformation, and their active involvement in adopting technology-driven practices will pave the way for sustainable agricultural growth.

As we move forward, RPCAU remains steadfast in its mission to advance agricultural education, research, and extension for the benefit of farmers and society at large. I appreciate the collective efforts of faculty, students, researchers, and staff in driving the university's vision forward. Let us continue to strive for excellence and innovation in all our endeavours.



(P. S. Pandey)



## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

**75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics:** The 75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS) was organized at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 with the theme “Data Revolution in Agriculture: Innovative Statistical and Computational Methods for Viksit Bharat @ 2047”. Dr. Mangala Rai, Former Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR, Chief Guest along with Dr. P.S. Pandey Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Dr. Padam Singh. Ex-Director IASRI & Executive President, ISAS, Dr. S.D. Sharma, Former Director, IASRI & ADG (Education), ICAR, Dr. Rajender Parsad, Director IASRI & Secretary ISAS, Dr. A.K. Paul, Head, Genetics, IASRI & Joint Secretary, ISAS, Dr. Amaresh Chandra, Dean, CBS&H & Convener of the conference, graced the inaugural session. Dr. Amaresh Chandra, Dean, CBSH, and Convener of the conference, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the significance of statistical innovation in agricultural research. Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Head, Department of S&CA and Organizing Secretary, coordinated the event and shared the objectives and expected outcomes of the conference. Dr. Mangala Rai in his address, emphasized the pivotal role of data-driven technologies and advanced statistical tools in transforming Indian agriculture for a developed India by 2047. The three-day event included technical sessions, plenary lectures, and panel discussions, offering a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among experts in the field. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation in the form of invited lectures, lead lectures, oral presentation, and poster presentation by over 200 delegates from across the country including 58<sup>th</sup> Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Lecture by Dr. Rakesh Chandra Agrawal, DDG (Ag. Education) ICAR, New Delhi, 42<sup>nd</sup> Dr. V.G. Panse Memorial Lecture by Dr. P.S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar. The three days 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics concluded with a valedictory session on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 with Dr. Indra Mani, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani as the Chief Guest.



**Mahila Kisan Mela Organised:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Turki organized Mahila Kisan Mela at KVK campus on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr. P.S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa, Dr. Mayank Rai, Director Extension Education, Dr. A.K. Singh, Director Research, Dr. P.P. Srivastava, Dean, College of Fisheries, Dr. Usha Singh, Dean, College of Community Science, and Dr. Sudhir Kumar, Joint Director Agriculture, Muzaffarpur, Government of Bihar. A total of 2590 farmwomen representing nine blocks within the Muzaffarpur district participated in the event. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor addressed the farm women and encouraged them to embrace digital agriculture for enhancing productivity and sustainability in farming. He emphasized the role of technology in modernizing agricultural practices and stressed that “डिजिटल कृषि से समृद्ध महिला किसान-विकसित भारत की ओर” is not just a vision but a pathway to empowering women farmers through knowledge, skill development, and access to digital platforms and acknowledged the significant contribution of women in agriculture and rural development and reiterated the university's commitment for supporting farmwomen through training programs, technological interventions, and financial literacy initiatives.



**VIIth Annual Inter College Games and Sports Meet 2024-25:** Directorate of Students Welfare, RPCAU Pusa successfully organized VIIth Annual Inter College Games and Sports Meet 2024-25 from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Dr. P.S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa, Sri Vishwajeet Dayal, IPS, City SP, Muzaffarpur graced the inaugural ceremony as chief guest and guest of honour along



with Dr. R.K. Trivedi, DSW, All the Deans, Directors, Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Officer In-charge Games and Sports and Sri Roushan Kumar, Organising Secretary. In these three days events 7 Teams from different colleges participated in 19 individual and 7 team events. All together 207 boys and 152 girls participated in these three days meet.



## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

**TCA, Dholi:** Six final year students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agri. (Batch: 2021-25), have been selected in Reliance Bio Energy. Also, 02 students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Ag. (Batch: 2021-25) have qualified GATE (XL) 2025

Company: Reliance Bio Energy

Dated: 17-18 March, 2025

S.N.	Name of Candidate	Course	Role	Status
1	Javed Akram	B.Sc. (Agri.)	Transit Collection Centre Supervisor	Finally Selected
2	Rahul Choudhary	B.Sc. (Agri.)		
3	Raktim Bit	B.Sc. (Agri.)		
4	Salman Ansari	B.Sc. (Agri.)		
5	Vishal Prakash	B.Sc. (Agri.)		
6	Supratik Saha	B.Sc. (Agri.)		

**CAET, RPCAU, Pusa:** Seven students of B.Tech Agricultural Engineering (2021-25) have qualified GATE 2025.



**CBSH, RPCAU, Pusa:** Students of B.Tech Biotechnology (8th semester), have showcased academic excellence and competitive spirit, 13 students have qualified the IIT-JAM, 12 students have qualified GATE-Biotechnology (GATE-B) and

20 students have qualified GATE-Life Sciences (GATE-XL)

**PDUCH&F, Piprakothi:** Seven students of 2018-2022 Batch and 05 students of 2019-2023 of B.Sc. Horticulture have been selected as Block Horticulture Officer (BHO) in Bihar Government. One student of batch 2019-2023 and 01 student of batch 2020-2024 of B.Sc. Horticulture have been selected as Agricultural Field Officer (AFO) in Punjab National Bank.

**Field Visit of SST Students:** A team of students and staff of SST, led by Dr. Sumeet Kumar Singh, PI, AICRP on Seed (STR) visited Messina Beej Private Limited on 4th March, 2025, located at Messina Village near Samastipur. The team gained valuable insights into the variety development, seed production, drying, shelling, cleaning, grading, storage, germplasm conservation, seed testing, seed marketing & entrepreneurship development in seed sector, opportunities & challenges.



## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

**Externally Funded Project:** Dr. Sudhanand Prasad Lal (Assistant Professor, Agricultural Extension Education) received an externally funded project entitled "*Refinement, Reliability, and Validity of the Climate Resilience Index developed*" by Reliance Foundation's Bharat India Jodo (BIJ) program" worth 14.24 Lakhs for 1 year from Reliance Foundation, Mumbai. The analytical and methodology-based research will be undertaken in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

**A Wheat Field Day was organized** by the Wheat Research Team of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar, in the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor sir, along with 130 participants, including Deans,





Directors, faculty members, staff, students, farmers, and private partners. The key focus areas of wheat research showcased during the event included terminal heat stress, biofortification, pre-harvest sprouting, drought tolerance, spot blotch management, and aphid control.

### **Monitoring Team visited the Seed Production Programme at Pusa Farm :**

The monitoring team inspected the seed production of Rabi crops at Pusa Farm under the chairmanship of Director Seed, RPCAU, Pusa along with member from Seed and organic certification, Mithanpur, Patna, Regional manager, NSC, Muzaffarpur/ Samastipur, Scientist from BISA, Pusa, Scientist from RPCAU. All the members of Pusa Farm were present during the visit.



### **Expert Lecture Delivered by Dr. Muthukumar, Texas A&M, USA :**

The RPCAU Chapter of the Indian Society of Agronomy, Department of Agronomy, PG College of Agriculture organised an invited lecture on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 by Dr. B. Muthukumar of Texas A & M University, USA on the topic “*Artificial Intelligence in Weed Management*”. Around 300 participants across the country attended the event virtually.

### **Sensitization workshop on AR – VR was organised :**

Sensitization workshop series on Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality have been started for RPCAU students at College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, Pusa.



many students of different colleges (Pusa, Dholi and Piprakothi campuses) have participated and experienced the virtual reality modules and VR kits. CAET is organizing this workshop on a regular basis for students to acquaint them with this technology.

### **Dignitaries from the Cane Industries Department, Govt. of Bihar visited SRI, Pusa :**

Sri B. Kartikey Dhanje, (IAS), Secretary, Sri J. P. N. Singh, Joint Cane Commissioner, Patna, Sri Arvind Kumar, Deputy Director Cane, Samastipur and other distinguished persons from Cane Industries Department, Govt. of Bihar visited Sugarcane Research Institute as well as Jaggery Unit. A group discussion organized on Sugarcane Breeder Seed Production and other different constraints faced during sugarcane cultivation under the chairmanship of Sri B. Kartikey Dhanje.

## **EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

**KVK Sheohar :** KVK Sheohar received 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in stall display during national conference on “*Agri Diversification and Eco Regional Farming*” organized at ICAR MGFRI, Piprakothi held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025. In this programme Senior Scientist and Head Dr. Anuradha Ranjan Kumari, Dr. Sanchita Ghosh SMS (Horti) received 1st prize in poster presentation during this two-day programme. Dr. Saurabh Shankar Patel, SMS (PHT) KVK Sheohar received 3rd prize in poster presentation at Dairy Industry Conference organized by Indian Dairy Association in Gyan Bhawan, Patna. In addition to these achievements, a Krishi Sangosthi was organized under the CRA project by KVK Sheohar to enhance awareness among district farmers regarding emerging agricultural technologies. The event witnessed the gracious presence of Hon'ble Ex-MP Shri Anand Mohan, MLA Shri Chetan Anand, and Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director, ATARI.





**RPCAU Krishi Gyan Vahan:** Under the 4th Bihar Krishi Road Map, Krishi Gyan Vahan has successfully completed its first year, benefitting over 16,000 farmers across 220 villages in 48 blocks within 11 districts. Launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar on March 15, 2024, and inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P.S. Pandey on Bihar Diwas (March 22, 2024), this mobile knowledge vehicle has emerged as a transformative initiative for farmer empowerment. The project has addressed key agricultural and allied sector challenges, including pest management, animal health, and rural youth self-employment, while also facilitating the dissemination of RPCAU's technologies. Live programmes such as Tech-Talk Episodes and Sawaal-Jawab have extended the initiative's reach to remote areas, providing personalized consultations and enhancing awareness of modern practices. Praised by dignitaries including the Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, the initiative exemplifies innovation in agricultural extension. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU Dr. P.S. Pandey highlighted its dual role in resolving field-level issues and fostering rural entrepreneurship.



**KVK Turki Celebrates International Women's Day :** Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Turki celebrated International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at its campus. Miss Shranya Shree (IAS), SDM (West), Muzaffarpur, graced the event as Chief Guest and highlighted the significant role of women in Indian agriculture and the benefits of government schemes for women farmers. A question-answer competition was also organized, and winning women farmers were felicitated by KVK Turki.



**Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Turki :** Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Turki conducted a 10-day Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) residential training programme on vermicompost production and its role in soil fertility management from 1st to 10th March 2025, with participation from 30 rural youth.



Additionally, in collaboration with the District Agriculture Office, Muzaffarpur, KVK Turki organized the Kisan Mela cum Horticulture Show 2025. The event was inaugurated by the District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur, who emphasized the need for adopting modern agricultural technologies, especially micro-irrigation systems to boost horticultural productivity.



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

**College of Fishery, Dholi organized NFDB sponsored training programme :** National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) sponsored three training programme on “*Freshwater Ornamental Fish Breeding and Rearing*” for participants of Samastipur was organized from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 and similar training programme were also organized for the participants from Samastipur and Muzaffarpur district from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 and 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. Likewise, hands-on training to SC (Scheduled Caste) Fishery Community through Demonstration of Fish Products Preparation” of Samastipur and Muzaffarpur districts were



organized from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2025 and from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 respectively.



**TCA Dholi organised Training on Tuber, Spice and Oilseed Crops :** AICRP centre on Tuber Crops at Tirhut College of Agriculture Dholi, RPCAU, Pusa under SC/SP scheme successfully organised Two Days Training Programme on “*Scientific cultivation method of tuber crops*” from 11-12 March, 2025 at Dholi Campus. On this occasion, planting materials of tuber crops were also distributed to the trainee's farmers. Besides, a domain training on “*Spices and Oilseed Crops*” under Bihar Skill Development Mission sponsored by BAMETI, Patna, Bihar was started from 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 at College Auditorium, TCA, Doli.

**SRI organized Training Program for the Sugarcane Growers:** The Sugarcane Research Institute, RPCAU, Pusa organized a seven days training programme from 04-10<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 under 4<sup>th</sup> Krishi Road Map, Govt. of Bihar (2023-28) on “Sugarcane Production Processing and Value Addition” under Bihar State Jaggery Industry Promotion Programme. During this seven days training programme cane growers/entrepreneurs from different districts of Bihar participated.

**Interactive meeting organised at CAET, Pusa :** An interactive meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 with Dr. Indramani, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Vasant Rao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani, at the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (CAET). In his address, he motivated the students to strive for excellence, encourage them to focus on academic and technical growth.



## VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

### Dr. Mangla Rai

Former Secretary, DARE & DG ICAR – Chief Guest at the 75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics.

Visited University on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

### Dr. Padam Singh

Executive President, Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS).

Visited University on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

### Dr. Rajendar Parsad

Director, ICAR-IASRI and Secretary, ISAS.

Visited University on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

### Dr. S.D. Sharma

Former Director, ICAR-IASRI.

Visited University on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

### Dr. A.K. Paul

Head, Statistical Genetics, ICAR-IASRI and Joint Secretary, ISAS.

Visited University on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

### Sri Vishwajeet Dayal, IPS

City SP, Muzaffarpur–Chief Guest at the VIIth Annual Inter-College Games & Sports Meet.

Visited University on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

### Dr. Sudhir Kumar

Joint Director of Agriculture, Muzaffarpur, Bihar Government – Attended the Women Farmers' Fair at KVK, Turki.

Visited University on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.



## FAREWELL

➤ A Farewell ceremony of the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 29 March, 2025 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>Dr. S. P. Singh</b><br>Professor, TCA Dholi               | 4. <b>Dr. Sunita Prasad</b><br>STO, CCS, Pusa       |
| 2. <b>Dr. Anil Kumar Singh</b><br>Associate. Professor, PDUCH&F | 5. <b>Shri Subhnarayan Prasad</b><br>TO, TCA, Dholi |
| 3. <b>Shri Mahesh Prasad</b><br>STO, PGCA, Pusa                 | 6. <b>Shri Bhogendra Kamti</b><br>TA, PGCA, Pusa    |



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