



**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University**

Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848 125

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## CONTENTS

- ❖ Pradaksheena Samaroh
- ❖ ICAR Sponsored Two-week Capacity Building Programme
- ❖ Drone pilot training
- ❖ 15th Research Council Meet
- ❖ ICAR Sponsored Short Course
- ❖ Farm machinery Repair & Maintenance skill development training program
- ❖ Celebration of the New Year 2024
- ❖ Celebration of the Republic day
- ❖ New Joining
- ❖ Farewell Ceremony for Superannuating Staff



## FROM THE DESK OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

**Dear Readers,**

I am delighted to present the university e-newsletter for the month of February 2024. We have experienced several impactful and remarkable events in the last month of January, which is a reflection to our commitment & unwavering dedication.

We all know that Empowering women is not just a moral imperative; it is an economic and societal necessity and Agriculture isn't just about the harvest; it's about the empowered women who cultivate change. As per the popular saying "स्वयं भूमेः परिपालनं स्त्रीणाम्, श्रद्धारिताः सृजन्ति सः फलानि। याः सुस्तनाः क्षेत्रमनुरक्तभूमेर, ताः सर्वदा वृद्धिमनुभूय सृजन्ति।" which translates that the hands that nurture the soil also nurture progress as women are the silent architects of

agricultural revival. Understanding the importance of technological interventions by women in Agriculture sector, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi ji launched 'The Namu Drone Didi' programme an initiative, which is a groundbreaking effort to revitalize farming practices and uplift rural women in India. By providing drones to 15,000 women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the initiative seeks to revolutionize agriculture and empower women as key players in the rural economy. For spreading more awareness on drone technology, our university awarded certificates to 14 women pilots who completed their drone pilot training and will be flying their drones on Republic Day to mark the essence of unity, diversity, and national pride.

In a symphony of patriotism, our university celebrated Republic Day with great zeal and fervor. 'From Kashmir's peaks to Kanyakumari's shore' a tapestry of dreams that our forefathers bore. From the unfurling of the tricolor to cultural performances echoing unity in diversity, the campus resonated with the spirit of democracy. Every member of RPCAU family came together, reaffirming our commitment to uphold the values enshrined in our constitution, fostering a sense of pride and shared responsibility.

In line with our commitment to excellence as an Institution of National Importance, our foremost duty is to strengthen the agricultural sector through cutting-edge research and innovation. Our mission revolves around empowering farmers, enhancing farm productivity, and elevating the income of our agricultural community. In the spirit of this dedication, our university proudly inaugurated three impactful programs last month, graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries.

The first initiative marked the commencement of the 15<sup>th</sup> Research Council meeting Rabi 2023-24, where release proposals of two varieties namely Hydride Shaktiman 6 of Maize and Rajendra Suflam of Mustard was recommended by the house for release and notification from SVRC/CVRC. In addition to these two recommended varieties one innovative technology "Mushroom Badi Production Technology" was also released by research council.

In the series of commitment of advance capacity building initiative, the university organised a Short Course on 'Crop Diversification and Utilization of Crop Waste to Achieve Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Improvement in Farmers' Income in Fragile Agri-Ecosystem. 'This program aimed to equip participants with knowledge and strategies for sustainable agriculture in challenging environments.

Furthermore, a 21-day Winter School on 'Epigenetic Regulations as Drivers of Insecticide Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Agricultural Pests' was initiated. This training focused on advancing studies related to insecticide resistance and their effective management, contributing to the overall resilience of agricultural ecosystems.

Further aligning with the new education policy 2020, aiming at empowering minds, transforming futures, developing innovation, shaping leaders and build a nation of lifelong learners, our university marked a significant milestone with the second batch of our flagship programme Diksharambh to newly admitted students. This initiative aims to rejuvenate ancient knowledge and traditions while prioritizing the holistic development of students, molding them into responsible citizens for the advancement of our nation.

(Dr. P. S. Pandey)

## EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### ➤ PRADAKSHEENA SAMAROH OF DEEKSHARAMBH (2023-24)

The University Foundation Course, Deeksharambh (2023-24), an innovative concept for Under Graduate freshers was organized by Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa from 29th December 2023 to 28th January 2024. The programme aimed at facilitating a smooth transition from school to College environment with the sole objective of inclusive development. The course comprised of various components such as Yoga, Cultural Club, Soft skill, Literary, Sports, Arts & Craft by all the three college campuses viz. Pusa, Dholi and Piprakothi.

The Valedictory function "PRADAKSHINA Samaroh" was held on 28th Jan, 2024 and was graced by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, and Dr Ram Avtaar, Founder Chairman Prem Sukh International Charitable Trust, New Delhi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr M Kumar, Registrar and Convenor delivered the welcome address whereas Dr B. Satpathy, Co-Convenor shared the significant achievements of this month long programme. Dr U K Behera, Director Education addressed the House with the fundamentals of Higher Education. The foundation course was attended by 317 students. The students performer from each Activity Clubs was awarded with appreciation certificates. The productive output of students in arts and crafts club was also displayed in the Gallery and was highly appreciated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. The afternoon session was completely devoted to student's performances. Several acts, dance forms, music, poetry and skits were performed by the students and the House was mesmerized with their performances. A Pledge led by Dr. M. Kumar, Registrar and Convenor was taken by all students. Dr. P. S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor concluded the session with his holy blessings to the students for a new beginning with positive outlook and commitment to move forward. The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Singh, Member Secretary, Deeksharambh.



➤ On 8th January 2024, 7th semester B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture RAWE students of TCA, Dholi under Industrial Attachment Programme visited different units of MESSINA CO. Pvt. Ltd. Students interacted with management personnel and got exposed about the different activities carried out in these institutions.



➤ Under Agro- Industrial Attachment Programme, an exposure visit for 7th Semester students of TCA Dholi, RPCAU was conducted on 19.01.24 and 25.01.2024. The students visited innovative orchard of Shri Sudhanshu Jee in Nayanagar, Samastipur, Bihar. Students learned about the production and postharvest management practices of fruit crops. Shri Sudhansu ji shared his wisdom and explained all the activities of the Orchard Nayanagar including quality fruit production, intercultural operations, postharvest management and marketing of fruit crops.



➤ Admission of first batch of UG students in B. Sc. (H) Natural farming: RPCAU has pioneered in introduction of four years Under Graduate Programme i.e B.Sc. (Hons) Natural Farming under the umbrella of PGCA with intake capacity of 20 students in current academic session of 2023-24. Presently 15 students have been

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

➤ **The 15th Research Council Meet (Rabi: 2023-24)** was organized by the Directorate of Research from 15th to 17th January 2024. The event was inaugurated by Dr. P. S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. A.R. Pathak, Former Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agriculture University, Gujarat and Dr. Bikas Das, Director, ICAR-NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur, Bihar as member of the Research Council of RPCAU, Pusa. During the meeting fifteen (15) university funded, ten (10) externally funded, twenty-one (21) ICAR-AICRPs and thirty-nine (39) new proposals of university funded projects were presented by the respective Principal Investigator. Each presentation prompted thorough discussions on the ongoing and future research endeavours within the university.



enrolled. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor addressed the orientation programme of newly admitted students on 09-01-2024.



➤ **Admission of students in various degree programme**

Students enrolled in Session 2023-24			
Degree Programme	Male	Female	Total
UG	172	142	314
PG	114	87	213
PhD	17	09	26
<b>Total</b>			<b>553</b>

➤ **New Batch of 553 Students Admitted to RPCAU, Pusa**

In a significant development, Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU) at Pusa has welcomed a fresh cohort of 553 students across undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), and PhD courses. This diverse intake reflects the university's commitment to academic excellence and inclusivity.

Among the admitted students, a notable 238 are female, marking a positive stride towards gender parity and empowerment in agricultural education. This surge in female enrollment underscores RPCAU's dedication to fostering a conducive learning environment for all aspiring scholars.



During this event the release proposal for two varieties namely Hybrid Shaktiman-6 (QPMMH 27) of Maize and Rajendra Suflam-1 (RAURD 18-1) of Mustard was recommended by the house for release and notification from SVRC/CVRC as well as one technology "Mushroom Badi Production Technology" were presented and after the discussion the technology was released by the research council.



➤ **Participation in the XI Group Meet of ICAR-AICRP on Fruits at NAU, Navsari (Gujrat)** Dr. S. K. Singh, Prof. Plant Pathology & Principal Investigator along with the associated scientist Dr Asish Panda Asstt. Prof. Horticulture from RPCAU, Pusa participated in the XI Group Meet of ICAR-AICRP on Fruits held at NAU, Navsari (Gujrat) from 22nd to 25th January 2024. All the ongoing experiments and new trials were elaborately discussed during the event. Two new banana varieties, first namely Kaveri Kanchan (Nendran × Culcutta-4), a dual purpose banana with better chips making and dessert quality and second namely Kaveri Vamana (a gamma mutant of Grand Naine), an ultra dwarf banana for wind prone areas and terrace garden were recommended for growing in Bihar.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

➤ **KVK Turki started 15 days INM training course for fertilizer input dealers** in the presence of Chief Guest Sri Gopal Meena (IAS) Divisional Commissioner, Muzaffarpur on 23/01/2024 at KVK campus. KVK Turki also conducted 4 days rural youth training programme on improved goat farming for income generation (by SMS Animal Science) and a field day on mustard variety DRMR 150-35 and lentil IPL 220 at Sarmastha village in the month of January 2024.



➤ **KVK, Vaishali organized two days training program on Natural farming**, three days training program for the rural youth on Mushroom production by SMS (Plant protection)



## RECOGNITION & OTHERS ACTIVITIES

➤ **Invitation of scientist to 75th Republic day function conducted at New Delhi on 26th January, 2024:** Dr. Shankar Jha, Associate Professor, Department of Soil Science, PGCA was invited to attend national celebration and parade of 75th Republic Day on 26th January, 2024 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi by Indian Public Service Broadcaster.

➤ **Dr. Asish Panda, Asstt. Prof. (Horticulture) was awarded as the Best Experiment In-charge for 2022-23** among the scientists of ICAR-AICRP on Fruits for leading and monitoring the MLT papaya trial which is being conducted in 11 centres across the country.



➤ **Mr. Roshan Kumar Ram, Asstt. Prof, CoF, Dholi** participated in MANTHAN- National Youth Conference held on 12th-13th January, 2024 at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. He acted as a team manager in UDBHAV-17th National Inter-University Debate Competition held on January 14-15, 2024 at same venue. C. Mohit Singh, students of this university was conferred with Judges special mention award.



➤ **Republic day was celebrated on 26th January, 2024** at RPCAU, Pusa. On this occasion, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P.S. Pandey addressed all the faculty, students and non-teaching staffs about the significance of this auspicious day.



➤ Mr. Adarsh Kumar, final year students of TCA, Dholi has been finally selected in Jeevika as Young Professional. Dean, TCA, Dholi congratulated for his grand success.

### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

➤ **Dr. Adita Sharma and Dr. Tanushri Ghorai, Asstt.Profs., CoF, Dholi** participated in two days online training programme on "Use of ICTs in strengthening nutritional sensitive Agriculture Capacities of Scientists" on 22th-24th January, 2024 and one day National Webinar on "Engineering Interventions in Fisheries and Aquaculture" on 29th January, 2024.

➤ **RPCAU Organized the ICSSR, New Delhi sponsored two-week Capacity Building Programme (CBP)** The Department of Agricultural Extension Education & Department of Agricultural Economics, PGCA organized ICSSR Sponsored Two Week Capacity Building Programme on 'Understanding Project Management Techniques from Social Science Research Perspective'.



The two weeks Capacity Building Programme on this broad theme was organized by RPCAU, Pusa from 4-15th January, 2024. The inauguration and valedictory ceremony of the training was graced by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey. Dr. S. N. Meera, Director,

ATARI, Hyderabad delivered the Inaugural Speech on Digital Extension. A total of 25 participants from across the country attended the programme. On the occasion, a training compendium was released by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, Dr. A. R. Pathak, Ex VC, NAU, Gujarat & M. Rai, Dean PGCA. The Capacity Building Programme was coordinated by Dr. B. Satpathy as Course Director and Dr. T. Kumari as Co- Course Director.

➤ **Drone pilot training successfully completed for the 9th and 10th batch** The 9th and 10th batch of Drone Pilot Training at CAET, RPCAU, Pusa was successfully completed on 10th and 20th January 2024. Seventeen participants in 9th batch were from Uttar Pradesh (Gorakhpur, Deoria & Prayagraj) and eighteen participants from 10th batch were from Bihar (Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai & Patna) and Jharkhand. Total 81 pilots have been trained so far from the RPTO, CAET, RPCAU, Pusa. Out of 81, 35 women are trained, named as Drone Didi under the Namu Drone Didi scheme of the Govt of India.



➤ **RPCAU Organized the 10 days ICAR-sponsored short course**

A 10 days ICAR sponsored short course on "Crop diversification and utilization of crop waste to achieve climate resilient agriculture and improvement in farmers' income in fragile agri eco-system" was conducted during 16-25<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. The short course was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa on 16th January, 2024. The Chief Guest of the occasion was Dr. K.G. Mandal, Director, MGIFRI, Piprakothi, Motihari. A total number of 16 participants/scientists from different universities/states participated in this training. This training has covered all aspects of crop diversification and agro waste utilization. Besides theory classes participants also interacted with the progressive farmers and entrepreneur of nearby district.



➤ **Farm machinery Repair & Maintenance skill development training program successfully completed** First batch for the year 2024 of skill development training programme on "Farm machinery Repair & Maintenance" successfully completed on 31st January 2024. The training program started on 2nd January 2024 with 25 participants from Vaishali, Madhubani, Begusarai and Samastipur district.



## NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

➤ **Faculties, Students and Staff of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University celebrated the New Year 2024** with Dr. P.S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU at Pusa campus. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor also visited TCA, Dholi campus on the eve of New Year 2024 get-together and interacted with faculties, staffs and students of TCA, CoF & Directorate of seed and showered his blessings and good wishes.



➤ **Department of AB&MB, CBS&H organized SERB DST sponsored one day research training programme on the topic "Gene expression analysis using real time PCR (qRT-PCR) approach"** for the faculties and Ph.D. scholars of RPCAU and nearby institutes on 8th January 2024.



## BRIEF ABOUT THE NEW OFFICERS

➤ **Prof. Umakanta Behera** joined as Director Education, RPCAU, Pusa, Bihar on January 01, 2024. Prior to this he was serving as Principal Scientist (Agronomy), Centre for Environment Science and Climate Resilient Agriculture (CESCRA), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and Dean, College of Agriculture, (Central Agricultural University, Imphal), Kyrdemkulai, Meghalaya. Dr. Behera obtained Master in Business Administration in Operations Research from IGNOU, New Delhi, 2009 and Post-Doc from University of Reading, U.K., 2002-03 and ZALF, Germany, 2012-13. Dr. Behera is Fellow, NAAS and Fellow, Indian Society of Agronomy. He has served as Convener, NAAS Regional Chapter for North Eastern Region, Barapani, Meghalaya during January, 2021 to June, 2023. He is specialized in the area of Farming System Research (integrated farming systems and optimization methodology), Natural/organic farming, and Conservation Agriculture. He has the experience of guiding 15 PG/Ph. D. students from India and abroad.



➤ **Prof. Amaresh Chandra** joined as Dean, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities, RPCAU, Pusa, Bihar on January 01, 2024. Prior to this he was serving as Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi 284003, U.P. Dr. Chandra has Specialization in the area of Plant biochemistry, molecular marker, plant biotechnology and source-sink molecular dynamics in sugarcane. Dr. Chandra a NAAS Fellow has more than 100 publications in the international reputed journal.



## VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

- **Dr. A. R. Pathak**  
Former Vice Chancellor  
Navsari Agriculture University, Gujarat  
Visited during 15-17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024
- **Dr. Bikash Das**  
Director, ICAR-NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur, Bihar  
Visited during 15-17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024
- **Dr. S.N. Meera**  
Director, ATARI, Hyderabad  
Visited during 4-5<sup>th</sup> January, 2024
- **Dr. K.G. Mandal**  
Director, MGIFRI, Piprakothi, Motihari  
Visited on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2024
- **Dr. Ram Avtar Singh**  
Yogic Guru, Founder Chairman of  
Prem Sukh Foundation Charitable Trust, New Delhi  
Visited on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

## FAREWELL

➤ A farewell ceremony of the following university employees who superannuated from University Service on 31st January-2024 was organized in the gracious presence of Registrar, RPCAU, Pusa.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Shri Raj Kumar Jha</b><br/>STO AE Civil, Directorate of Planning</p> <p><b>2. Shri Devinandan Prasad</b><br/>Assistant, PGCA, Pusa</p> <p><b>3. Shri Kanhaiya Kumar</b><br/>Assistant, Directorate of Seed, Dholi</p> <p><b>4. Shri Kshatrapati Mishra</b><br/>Assistant, University, Library, Pusa</p> <p><b>5. Shri Kapil Dev Mehta</b><br/>TO (T-5), PGCA, Pusa</p> <p><b>6. Shri Vijay Kumar</b><br/>STA (T-4), TCA, Dholi</p> | <p><b>7. Shri Arbind Kumar Sharma</b><br/>STA (T-4), TCA, Dholi</p> <p><b>8. Shri Ram Kumar Rai</b><br/>TA (T-3), SRI, Pusa</p> <p><b>9. Shri Ragunath Sah</b><br/>Sr. Technician (T-2), SRI, Pusa</p> <p><b>10. Shri Amar Nath Thakur,</b><br/>SSS, PGCA, Pusa</p> <p><b>11. Shri Lukha Rai</b><br/>SSS, TCA, Dholi</p> <p><b>12. Shri Shambhu Sah</b><br/>SSS, APRI, Pusa</p> |
|---|---|



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**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University  
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