

IAUA



NEWS

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NEW VICE-CHANCELLORS

DR PANJABRAO DESHMUKH KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, AKOLA

Dr Raviprakash G. Dani joins as VC, DPKV, Akola

Dr Raviprakash G. Dani joined as VC, Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Krishinagar, Akola on 14 August 2012. Before that he was working as Extension Biologist, Department of Biological Sciences, Texas University, Lubbock, Texas(USA). He was born on January 29, 1955 at Nagpur, he did B.Sc.(Agric.) from DPKV, Akola (1974); B.J.(Bachelor of Journalism) from Nagpur (1975); M.Sc. (1976) and Ph.D.(1979) in Genetics from the IARI, New Delhi (1976), D.Sc. (Biology) from Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences in 1995; M.S. in Biotechnology from Texas Technical University, the USA (2003). Dr Dani has experience of 32 years including 15 years in teaching. He served as visiting Professor, Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences; Lecturer, Department of Foreign Languages, Nagpur University and Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) and Head, Regional Station, Sirsa (Haryana). He has 116 publications to his credit, and is member of 7 professional bodies/associations in India and abroad and Fellowship from Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding. He was deputed to Jamaica as Molecular Biologist as International Agricultural Expert, and also in International Farmer-to-Farmer Program of United States Agency for International Development (USAID), he got national scholarship to study abroad from Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, is recipient of distinguished Indian Plant Scientist Gold Medal and International Plant Scientist Gold Medal, the Academy of Plant Science, India (U.P.),



Dr. R. G. Dani

TAMILNADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE

Dr K. Ramasamy joins as VC

Dr K. Ramasamy joined as VC, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on August 27, 2012. Born on 1 May 1948 at Nilaiyoor, Aranthangi (dist. Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu), he received secondary education at Veludaiyar High School, Tiruvarur and Board of High School, Aranthangi. He did M.Sc. (Fermentation Technology) at Annamalai University and Ph.D. in Industrial Microbiology at Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. He joined Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and served in the departments of Soil Science, Plant Pathology, Microbiology, Bio-Energy, Environmental Science and Biotechnology.

He devoted his life to research, which attracted financial support from various national agencies, viz., the ICAR, New Delhi; Department of Science and Technology; Department of Biotechnology, BRNS Atomic Energy Centre and MNES, as well as from international organizations like AICAR (Australia), FAO, Rome; USDA, and the European union.

Dr Ramasamy was Member, State Planning Commission of Tamil Nadu. He worked for the research and development of SISMA and in National Committees of Energy, Environment and Biotechnology.

KARNATAKA VETERINARY ANIMAL AND FISHERIES SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, BIDAR

Dr C. Renukprasad joins as VC

Dr C. Renukprasad joined as the third VC of Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, on September 21, 2012. He obtained Bachelor of Veterinary Science (1976) and Master of Veterinary Science (1978) degrees from Veterinary College, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and Ph.D. (1991) from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Starting his career as instructor in the



Dr K. Ramasamy

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Department of Parasitology, Veterinary College, Bangalore in 1978, he joined Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals and worked in different capacities as Deputy Director (Research), Joint Director (Operations SRDDL, Research and Investigation) and rose to the position of Director in June 2006.

He completed 12 research projects funded from different agencies, including Institutional Collaborative Projects. He was responsible for developing new vaccines like Pentavalent blue tongue vaccine for sheep and Freeze-dried cell culture vaccine for classical swine fever. Under his leadership, the institute developed state-of-art laboratory facility for investigation and diagnosis of animal diseases. Dr Renukaprasad was Member of Governing Council, Zoo Authority of India, Karnataka Livestock Development Agency and Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Board, besides being a Member of the Academic Council and Board of Studies, KVAFSU, Bidar. He received many awards and distinctions. Karnataka Veterinary Association presented him the Best Veterinarian Award. Dr Renukaprasad published 50 research papers and sought out 2 SRDDL reports. He visited the USA and Germany.



Dr Renukaprasad

Focus on Universities: Events and Achievements

Deemed-to-be-Universities

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI

Teachers' day lecture 2012

The Teachers' day lecture 2012 was organized jointly by the Post-graduate School, and Genetics Club, IARI on September 5, 2012. The dignitaries paid tributes



to Dr S. Radhakrishnan, the great philosopher, philanthropist and ex-President of India. Dr H.S. Gaur, Dean, P.G. School, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the significance of Teachers' Day and the lecture series. Dr C.D. Mayee, former Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi chaired the function. Dr Arvind Kumar, DDG (Edn), Dr S.K. Datta, DDG (CS), and Dr A.K. Singh, DDG (NRM) also graced the occasion and shared their views on the importance of Teachers' Day. Dr H.S. Gupta, Director, highlighted the significant achievements of Dr C.D. Mayee, Chairman of the function.

Prof. Mohan Joseph Modayil, former Member, ASRB, New Delhi, delivered the Teachers' day lecture on "Change of heart from oxymoronic to inspirational". He emphasized the qualities of a teacher as: "a great teacher does not teach-a mediocre teacher teaches; a good teacher explains, a superior teacher demonstrates," and a great teacher inspires. A great teacher is kind and generous, listens, has faith, encourages, keeps confidence, likes teaching the students, likes the subject, takes time to explain, helps when the student is stuck, tells how the student is doing, allows him/ her to speak, does not give up on him/ her, cares for his opinion, makes him/ her feel clever, treats all equally, forgives, tells the truth and stands by him/ her when he/ she is in distress.

He said that all humans are oxymoronic, brilliant morons, literate uneducated, active non-achievers, original imitations, and busy time-wasters. He pointed out the ways and means through which we can change our lives to inspire others. It is a journey from oxymoronic to inspiring, a journey that is rather long and tough; a journey that will transform one from an ordinary mortal to an inspiring leader.

Dr C.D. Mayee, who chaired the function, appreciated the very interesting and thought-provoking lecture delivered by Prof. Modayil on a very interesting and emerging topic. He also shared his own inspiring and guiding thoughts on the occasion.

IARI helps to Afghanistan in establishing agricultural university:

The Government of India is supporting Afghanistan in establishing an agricultural university. The IARI is playing an important role in this endeavour. Dr H.S. Gaur, Dean and Joint Director (Edu.), IARI, and Shri Rajesh Ranjan,



Dr H.S. Gaur presenting IARI publications to the Chancellor, Kabul University

Director, DARE, Government of India, visited Kabul during January 28 to February 2, 2012. They held a series of meetings with the various political, administrative and academic stake-holders and made recommendations for actualization of the proposal. In furtherance, a

team consisting of Dr H.S. Gaur, led a team including Dr Gaya Prasad, ADG (Animal Health), ICAR, New Delhi and Acting Director, IVRI, Izatnagar; and Dr Umesh Srivastava, Assistant Director-General (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi. The team visited Kabul during August 8-12, 2012 to discuss the technical and administrative requirements and logistic approach to develop a road-map for establishing Afghan National



Drs. Gaya Prasad, H.S. Gaur and Umesh Srivastava with Dr Osman Babury, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Afghanistan and Shri Rudra Gaurav Shresth, Counsellor, Embassy of India, Afghanistan

University of Agricultural Science and Technology with Indian assistance. The team considered the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities and held brain-storming sessions on the location, structure, function, requirements and linkages of the proposed university. After meeting several ministers and higher officers of Afghanistan, the delegation recommended an organogram, academic structure and strategy to establish a multi-faculty university with main campus, international centre and regional stations in three phases over the period 2013-2022.

IARI help Myanmar in establishment of Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, former Director-General, ICAR, and Dr H.S. Gupta, Director, IARI, visited Myanmar in July 2011 to strengthen the agricultural research, education and extension work in Myanmar and

by establishing an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) at Yezin. In September 2011 Dr H.S. Gaur, Dean and Joint Director (Edu)



Dr H.S. Gaur presenting a scenery to Dr Tin Htut

Nematologist led a team including Drs R.K. Pal, Head, PHT; Jitendra Kumar, Principal Scientist and Pulse Breeder, A.K. Singh, Senior Scientist and rice breeder; and R. Roy Burman, Senior Scientist, Agricultural Extension; visited Yezin Agricultural University (YAU) and Department of Agricultural Research, Yezin. After a series of interaction meetings and exchange of information with Dr Tin Htut Rector, YeZin Agricultural University, Director General, Department of Agricultural Research, and other senior officials of Myanmar, the team made an on-site assessment. They also interacted with the senior faculty and visited the various departments, laboratories and research farms. The team prepared a detailed project report for establishment of ACARE to strengthen research on improvement of rice and pulses, post-harvest technology, participatory knowledge management and human resource development aimed at improving the income, living, nutritional and working conditions of the farmers and people of Myanmar. This was followed by the visit of Dr R.K. Pal, Head, PHT and Shri Amit Mittal, Sr. Engineer in January, 2012 to decide building plans. In furtherance of the same, Dr H.S. Gaur, and Shri Amit Mittal along with Shri Bhavesh R. Trivedi visited Myanmar during September 6-10, 2012 to discuss the progress and further strategy in establishing the ACARE.

SAM HIGGINBOTTOM INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCES, ALLAHABAD

SHIATS Dhan-1 gets national identity

SHIATS Dhan-1 'AAIR 202' Proposed name national identity no. IC495941 IET no. 20928) was identified as a promising line from the mutagenic population and tested through All-India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Programme (ICAR-DRR) and Regional Agricultural Testing and Demonstration Stations (RATDS) for 3 years (2009-2011). The rice culture recorded 6,458 kg/ha yield (2nd rank) in U.P., 5,416 kg/ha (4th rank) in Bihar, 5,555 kg/ha (2nd rank) in West Bengal and 7,464 kg/ha (7th rank) in Andhra Pradesh (WGL). The

average mean yield of the 5 states was 5,984 kg/ha. Further, the culture reported 7% yield more than the best check in Region III, which consists of 12 states: Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Manipur,



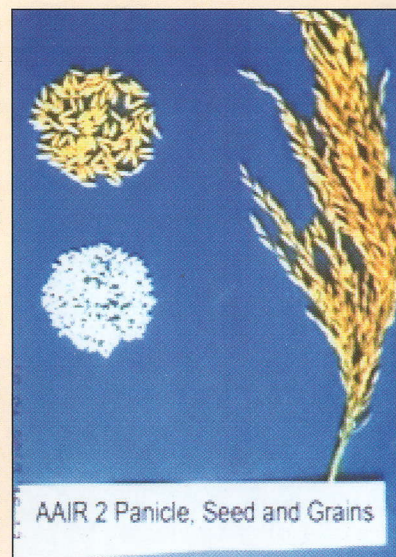
Field view of SHIATS Dhan-1

Meghalaya, Assam and Mizoram. In rainy season (kharif) 2009 it performed well also in Gujarat (6,395 kg/ha), Andhra Pradesh (5,882 kg/ha), West Bengal (4,946 kg/ha) and Assam (4,635 kg/ha) for yield. This variety was evaluated during these 3 years in the adoptive trials conducted through Regional Agriculture Testing and Demonstration Station (RATDS), Department of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh. It outyielded the best check variety NDR 359 under irrigated medium-duration condition with more than 6.9% increase in Uttar Pradesh. The culture gave promising yield of 4.5-

6.5 t/ha in Uttar Pradesh. It matures in 126 days, which suits the rice-wheat cropping system, and it possesses moderate tillering ability (10.0) with 295-310 panicles/m², withstanding shattering and lodging. Each panicle bears 280 to 300 fertile spikelets.

This rice culture has fine medium-slender grains, golden colour with moderate values of amylose content, gel consistency and alkali spreading (good cooking-quality traits). It recorded 16-17g test weight, which is less than that of the check varieties NDR 359, Sarjoo 52 (25g test weight), under medium-duration group. It possesses field resistance to

neck blast and moderate resistance to brown spot, sheath blight and bacterial blight, and tolerance to common pests during the crop season. The Director of Agriculture, U.P., recommended release of SHIATS Dhan during the meeting held on August 24, 2012 at Lucknow.



Universities

ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND

National dairy products judging contest

SMC College of Dairy Science, Anand Agricultural University and its Alumni Association jointly organized the "Ninth National Dairy Products Judging Contest on September 13, 2012. This is an annual event organized by the college for the last 9 years. This year there were record 19 teams from Dairy Technology educational institutes as well as from Dairy industries from all over India. Each team consisted of 2 members, who were provided with samples of milk, curd (dahi) and paneer for sensory evaluation. Among the teams from dairy plants, Sumul Dairy, Surat bagged the first prize, whereas Baroda Dairy, Vadodara and Amul Dairy, Anand secured the second and third positions, respectively. In the Educational Institution category, G.N. Patel College of Dairy Science and Food Technology, Sardar Krishi nagar secured the first position; College of Dairy Science and Technology, (Kerala) secured the second position and National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, (Haryana) the third position.

National level dairy and food quiz contest, 2012

Total 18 teams (11 colleges, 7 dairy plants) participated in the 'Fifth Dairy and Food Quiz Contest, 2012' held on September 14, 2012. The teams included (1) SMC College, Anand, (2) G.N. Patel College of Dairy and Food Science, Dantiwada, (3) Dairy Science College, Amreli, (4) Food Processing Technology and Bio-energy, Anand, (5) NDRI, Karnal, (6) Dairy Science College, Pusad, (7) Dairy Science College, (8) College of Dairy Technology, Tirupati, (9) College of Dairy Technology, Raipur, (10) College of Dairy and Food Science and Technology, Udaipur, (11) Dairy Science College, Bengaluru, (12) Vidya Dairy, Anand, (13) GCMMF, Anand, (14) Baroda Dairy, Vadodara, (15) Dudhsagar Dairy, Mehsana, (16) Sumul Dairy, Surat, (17) Dudhdhara Dairy, Bharuch and (18) Vasudhara Dairy, Valsad.



Judging Contest of National Dairy Products



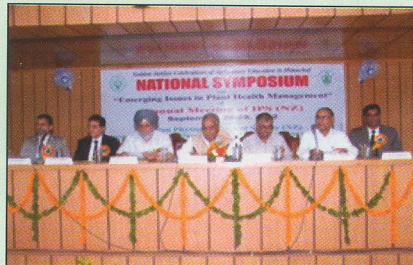
SMC receiving first prize

Dr Atanu Jana and Ms Jarita Mallick conducted the quiz. The various rounds conducted were Match A with B, Multiple choice questions, Socho aur dhundo round (What is being hinted at), Pehchano round (Identify the slide) and finally Rapid-fire round. The first, second and third positions were bagged by SMC College of Dairy Science, Anand; Vidya Dairy, Anand and College of Dairy Technology, Pusad (Maharashtra), respectively. The students of SMC College of Dairy Science, Anand who secured the trophy for the College were Mr Khuswant Sinh Rathod and Mr. Shikhar Gaur. Consolation prize was awarded to the fourth team, viz. Shri G.N. Patel Dairy Science College, Dantiwada (70 score).

DR. Y. S. PARMAR UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURE AND FORESTRY, NAUNI, SOLAN

Emerging issues in plant health management

A national symposium "Emerging issues in plant health management" and annual meeting of Indian Phytopathological Society (North Zone) was organized at Nauni (Solan) campus of the university during September 28 and 29, 2012. The theme of the symposium was to



discuss and address the problems related to plant health management under the present challenges of climate change, ecological issues etc. In the symposium 192 delegates including scientists, students, progressive farmers, entrepreneurs along with eminent guests from 11 states participated viz. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. Dr K.R. Dhiman, VC, was the chief guest and Dr Manjit Singh, Director, Directorate of Mushroom Research, ICAR, Chambaghat, Solan (HP) was the guest of honour in the inaugural function. The proceedings of the symposium were divided into 6 technical sessions, 2 poster sessions, 1 session on Prof M.J. Narasimhan award contest, and 1 session on farmers-scientists-industry interaction. Dr R. C. Sharma, Director of Research, UHF, Solan was the chairman of the first technical session. In this session, Dr Suresh Pande, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, gave keynote address on 'Climate change, plant diseases and their management: an overview'. The major recommendations of the symposium are given below:

- There is need to create facilities, devise methodologies and develop collaborative research activities to understand the impact of climate change on crop health and plant diseases.
- There is need to develop judicious use of fungicides through integrated disease management for all the important diseases.
- It is necessary to develop weather-based forecasting models for important diseases, especially apple scab and premature leaf fall through disease forecast.
- Molecular tools should be used to understand the pathogen, host and their interactions to find out the mechanisms of resistance or susceptibility for plant disease management.
- Emphasis should be laid on the use of cheap and environment-friendly cultural practices, native biological control and other bio-resources for plant-disease management. Efforts should be made to form regional consortium for commercial exploitation of these natural bio-resources.
- Plant-health clinics and extension services should be strengthened to educate the farmers about new important plant-health problems.

Solan Lalima-new tomato variety

Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) is one of the most important protective supplementary food due to its high nutritional and medicinal value. A typical tomato fruit contains intermediate levels of vitamin C, carotenoids and provitamin A. but in view of the volume of fresh tomatoes and its products consumed, the tomato makes important contribution to the dietary intake. Carotene constitutes 70-95% of the total carotenoid contents of tomato. Lycopene, the red pigment in tomato fruit, is the predominant carotene, comprising up to 90% of the total carotenoids, whereas the amount of provitamin A carotenoid, β carotene are 2 to 15%.

In India tomato is being grown in 6,34,400 ha, with production of 1,44,33,200 tonnes. Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka and Maharashtra are the major tomato growing states. In Maharashtra and Gujarat it is grown throughout the year whereas in other leading states its availability is restricted from November to March. In mid-hills of Himachal Pradesh this is an important cash crop, occupying 10,124 ha, with production of 3,83,824 tonnes owing to the prevalence of high temperature and rains

this crop cannot be grown commercially in north Indian plains from June to October, as a result the tomato produced during this period in mid-hills of Himachal Pradesh finds ready market in the plains, fetching premium prices.

In Himachal Pradesh, the availability of quality seed is the main constraint in tomato production, and most of the seed demand (approx. 11 q/annum), is met by private sector, which is being supplied at an exorbitant rate. Since tomato-fruit production in this state commences with the onset of rainy season, the incidence of soil-borne diseases (particularly buckeye rot) also poses serious threat to its successful cultivation. Keeping these facts in mind, the scientists of Horticultural Research Station, Kandaghat of this university have come up with a new variety, "Solan Lalima", which is bred through hybridization followed by selection. This variety is an open-pollinated indeterminate type, with roundish fruits of deep red colour and TSS of 4.40B, ready to harvest in 70-75 days with an average yield of 850-900 q/ha. It is a firm variety, having better shelf-life over the existing recommended Solan Vajri variety. It is moderately susceptible to buckeye rot and moderately resistant to foliar diseases. This variety has a good acceptability among the traders as well as the consumers, and fetches premium price in the market. As it is an open-pollinated variety, the farmers can produce its seed themselves, thereby saving the seed-input cost. The variety has received a tremendous response from the tomato-growing farmers of the state.

National Symposium of Indian Phytopathological Society

A national symposium on Emerging issues in plant health management was organized by the university in association with Indian Phytopathological Society IPS, North Zone at the main campus Nauni during September 28-29, 2012. The scientists from 11 states, comprising total 192 participants including farmers and representatives from the industries-actively participated in the symposium-cum-annual meeting. The issues on Plant-health management under changing climatic scenario were discussed at length and future research recommendations were finalized.

Harar propagation technique

A new technique of Harar (*Terminalia chebula*) propagation was developed at the university. Harar seedlings were grafted (veneer grafting) in March-April and covered with polytubes to retain moisture and temperature. This technique gave 90 per cent success.

Promising Harar and soapnut strains

Five promising strains of harar (*Terminalia chebula*) and two of soapnut (*Sapindus mukorosii*) were developed by this university for the first time. These species are highly productive and have proved very useful under degraded soils of the low hills of the state. These strains will also prove useful under changing climatic scenario. Besides, the strains would be of great significance in the areas under threat to abandoned domestic and wild animals, particularly monkeys. Plantation of these species under watershed management programme can increase the income of the farmers manifolds. The plants are hardy in nature and have less water and nutrient requirements, as well as long shelf life of the produce, with readily available market.

Nursery and Plantation Technology of Chandan Standardized

Sandalwood chandan *Santalum album* L considered to be a highly remunerative crop. It shows fast growth and early germination (within 7 days). Its seeds were obtained after removal of the mesocarp. Seed germinability was found more (60%) when the seeds were treated with 0.05 per cent gibberellic acid (GA3) for 16 hr. Nursery and plantation technology for the plant was standardized. A large number of plants are being produced and supplied to the growers. Besides, its plantation under watershed-management programme in the areas infested with Lantana weed will help in supplementing the income of the farmers.

Recognition to scientist

Dr Pawan Kumar Mahajan, Professor, Department of Basic Sciences, UHF, Nauni received IMRF Excellence Award in the field of Mathematics and Statistics on the basis of his outstanding research contributions in the field. His name was also



A new grafting technique of Harar



Harar nursery



Chandan nursery

included in Editorial Board of The journal of Mathematics and Statistics, in the journal Mathematical Sciences International Research Journal.

G.B.PANT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, PANTNAGAR

Training organized for VLWs of Sikkim

The university organized a training course of 10 month duration for newly recruited VLWs (Village-level workers) of Sikkim state, on 1 August 2012. In the first phase of 5-months, 38 VLWs, (20 women and 18 men), were trained. In the second phase (1 Jan-30 may 2012) 38 other VLWs were trained. The Directorate of Extension Education organized the programme. Sikkim has chosen this university for this training on the basis of the availability of required infrastructure, facilities and resources as well as the university's capability to undertake such a long training to such a large number of field workers.

First position in JRF examination

University student secured the first place in Junior Research Fellowship examination of 2012 conducted by the ICAR, New Delhi. The undergraduate students of the university secured the maximum number of fellowships in this examination. The students of 55 agricultural and other universities of the country appeared in this examination.

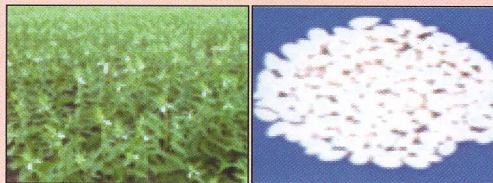
JUNAGADH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, JUNAGADH

Release of new varieties

Four new varieties of different crops released by JAU and recommended by the combined AGRESKO meeting of SAUs of Gujarat, and also released by State Seed Subcommittee of Gujarat were recommended for cultivation by the state farmers.

Sesame: Gujarat Til-3

The seeds of Gujarat Til-3 variety are white and bold, contain 47.3 per cent oil, and give 1200 kg/ha yield. The variety is suitable for export.



Sesame: Gujarat Til-3

Brinjal: Gujarat Junagadh Brinjal-3 (GJB-3)

Gujarat Junagadh Brinjal-3 variety is suitable for the late kharif (15 Aug. to 15 Sep.) season. The fruits are medium to big in size and oval in shape, with green colour and good shining. Fruit pulp is creamy white with less seeds. The plants are medium in size and semi-spreading. The variety is relatively tolerant to little-leaf disease and jassid infestation. The yield is 393.9 q/ha.



Brinjal - 3 (GJB-3)

Indian bean: GJIB-2

Gujarat Junagadh Indian Bean-2 variety of Indian bean (papdi) is suitable for the late kharif (mid August to mid September) season. Its pods are flat and medium long in shape, with green colour. The seed colour is light green and inflorescence length is more than of Gujarat Papdi-1. It also shows lesser intensity of beaf spot and leaf blight disease than Gujarat Papdi-1. The green-pod yield is 112.5 q/ha.



Junagadh Indian Bean (GJIB-2)

Ridge gourd :GJRGH-1

Gujarat Junagadh Ridge Gourd Hybrid-1 variety is suitable for the kharif (rainy) season. This is a first public sector ridge gourd hybrid developed at Junagadh.



GJRGH-1

Its fruits are long and green, and it gives 113.30 q/ha yield. It is moderately resistant to downy mildew and major pests.

NABL accreditation to Food Testing Laboratory

The Food Testing Laboratory at the university, the first of its kind in providing professional interface to public and private sectors, is a combined venture of the JAU, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (New Delhi), the ICAR (New Delhi) and Gujarat Agro-Industries Corporation (Gandhinagar). The laboratory has now obtained NABL accreditation which will benefit the exporters, progressive farmers, traders, industrialists and other agriculture professionals of Saurashtra region, as it is accepted lab having ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard.

Shri Narendra Modi Launches LIFE project

Shri Narendra Modi, CM, Gujarat state, launched LIFE (Live Interaction with Farmers through Electronic media) on the occasion of 66th Independence day on August 14, 2012, in the presence of scientists of JAU and progressive farmers Junagadh district. This programme aims to provide video-conferencing facility between farmers at village and scientists at university through an exhibition van equipped with AV aids and devices for net connection. Live interaction will make the communication more effective.

Training on managerial skills for extension personnel

A national-level training programme on 'Managerial skills for Extension personnel' was organized at Junagadh by JAU and MANAGE, Hyderabad during July 16-20, 2012. There were 30 participants from Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat. Dr G. Jaya, Deputy Director, MANAGE, Hyderabad, and Course Co-ordinator, conducted the training. Dr A.M. Parakhia, DEE, inaugurated the programme.



A view of FTL



Shri Narendra Modi, CM, launching LIFE project



Dr AM Parakhia inaugurating training programme



The Award Ceremony



Thalassaemia and blood group camp

The university is organizing a Thalassaemia and blood group camp each year for health checking of the newly admitted students of all its colleges and polytechnics. Shri Nileshbhai Bharatiya, Thalassaemia Project Officer, IRCS, Ahmedabad, awarded a trophy and certificate on 7 September, 2012 to Dr N.C. Patel, VC, for effective contribution of the university in thalassaemia-prevention programme.

MARATHWADA KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, PARBHANI

MoU with Bejo Sheetal

The Vidyapeeth entered into memorandum of understanding with Bejo Sheetal Seeds, Jalna on 6 July 2012 to evolve new varieties of pigeonpea and vegetables through bio-technological techniques. Dr K.P. Gore, VC and Dr Suresh Agrawal, Chairman, Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd, Jalna signed the MoU on behalf of the respective team. This MoU will help in exchanging the varieties of various crops developed by MKV and Bejo Sheetal seeds and will also facilitate the post-graduate students carrying out the research programme. Through strengthening the research, extension and education activities of the university the MoU will ultimately help increase the production of various crops in the region.

Rally of rabi farmers

The university organized a Rabi farmers' rally on the eve of Marathwada Muktri Sangram Din (Marathwada Freedom Revolution Day), 17 September 2012. Dr S.S. Magar, former VC, Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, was the chief guest. Dr K.P. Gore, VC of the university presided over the function.

Shri Popatrao Pawar, Chairman, Adharsh Gaon Yojana, (Hivarebazar district Ahmednagar) was the guest of honour. The programme included an agricultural exhibition showcasing technologies and activities of the university; stalls of State Department of Agriculture, KVKs, NGOs, SHGs co-operative sector and private companies; a seminar on different topics and Shivarpheri attracted about 3,000 farmers including farm women, youths, entrepreneurs and extension personnel.



Dr U. M. Khodke participate in IGSH course in Germany

Dr U. M. Khodke, Chief Scientist AICRP on Water Management, of the Vidyapeeth participated in an international course on "Rural hydrogeology" organized by IGSH, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany, from 24 July to 4 August 2012. The programme was supported by UNESCO, DAAD and IHP/HWRP (International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO and Water Resources Programme of WMO). Fifteen scientists from 11 countries across the world participated in the workshop. The course included workshop, presentations, practicals and field visits in Germany on various aspects such as basics of hydrogeology, nutrients and agrochemicals in ground-water, rural water sector under climate change, groundwater heterogeneity, groundwater protection and integrated water-resource management.



Irrigation project

Smt Fauzia Khan, State Minister for General Administration, Public Health and Family Welfare, Government of Maharashtra, inaugurated the first phase of Irrigation Facilities development project under RKVY at Parbhani on 17 August 2012. It was sanctioned by Government of Maharashtra Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna. Dr K.P.Gore VC, highlighted the importance of the project, which aims to increase the seed production of various crops. Smt. Khan also paid a visit to Energy Park, TMC unit, sugarcane demonstration plot, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry and of Agronomy.

DBT sanction for research

The DBT, Government of India, sanctioned three research proposals of the Vidyapeeth with outlay of Rs. 162.84 lakhs. The proposals pertain to: development of RNAi mediated resistance in sunflower against sunflower-necrosis virus; plant tissue-culture programme for women and for rural development; and bio-informatics facilities for biology teaching through bio-informatics.



Selection of NCC cadets in Indian army

NCC cadets Shri Balaji Suryawanshi, Shri Santosh Mohite and Niranjan Khakare, students of the university were selected in Indian Army after mustering success in Combined Defense Services examination conducted by UPSC. Dr K.P. Gore, Vice-Chancellor lauded and felicitated the cadets on September 29, 2012 for their success.

NCC Cadets selected in Indian Army

MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI

National training course on fruit crops

The Director, Centre of Advanced Faculty Training, Department of Horticulture organized a National training programme on Advances in Production Technology of fruit crops at Rahuri, funded by the ICAR. Dr T.A. More, VC, in his valedictory cited the examples of countries where their economy is dependent solely on fruit culture. He informed that India accounts for 10 percent of the total world production of fruits with a strong research base and diversified climate the country offers good scope for advancement in agro-techniques, propagation, varietal wealth as well as post-harvest management and technology for further development of horticulture. Dr S.A.Ranpise, Head, Department of Horticulture, gave introductory remarks. Dr P.V.Patil anchored the programme, Dr A.M.Musmade proposed vote of thanks. A total of 20 participants attended the training programme. Exposure visits to National Institutes, progressive growers and fruit markets were also organized.

Visit of Maharashtra Governor

Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, H.E. the Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the university visited MPKV, Rahuri. Dr T. A. More, VC, greeted him on his arrival. Shri Sankaranarayanan reviewed the rainfall situation and provided guidance on the

steps to mitigate the drought situation. He stressed the need for more research on fodder crops, especially in stress condition. Dr More presented the technologies developed by the university for overcoming water stress in crop growth. He briefly reviewed the education, research and extension activities of the university. Shri Babanrao Pachpute, Guardian Minister, Dr Sanjeev Kumar, Collector, Ahmednagar district, and other officers were present on this occasion.

Market information centre

The Market Information Centre, a project under Institute of Excellence was established under special grants of Rs100 crores in Department of Agricultural Economics. Dr T.A. More, VC inaugurated it. Dr D.B.Yadav, Project Co-ordinator and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, in his introductory remarks highlighted its functioning. Dr D.S.Navadkar, Project Officer, narrated the genesis, objectives and the working of MIC. Shri R.R. Nirgude, Officer in-charge, gave the information on daily arrivals and prices of agricultural commodities in various markets. This Center will benefit the farmers, scientists, students and academicians. Dr T.A. More congratulated and hoped that the MIC will provide the price forecast and productive intelligence to the needy persons.

Training on commodity futures markets

A training programme on Commodity futures markets in agriculture was organized at Rahuri in collaboration with National Institute for Agriculture Extension Management, Hyderabad. Dr H.G.More, in his inaugural speech said that the farmers are the most affected during price fluctuations in market. Hence appropriate marketing strategies are needed to overcome this problem. The future markets will certainly reduce the intervention of middleman, thereby increasing the profit margin of the farmers. Better infrastructural facilities are needed for storage of market produce. Dr D.B.Yadav, Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, in his remarks called for awareness on post-harvest losses of agricultural produce. Dr B.K.Paty, Director, OSPM, MANAGE, Hyderabad, in his introductory remarks said that futures markets have an important role in the context of fragmented supply chain. Dr G.K.Sasane, Professor of Agricultural Extension and participants from State Department of Agriculture and KVKs were present on this occasion.



MAHARANA PRATAP UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, UDAIPUR

Achievements of DEE, Udaipur

Under ATMA project one inter-state level training on "Soil and water conservation for dryland farming" and two district-level trainings on "Integrated farming system" were organized by Directorate of Extension Education for Gujarat and Rajasthan. In these trainings 104 farmers and farm women were trained.

Through ATIC the directorate provided hybrid seed to different KVKs and farmers on cost basis viz., maize (Bio corn super-9681), 25.40 q papaya (Red Lady); 100g guar 40 kg. Besides, 240 farmers visited ATIC, sold 159 kg sweet corn and 08 kg high quality honey. ATIC scientists enrolled 54 members for Rajasthan Kheti-Pratap.

IHITC meeting on horticulture

A meeting on "Horticulture development plan for the state" was held at DEE on July 2, 2012 in collaboration with IHITC, Jaipur under the chairmanship of Dr O. P. Gill, VC. The meeting was attended by Dr S.L. Mehta, Chairperson of the Core Committee, RHDP, Dr I.J. Mathur, Director of Extension; Dr P.L. Maliwal, Director of Research, Officers of Government departments and SMS (Horticulture) from KVKs of the university service area. The horticulture department, Government of Rajasthan, decided to bring 1 percent of the irrigated area of the state under horticultural crops every year by increasing 20,000 ha area under fruits and 3,000 ha under vegetables. The university will give training to 500 persons and progressive farmers every year.

Visit of Principal Secretary (Agriculture)

Shri D.B. Gupta, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Rajasthan, visited the university on 14 July 2012 and obtained first-hand information about the progress and activities carried out by



various units. He visited the museum, bio-control laboratory and Trichoderma production unit at Department of Entomology, AICRP the hatchery unit and the poultry farm at Rajasthan College of Agriculture, and the experiential learning unit on tomato and aonla at CDFST. He also inaugurated the Aonla processing unit, and visited the experiential learning unit of apparel and textile units of CHSc, as well as the experimental learning unit of post-harvest technology and renewable energy at CTAE.

VIP visit to Museum

Dr Panjab Singh, former-Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, the chairman of QRT-FSR team along with other members, viz. Dr Gyanendra Singh, Dr C.L. Acharya, Dr K. Pradhan, Dr D.M. Hegde, Dr W.S. Dhillon, Dr Anjani Kumar, Dr B. Gangwar, visited the university museum on 29 July 2012.

Training on management techniques

The Directorate organized a national-level model training course on "Management techniques for federating farmers into business groups (Area: Agri-business management)" during 21-28 August 2012. The training was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi. The objective of this training programme was to train the agriculture officers of the state and scientists of SAUs about management techniques for federating farmers into business groups.

Training to Gujarat farmer

The Directorate organized two inter-state level trainings also on "Integrated farming systems" and "Quality maize-production techniques" under ATMA, Gujarat. A total of 70 (30 farmers and 40 farm women) participants from Mehsana and Sabarkantha, districts of Gujarat took part in the training.

National convention on agri-business

Gujarat state government in collaboration with CII organized a national convention on Agri-business during 3-5 September 2012 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar. The university arranged an exhibition for the benefit of farming community. Director extension education and four senior scientists of the university from the discipline of Post Harvest Technology, Integrated Pest Management, Horticulture and Extension Education attended various technical sessions during the convention. On this occasion, two progressive farmers of MPUAT service area, viz. Shri Moti Singh Rawat, (village Jassakhara, tehsil Bhim, district Rajsamand) and Shri Valji Patel, (village Behuti, tehsil Sarada, district Udaipur) were awarded for adoption of Hi-technology horticulture and Integrated pest management technology in crops. Shri Narendra Modi, CM, presented the awards to participants.

Mahindra Samridhi Training under Haritima

The Directorate in collaboration with Mahindra and Mahindra organized a training on "Maize production technology" during 17-18 September 2012 at DEE, Udaipur. In this training 20 engineers, dealers and agents of Mahindra Samridhi working in Rajasthan state participated. Dr O.P. Gill, VC, inaugurated the training programme. During the training, participants visited CTAE workshop and observed the operations of the implements, visited fields of maize and interacted with farmers of maize-growing areas.

Visit of senior officers committee to KVK, Sirohi



The members Senior Officers committee of the university visited the instructional farm, field activities, vocational units, water harvesting structure and Emu units of the KVK Sirohi, on 8 September 2012. They also interacted with progressive farmers of the district.

Dr O. P. Gill, VC, visited the operational area of NAIP subproject area in Jhadol cluster implemented by BAIF RRIDMA along with CPI and Dr I. J. Mathur, Director of Extension Education on 11 September 2012. He interacted with farmers at Rural Technology Centre and received feedback about impact of project activities. He visited the orchards of pomegranate and moosli cultivation. He was much impressed with seed replacement in maize and majority of area under maize is now in hybrids. He appreciated the efforts of BAIF for breed improvement of goats, cows and buffaloes. Dr Gill also visited the orchards of mango in Panarwa area, Aonla processing unit established by BAIF in Baghpura and Aloe vera processing unit at Ogha, Udaipur (Raj.).

The Directorate conducted a 3-days training course on "Repair, maintenance and calibration of farm implements and equipments" under technological backstopping, ICAR, New Delhi during 27-29 September 2012. Eighteen agricultural scientists and programme Assistants from different KVKs of the university learnt the operation and calibration of implements during the training.

A field day was organized on "Maize-ISOPOM" on 28 September 2012 at village Gahlotoka Guda (near Jaswantgarh), Udaipur. A total of 350 farmers and farm women attended the programme. Dr P.K. Gupta, Registrar and Dr I.J. Mathur, Director of Extension, were the guests of honour. The maize variety Bio 9681 performed well under rainfed condition on farmers' field.

Two training programmes of one day each were organized on "Fodder production management" for farmers and farm women of district Sirohi under ATMA, Sirohi project. The participants were trained in the area of production technology and scientific storage of maize fodder, pearl millet (Bajra), Cluster bean (Guar), moth, chavla, oat, barley, barseem and the Sudan Deenanath Napier, Stylo, Hemento, Dhaman grasses, etc. Kits of oat seed (variety-kent) were provided to the farmers free for fodder cultivation.

Achievements of KVKs

The major achievements of the KVKs under the university are given below :

- The KVKs organized 240 on-and-off campus trainings, benefiting 5,053 farmers and farm women.
- For upgrading the knowledge of scientists, 35 scientists from DEE and KVKs were deputed in various seminars, conferences, summer schools, etc.
- The KVKs conducted FLDs on oilseeds (70 ha), pulses (220 ha) and maize (80 ha) under the ICAR and RKVY projects.
- The KVKs have established 270 vermi units and kitchen garden in adopted villages.
- The KVKs took up hybrid seed-production programme of state government on maize (06 ha) in HQPM-1 inbred lines at KVK, Kota, Chittorgarh and Bundi farms.
- Under plantation programme, 32,284 plants in horticulture as well as forest plantation were planted at instructional farms of KVKs and in the adopted villages.
- The KVK, Dungarpur organized a Plantation day at Faloj farm on July 31, 2012. Shri Tara Chand Bhagora, Member of Parliament, Banswara-Dungarpur, was the chief guest. Shri Bagwati Lal Roat, Zila Pramukh of Dungarpur, and Shri Priyakant Pandya, President, Indian National Congress, Dungarpur were the guests of honour. Dr I.J. Mathur, Director of Extension, presided over the function. Total 256 plants of mahuva and 200 plants of rough lime were planted at the KVK farm. Other plants like neem, shisham, guava, pomegranate and ber were also planted. Shri Bhagora appreciated the SRI method of nursery preparation for rice cultivation, demonstrated at the KVK farm. He laid emphasis on popularization of this low-cost technology among the tribal farmers. Shri B.L. Roat announced financial



sanction of Rs. 10.0 lacs for establishing neem-processing unit at the KVK and Rs 5.0 lacs for establishing Aloe vera processing unit at the farm from the Zila Parishad budget.

Parthenium-eradication awareness week

Parthenium weed has invaded large cultivated and non-cultivated area of the country. It has become the biggest menace to agricultural productivity, human and animal health and bio-diversity. Considering the gravity of the problems, the KVKs organized 17 Parthenium eradication camps in different villages of the respective districts. Parthenium weeds from 235 ha were uprooted and dumped to pits by the staff of KVKs and farmers of the villages.

RAJMATA VIJYARAJE SCINDIA KRISHI VISHWA VIDYALAYA, GWALIOR

First Convocation

The first convocation of RVSKVV was held on 21 July 2012. the Governor of Madhya Pradesh and Chancellor of the university H.E. Shri Ram Naresh Yadav, presided over the function. Dr Arvind Kumar, Deputy Director-General (Edn), ICAR, delivered the convocation address. Dr Ram Krishan Kusmaria, Minister, Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh were guest of honour. Prof. V.S. Tomar, VC presented the university progress report. Total 983 students were awarded undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, and nine students the Chancellor's gold medal. University main officers were present along with other dignitaries who graced the occasion.



SRI VENKATESWARA VETERINARY UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI

Livestock farming system

A model training course on integrated livestock farming system for sustainable rural livelihoods' was held during 21-28, August 2012 at College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati. Dr Y. Ravindra Reddy, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Livestock Production Management, was the co-ordinator for the training programme. The participants were Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Directors from Animal Husbandry Departments of south India and from the university faculty.

Emerging trends in canine cardiovascular medicine

National seminar on Emerging trends in canine cardiovascular medicine: challenges and strategies' was held during 29-30 September 2012 at College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati on the eve of World Heart Day. It was organized by Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati in association with Pedigree Pet Foods India Pvt Ltd. Dr V. Vaikunta Rao, Associate Professor, TVCC, Tirupati, was the organizing secretary for the conference. About 100 delegates from all over the country attended it, and participated in the technical sessions on challenges and strategies in canine cardiovascular medicine, canine cardiac imaging, canine cardiac nutrition etc.



Dr V. Prabhakar Rao, at valedictory function



Dr V. Prabhakar Rao, at valedictory function of model training course



Dr V. Prabhakar Rao, lighting the lamp at the inaugural function

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BANGALORE

Brain-storming session on youth in agriculture

The university organized a brainstorming session on 'Attracting and retaining youth in agriculture' on 14 July 2012. The session was attended by former VC, representatives of the ICAR, banks and government departments. It was organized at the instance of committee being constituted under the VCs chairmanship to prepare a comprehensive report on the subject by ICAR. The major points that emerged were: creation of database on youth, to elicit the opinion of youth by undertaking



comprehensive survey, creating amenities in rural areas at par with urban centre, empowerment of rural youth through entrepreneurship development, establishing rural training institutes on self-help groups and creating opportunities for youth in rural areas in agri-based enterprises.

Taxonomy of insects and mites

The university organized a training programme on Niche area of excellency of 'Capacity building in Taxonomy of insects and mites from 25 July to 12 August 2012. It was sponsored by the ICAR. Dr C. Deva Kumar, Assistant Director-General (EPD), ICAR inaugurated it. It was attended by 15 participants from different State agricultural universities and ICAR institutes.



Awards

MARATHWADA KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, PARBHANI

Honour to Dr K.P.Gore, VC

Dr K.P.Gore, VC, was honoured with Marathwada Bhushan Puraskar 2012 by Marathwada Samnavaya Samiti, Pune, for his distinguished services in education, particularly in agricultural and allied sciences, for the rural youth of Marathwada region. Shri Ulhas Pawar, former MLC and chief guest of the function presented him the award on 17 September 2012 at Pune.

MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI

Vasantrao Naik award to Dr More

Dr T.A.More, VC, was felicitated with Vasantrao Naik award by Vasantrao Naik Agriculture Research and Rural Development Trust. Shri Shivajirao Moghe, Minister of Social Justice, Government of Maharashtra, presented him the award on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Vasantrao Naik, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, at a function organized in Mumbai. Dr More is a horticultural scientist of international repute, who contributed in the development of 37 varieties or F1 hybrids in 19 horticultural crops (vegetables, fruits, flowers), 17 of which are recognized at national level. He has developed 46 technologies and received national and international awards. He has rich experience in education, research, extension education and administration.



SARDAR KRUSHINAGAR DANTIWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY SARDAR KRUSHINAGAR

Honour to Prof. Veer Singh

The Governing Council of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) conferred Fellowship of the Academy, on Prof Veer Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Parasitology, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, for his outstanding contribution to Veterinary Science. The honour was bestowed on him on 2 November 2012 during the eleventh annual convocation of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (India) and national seminar on "Livestock policy for food and nutritional security in the scenario of WTO regulations", held at U.P. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwa Vidyalaya evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura during 2-3 November 2012. Dr M. P. Yadav, President, NAVS and Dr Gaya Prasad, Secretary-General, NAVS and Assistant Director-General (A.H.) ICAR, Government of India, New Delhi awarded him the certificate along with citation.



Prof(Dr) Veer Singh

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