



**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University**  
Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848 125

Volume-6

Issue-12

December-2025

## Highlights

- ❖ **Deeksharambh** P. 2
- ❖ **Samvidhan Diwas** P. 2
- ❖ **National Educational Tour** P. 3
- ❖ **Parents' Meeting** P. 3
- ❖ **Field Visit Organized** P. 4
- ❖ **Pre-Legislative Discussion** P. 4
- ❖ **Rabi-2025** P. 5
- ❖ **Crop Group Research Programme** P. 6
- ❖ **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 the month of December 2025, highlighting the significant academic, research, extension, and outreach activities undertaken at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa. I am pleased to share that the month of November 2025 witnessed vibrant academic, research, extension, and outreach activities of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, reflecting our collective commitment to excellence in agricultural education and farmer-centric development.

The University successfully conducted document verification, admission, and registration for provisionally admitted Undergraduate and Postgraduate students for the Academic Session 2025–26. This important academic milestone reaffirms our dedication to transparency, efficiency, and academic rigor in student admissions.

Our extension and capacity-building initiatives continued with renewed vigor. The Directorate of Extension Education organized several impactful training programmes, including those on medicinal and aromatic plants and scientific mushroom cultivation, benefitting farmers, rural youth, and extension personnel from multiple districts. The University also hosted important deliberative such as the Zonal Regional Research Extension Advisory Committee (Rabi-2025) Meeting and the 9th Meeting of the Extension Education Council. These platforms facilitated meaningful dialogue among scientists, farmers, and experts, and generated valuable recommendations to further strengthen the research–extension linkages in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

A significant highlight of the month was the live broadcast of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana programme at our campus, graced by Shri Ram Nath Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. The enthusiastic participation of farmers and the exhibition of University technologies underscored RPCAU's role as an effective bridge between national policy initiatives and farmer welfare.

I am particularly delighted to note the successful commencement of “Deeksharambh 2025”, the induction programme for newly admitted students. The inaugural function was graced by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), New Delhi, as the Chief Guest, along with other distinguished dignitaries. The programme's strong emphasis on experiential learning, including visits to Krishi Vigyan Kendras, will help students connect academic knowledge with real-world agricultural challenges from the outset of their academic journey.

The University's seed and non-seed production activities also recorded encouraging progress during the month, generating substantial revenue while ensuring the timely availability of quality agricultural inputs to farmers.

I sincerely appreciate the dedication and teamwork of our faculty members, scientists, officers, staff, students, and stakeholders, whose collective efforts continue to strengthen the stature of RPCAU as a centre of excellence in agricultural education, research, and extension.

Let us continue to work together with commitment, innovation, and a farmer-first approach to contribute meaningfully to sustainable agriculture and rural prosperity.

With warm regards and best wishes,



(P. S. Pandey)

## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

**RPCAU Deeksharambh 2025 for Newly Admitted Undergraduate Students:** Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa inaugurated Deeksharambh 2025, the orientation programme for newly admitted undergraduate students, on 24th November 2025. The programme was formally inaugurated in the august presence of Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, as the Chief Guest, along with Dr. P. S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa, Registrar, Deans, Directors, faculty members, staff, and students. The 20-day Deeksharambh Programme, scheduled from 24th November to 13th December 2025, is designed to facilitate a smooth academic, social, and cultural transition of students into university life. The programme features a diverse range of academic, professional, motivational, and cultural activities aimed at holistic student development. During the month of November, along with the experts from RPCAU, several distinguished invited experts and professionals interacted with the students and shared their insights and experiences. The eminent speakers included Ms. Akansha Anand, IAS, SDM, Barsoi, Katihar; Ms. Minati Chaklanavis, Head, Department of Mass Communication, Patna Women's College; Mr. Manoj Kumar, Founder and Director, Bhoomiaqua International, Mumbai; Ms. Ankita Jha, Technical Support Lead, Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Ravi Kumar, Business Director (Indian Region), Sinochem Agro Company Ltd., Shanghai, China; Shri Shirsat Kapil Ashok, IAS; and Shri Abhinav Srivastav, Senior Advocate, Patna High Court. Adding cultural and creative dimensions to the programme, renowned artists and experts such as Mr. Javed Akhter Khan (Theatre Artist), Ms. Mona Jha (Kathak Artist), and Ms. Sonal Jha (Literary Expert) conducted engaging sessions and performances, enriching the students' orientation experience. Deeksharambh 2025 reflects RPCAU's commitment to nurturing well-rounded professionals by blending academic orientation with exposure to administration, industry, law, arts, and culture, thereby laying a strong foundation for the students' academic journey.



**RPCAU, Pusa Celebrates Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) with Grandeur and Reverence:** Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa proudly celebrated Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) on 26th November 2025 with great enthusiasm and deep respect for the Constitution of India, the nation's supreme guiding document. The observance of Samvidhan Diwas was marked across the University, with active participation from the University Administrative Office, constituent colleges, and various academic and administrative units. At the Samvidhan Park of the University, the celebration witnessed the gracious presence of the Deans, Directors, and administrative heads, who gathered to commemorate the historic occasion. The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of RPCAU, under the supervision of the Director of Student Welfare, Dr. Raman Trivedi, organized a special Constitution Day programme at the Deeksharambh Pandal. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the newly admitted undergraduate students, sensitizing them to the ideals, rights, duties, and values enshrined in the Constitution of India. Simultaneously, different constituent colleges and other units of the University celebrated Samvidhan Diwas at their respective premises through organized activities and observances, reflecting the collective commitment of the RPCAU fraternity towards constitutional values. The highlight of the day was the pledge-taking ceremony, during which faculty members, staff, and students reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The celebration reinforced the University's dedication to fostering constitutional awareness, democratic values, and responsible citizenship among its academic community.



**PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi 21st Installment:** The live broadcast program of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna (21st Instalment) was organized in the Vidyapati Sabhagar, RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur on 19th November 2025. Hon'ble Shri Ram Nath Thakur, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, inaugurated the programme. PM-KISAN is a flagship scheme of the Government of India that provides financial assistance to small and marginal farmers across India. Under this initiative, eligible farmers receive Rs. 6,000 annually in three equal installments directly into their bank accounts. The programme also witnessed the stall participation from different departments of the University with major focus on millets, mushroom, honeybee, bamboo, sugarcane products. During this programme more than 350 farmers from different villages of Samastipur district participated. Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the gatherings from the Natural Farming Summit-2025 organised at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu to promote sustainable eco-friendly and chemical free Agricultural practices.



**ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

**Forestry Students Complete National Educational Tour Across Leading Institutes:** The 7th semester Forestry students of PDUCH&F, Piprakothi undertook a 10-day educational tour from 6-16 November 2025, covering several premier forestry and wildlife institutions of the country. The tour included visits to Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI) and State Forest Research Institute (SFRI), Jabalpur, where students gained exposure to advanced forest research, biodiversity conservation, and nursery technologies. The team also visited Ranthambore National Park, Sawai Madhopur, observing wildlife management practices and tiger conservation efforts. At Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, students interacted with scientists on temperate forestry, agroforestry, and silvicultural systems. In Dehradun, students explored the renowned Forest Research Institute (FRI) and the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC), learned about watershed management, soil conservation, and sustainable land-use practices. The tour concluded with a visit to the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The trip provided valuable practical exposure and strengthened the students' understanding of forestry, wildlife conservation, and environmental

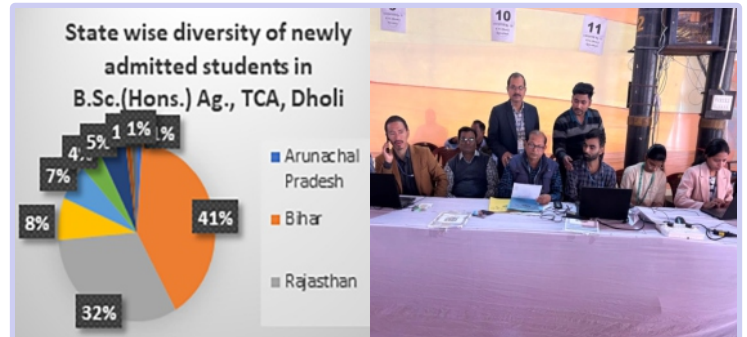
management.



**A Parent-Advisor-Student Meeting** was organised for 5th semester B.Sc.(Hons.) agriculture students on 22.11.2025 at TCA, Dholi. In the meeting, the academic performance as well as attendance progress reports of the students was informed to the respective parents. Important suggestions from parents were taken in the meeting.



**A total of 91 students from 9 different states got admitted in B.Sc. (Hons.) Ag. Programme (Batch:2025-29)** of Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi through ICAR, out of which no. of Boys and Girls are 70 and 21, respectively.



**Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi organised parents' meeting of newly admitted students (Batch: 2025-29)** at Panchtantra Hall, RPCAU, Pusa on 21.11.2025. Dr. P. P.Singh,



Dean presented information and highlights of the college and informed the students and parents regarding academic rules and regulations. More than 50 parents along with their wards attended the session and gave positive feedback on the session. Parents and students seemed excited and motivated while taking admission in this prestigious College of RPCAU.

**Field Visit Organized :** The academic/practical field visit of all 36 students of the B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering & Technology) fifth semester of the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Pusa, was organized on 28 November 2025 by the Department of Processing and Food Engineering. The visit was conducted under the guidance of the Head of Department and faculty members to familiarize the students with real industrial processes related to food storage, processing, and quality control. The visit conducted at Adani Agri Logistics, Srirampur, Gopalpur, Pusa Road – Modern Silo Storage System; Laxmi Flour Mill, Samastipur – Production of Wheat-Based Products and FCI Warehouse, Samastipur – Conventional Storage and Fumigation

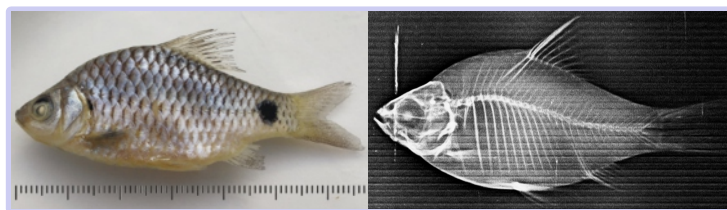


Laxmi Flour Mill, Samastipur

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

**New fish species, *Puntius torsai* from Brahmaputra Drainage :** One species from Torsa river (Brahmaputra drainage) from West Bengal was characterized with molecular tools and identified as new species. The new species is distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of the characters: A complete lateral line with 24 paired scales; 9-10 pre-dorsal scales; 12 circumpeduncular scales; 5½/4½ lateral transverse scales; a total of 30 vertebrae; one pair of barbels; body depth of 41.25-45.33% standard length; head depth of 70.43-73.22% head length; the presence of a black horizontal band on the dorsal fin; a small humeral spot; and a caudal peduncle blotch covering the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> lateral line scale. The evolutionary relationship of the *Puntius torsai*, new species was confirmed based on the cytochrome oxidase I (COI) gene sequence. Maximum likelihood phylogenetic analysis for 81 COI sequences of *Puntius sensu lato* revealed its placement within the genus *Puntius sensu stricto*. A thorough integrative taxonomic approach is essential to uncover the cryptic diversity within *Puntius*, which is crucial for improved fisheries management and biodiversity conservation (M.K. Singh, H. N. Anjanayappa, B. K. Das, D.

Bhakta & K. Kumari. (2025). *Journal of Ichthyology*, 65: 791-803).



## Pre-Legislative Discussion on New Seed Bill-2025 :

A discussion was held in the Department of Seed Science and Technology, PG College of Agriculture on the 'New Seed Bill 2025' under the chairmanship of the Dean, PGCA. Head of the Department, and students (MSc and PhD) actively participated. The meeting focused on key provisions of the proposed bill and its implications for seed quality regulation, farmers' rights, varietal registration, and transparency in the seed supply system. Several suggestions and comments were compiled in the prescribed PIB data format, reflecting the department's collective perspective and commitment to strengthening the seed sector through informed policy inputs.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**TSP programme to benefit Tribal Women:** KVK Narkatiyaganj team distributed 20 Sewing machines to 20 tribal women under TSP program on 24th November, 2025 at vibrant village Manguraha in Gaunaha Block under monitoring and supervision of Hon'ble VC Dr. P.S. Pandey & DEE Dr. Ratnesh Kumar Jha. The program was also supported and graced by Shri S.K Garhwal, Hon'ble Chairman, ST Commission & Shri Balwant Singh Negi, Commandant SSB 44 Battalion, Narkatiyaganj. The sewing machine plays a transformative role for tribal women by acting as a powerful tool for economic empowerment, skill development, and social self-reliance. It enables them to generate income from



home, contributing to their family's financial stability and breaking cycles of poverty and dependency. The hands-on training of sewing was provided by 44th SSB Battalion Narkatiyaganj.

**Training Programme on “Production, processing and value addition of medicinal and aromatic plants”:** Director Extension Education, RPCAU, Pusa organized three days training programme during 10-12 November 2025 sponsored by the BAMETI, Patna where 26 farmers including ATM and BTM participated from 8 districts (Gopalganj, Siwan, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Munger, Bhojpur, Buxar, Darbhanga) of Bihar. This training programme was aimed at providing new and innovative information and knowledge on production, processing and value addition of medicinal and aromatic plants such as Balsi, Mentha, and Satavar. It included topic such as conservation, research of MAP at the University, it's production technique, pharmaceutical processing and values, etc. Field visit of Herbal Vatika for participants was also organized for demonstration purpose.



**Zonal Regional Research Extension Advisory Committee meeting:** The Zonal Regional Research Extension Advisory Committee (Rabi-2025) meeting was organized on 17th November 2025 in the Vidyapati Sabhagar, RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P.S. Pandey. During the meeting the proceedings of last year's meeting were reviewed, along with discussion on extension education program, research-related issues, and other contemporary problems. The Honorable Vice Chancellor emphasized on need to focusing over the real needs of farmers and transferring new and innovative



technology among farmers. A farmer-scientist dialogue was organized in which about 160 farmers and experts from different districts participated. All statutory officers of the University were present during the programme. This recommendation of this program will certainly promote farmer-oriented research and extension activities for the region.

**Extension Education Council Meeting 2025:** The 9th Extension Education Council (EEC) was held during 28-29th November 2025 in the Vidyapati Sabhagar, RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. S. Pandey. Dr. P. Das, Former DDG (Extension Education), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. Randhir Kumar Singh, former ADG (Extension Education) ICAR, New Delhi also graced the meeting along with farmers members Padmashree Raj Kumari Devi (Kisan Chachi), Shri Yogendra Kumar Pathak and Shri Raghav Sharan Singh and all other statutory members. Dr. Ratnesh Kumar Jha presented the progress of extension education activities of Directorate of Extension Education and KVKs. Chief Guest Dr. P. Das gave a Key note address on “Agriculture in 2047 perspective for Vikshit Bharat”. Dr. A.K Singh, Director Research, presented the recently developed technologies and varieties by the University. KVK heads of the respective KVKs also presented their progress and activities of previous year. On the second day, stakeholder discussion on “Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan : Way to Roadmap” was also organized. The meeting gave its valuable recommendations to foster and inculcate Principle of Science in the extension education activities.



**KVK Gopalganj** conducted nine trainings for farmers and rural youth on plant protection, grain storage structures, harvesting and sowing equipment maintenance, IPM in mustard, and wheat disease management, Value addition of mushroom, Nutri garden and its importance. Farmers were encouraged to adopt improved machinery and climate-resilient crop varieties. Timely advice on mustard and wheat pest management was provided to reduce annual losses. A live telecast of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi programme was organized with 300 farmers, along with lectures on natural farming and key inputs like Jeevamrit, Neemastra, Dashparni Ark etc. Under National Mission on Natural Farming, lectures

have been delivered on natural farming for farmers' clusters selected by Department of Agriculture in six blocks of Gopalganj districts. Demonstration of “Vegetables seeds kit for Rabi” has been started among 100 farmers by KVK Gopalganj.



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

**Crop Group Research Programme, TCA Dholi**, for Rabi 2025-26 was conducted on 10th November, 2025 at Central Instrumental Laboratory (CIL) Meeting hall under the Chairmanship of the Dean, Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi. During the programme, research highlights of research activities of AICRP and University-funded research projects for Rabi 2024-25 were presented by the scientists. A tentative plan of work for Rabi 2025-26 was also discussed by the house. Dr. Vikram Bharati, Associate Prof, Agronomy and Dr. Hriipulou Duo, Asstt. Prof. Genetics and Plant Breeding were Member Secretary and Co-Member Secretary of the Crop Research Group Programme.



**Agricultural Trainings Held at PDUCH&F Piprakothi in November 2025:** The college in collaboration with Bihar Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (BAMETI) and ATMA organized a series of agricultural training programmes in November 2025 to enhance the technical capacity of officers and farmers across the state. From 13–15 November, a training on 'Commercial Flowers Production' was conducted with 8 horticulture and agriculture officers and 24 farmers participating from eight districts. This was followed by a three-day training on 'Turmeric Cultivation and Processing', organised by ATMA West Champaran from 19–21 November, focusing on improved varieties, scientific

crop and nursery management, value addition, and post-harvest processing techniques. Subsequently, from 26–28 November, a programme on 'Propagation and Nursery Management of Horticultural Crops' was held, attended by 14 officers and 30 farmers from seven districts. Officials emphasized that these coordinated capacity-building initiatives at PDUCH&F, Piprakothi are crucial for promoting modern agricultural technologies, improving productivity, and strengthening grassroots extension services across Bihar.

### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**RPCAU, Pusa representation in the 6th International Agronomy congress :** International Agronomy congress Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agri-food Systems and environment stewardship was organised during 24-26 November, 2025 at CSIR–Natural Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi. The conference was graced by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan as Chief Guest and Shri Bhagirath Choudhary as guest of Honour. Ten (10) number of Faculties/Scientist and Students took part. In this congress Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Professor (Agronomy), Dr. Navnit Kumar , Associate Professor, Dr. Lalita Rana Assistant Professor, Dr. Gangadhar Nanda, Assistant Professor and Dr. Biswajit Pramanik, Assistant Professor took part in the programme & presented research paper. Dr. I. B. Pandey (Professor) and Dr. Vikram Bharati (Associate Professor) from TCA, Dholi also participated and presented their research work at the Sixth International Agronomy Congress.

### RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

Dr. U.K. Behera, Director Education, RPCAU, Pusa presented a lead Paper “*Farm Development Card : A game changer for Sustainable base of Indian Agriculture in Viksit Bharat @2047*” in the Symposium Technical Session “New Vista in Agronomic Education : Policy Frame work to-wards Agronomic Innovations for Agriculture 5.0 and Viksit Bharat”. Dr. A.K. Singh Director of Research, RPCAU, Pusa recognised as convenor for plenary lecture and Dr. Mukesh Kumar Professor, RPCAU, Pusa recognised as convenor for symposium on efficient resource use and precision input management.

### Best AICRP centre award to AICRP on Agrometeorology

The University has been awarded the “Best Performing Centre Award” under the ICAR-AICRP on Agrometeorology based on the recommendation of the Quinquennial Review Team. The Award was conferred during the recently held Annual Group Meeting of the project at the Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana.



**Dr. Biswajit Pramanick has been awarded with the prestigious Indian Society of Agronomy (ISA) Associateship Award 2023** during the 6th International Agronomy Congress held at CSIR-NPL, New Delhi, from 24–26 November 2025. The award was conferred by Dr. Panjab Singh, Former Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR, and Dr. Bram Govaerts, Director General, CIMMYT, Mexico.



### BRIEF ABOUT THE NEW OFFICERS

**Dr. Ratnesh Kumar Jha, Professor, Agronomy, joined as the Director of Extension Education at Directorate of Extension Education, RPCAU, Pusa.** He has completed his Ph.D from G.B.P.U.A.&T. Pantnagar. He has a vast experience of 29 years working in close proximity to Bihar agro-ecosystem. Previously working as a Professor at DoEE, RPCAU, Pusa, he played a vital role in shaping Center for Advanced Studies on Climate Change, NICRA project, Sukhet Model monetizing household waste, etc. He worked on CRA adopted villages and technology demonstration benefitting more than seventy thousand farmers. His area of interest includes climate smart agriculture, CA, cropping systems, flood & drought management, natural and organic farming. He played a vital role in implementing Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan-2025 outreaching more than 1900 villages.



**Dr. Kundan Kishore joined as Dean, PDUCH&F, Piprakothei, Motihari on November 12, 2025.** He started his career from ICAR as a scientist in 2003. He had served as Head, Crop Production at ICAR-CISH, Lucknow, Principal Scientist at CHES (ICAR-IIHR), Bhubaneswar and Senior

Scientist at ICAR-CIWA and Scientist at ICAR for NEH Region. He is the alumni of PAU, Ludhiana and BHU Varanasi. He made significant contribution in the field of horticultural research. Dr. Kundan has CVRC and SVRC released varieties of mango, custard apple and rose apple to his credit. He did pioneer work in the field of phenology of tropical fruit crops. He worked on smart orchard management using IoT sensors and multispectral imaging. He has guided PhD and MSc students. He has published more than 75 research papers in international and national journals. He is the Fellow of Indian Academy of Horticultural Science, Indian Academy of Biological Sciences, Bihar Agricultural Science Academy and Society for Horticultural Research and Development.



### VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

#### Shri Ram Nath Thakur

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

visited university on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

#### Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh

Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) visited university during 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

#### Dr. P. Das

Former Deputy Director General (Extension Education) ICAR New Delhi

visited university on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

#### Dr. Randhir Singh

Former Assistant Director General ICAR New Delhi

visited university on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

#### Padmashree Smt. Rajkumari Devi

visited university on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

## FAREWELL

➤ A Farewell ceremony for the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa

1. **Shri Ashok Kumar Singh**  
TO (T-5), DSF, Dholi

2. **Shri Maheshwar Ram**  
SSS, Plant Pathology, PGCA, RPCAU, Pusa



## EDITORIAL BOARD

**Chief Patron:**  
**Dr. P. S. Pandey**  
Vice-Chancellor

**Chief Editor:**  
**Dr. U. K. Behera**

### Editors :

Dr. R. M. Sharma  
Dr. Ravish Chandra  
Dr. Satya Prakash  
Dr. K. L. Bhutia

Dr. A. K. Panda  
Dr. M. Dwivedi  
Dr. A.K. Gautam

**Published by:**

**Publication Division**

**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University**

Pusa, Samastipur-848125 (Bihar), India

E-mail : [publicationdivision@rpcau.ac.in](mailto:publicationdivision@rpcau.ac.in), Visit us at : [www.rpcau.ac.in](http://www.rpcau.ac.in)