



# IAUA



# NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 6 No. 2

APRIL - JUNE 2006

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## SPOT NEWS

### Dr M. P. Yadav takes over as President, IAUA

Dr M.P. Yadav, Vice-President, IAUA and VC, SVBPUAT, Meerut, takes over as President, IAUA, on 5 July 2006, on superannuation of Dr S.S. Magar and his relinquishment of the office of President, IAUA and VC, DBSKKV, Dapoli. Dr Yadav, a veterinary microbiologist, was earlier Director, IVRI, Izatnagar before taking over as VC, SVBPUAT Meerut. He is a recipient of many international and national awards like Dr P. Richard Masillamony Oration Award, World IPO Geneva Award, OIE International Meritorious Award, Special Award by ICAR, Distinguished Award by IAAVR, Netaji S.C. Bose Centenary Award etc. He is a Fellow and member and also officer-bearer of many national and international scientific societies like NAAS, NAVS and IAAVR. He has to his credit many successful research reports like an epidemic of equine influenza vaccaine, killed goat-pox vaccine and attenuated ILT vaccine. He has also guided 25 Doctoral and Masters students and published a number of research (148), technical (31) and review papers (7) as well as laboratory manuals (13), and authored three independent books. He has served the Executive Committee of IAUA in many capacities such as Member (2004), Secretary-Treasurer (2005) and Vice-President (2006).

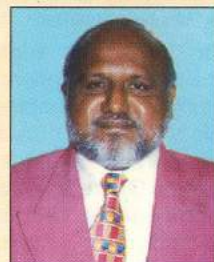
The IAUA works for excellence and promotion of Agricultural Education, Research and Extension, besides Technology Generation and Transfer. Presently the IAUA has 45 universities including SAUs, DUs and Central universities as its members.

### Prof. (Dr) Rajendra B. Lal inducted as Member, IAUA

Prof. (Dr) Rajendra B. Lal, the first VC of AAI, Allahabad (Deemed to-be University) has been inducted into IAUA Executive Committee, as Member w.e.f. 12 July 2006. He is a Soil and Environmental Scientist and one of the senior VCs of IAUA member universities. He did his Ph.D. From Kanpur (1983) and the USA (1990) and guided 26 Doctoral and Masters students. He has 20 national and international publications to his credit. He is credited with many honours and awards like STEP Award, 1989 (USA); Olson's Award, 1989 (USA); Educational Pioneer Award, 2000 (AIACHE) and Jai Jawan Jai Kisan, 2001 (SUCO). He is Fellow of Bioved Research Society (1995) and Member of Gamma Sigma Delta Society of Agriculture (1988), the USA. He is also socially involved in the upliftment of downtrodden through various Christian societies.



Dr M.P. Yadav



Prof. (Dr) Rajendra B. Lal

## NEW VCs

### Dr Panjab Singh takes over as VC, BHU, Varanasi

Dr Panjab Singh was born in village Anantpur (Mirzapur) near Varanasi. He started his early education from U.P. College, Varanasi and did his M.Sc. in Agriculture in 1964 in first division with distinction, securing first position in Agra University; and Ph.D. (Water Management) in 1969 from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in collaboration with University of California, Davis, the USA.

Dr Singh started his career as Assistant Professor and rose to the position of Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director-General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research. He has held many responsible positions such as Agronomist, Head of the Division, Assistant Director-General, ICAR; Director, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi; Joint Director and Director/Vice-Chancellor, Indian Agricultural Research Institute; and Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur. He also served as Regional Plant Production and Protection Officer, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations at Bangkok (Thailand).

Dr Singh was elected Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Indian Society of Agronomy, National Institute of Ecology, Bioved Research Society of India and Society for Extension Education and President of Indian Society of Agronomy (3 terms), Range Management Society of India (3 terms), Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (2 terms), Indian Society of Agricultural Sciences (1 term), Indian Society of Plant Physiology (1 term); and Vice-President of Indian Society of Forage Research, Society of Bio-Sciences, Indian Agricultural Universities Association and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, besides being



Dr Panjab Singh



Chairman or Member of various national and international scientific bodies, Boards of Governors, Boards of Management and Advisory Boards both at national and international levels, a few notable ones being Chairman, ICAR Governing Body; Vice-Chairman, ICRISAT Governing Board; Member, Policy Advisory Board, ACIAR, Australia; Continuing Committees of International Rangeland and International Grassland Congresses; Member, Editorial Board of Grasslands and Herbage Abstracts, CAB International, the UK; Japanese Society of Grassland Science, Japan; Expert Member for European Union Projects and Member, Expert Panel for 1992 Raman Magasaysay Award, Philippines. Member, Policy Advisory Board, ACIAR, Australia; Continuing Committees of International Rangeland and International Grassland Congresses; Member, Editorial Board of Grasslands and Herbage Abstracts, CAB International, the UK; Japanese Society of Grassland Science, Japan; Expert Member for European Union Projects and Member, Expert Panel for 1992 Raman Magasaysay Award, Philippines.

Dr Singh was awarded D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) by four universities, viz. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Poorvanchal University, Jaunpur (U.P.); and Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad.

Dr Singh made significant scientific contributions in the fields of water management and crop production and management systems besides providing leadership in shaping up of national and state-level research institutions and agricultural universities. He won several distinguished awards such as National Productivity Council Award, Millennium Plaque of Honour by Indian Science Congress, World Food Day Award, K.N. Behl Memorial Gold Medal, ISA Gold Medal etc. Dr Singh has more than 350 research papers or articles to his credit and has guided more than a dozen Ph.D. and M.Phil. programmes.

Dr Singh has widely travelled time and again in various capacities, viz. leader of delegation, expert member or conference participant to countries like Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, China, France, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, the UK and the USA. He also worked as Director, School of Agriculture, Indira Gandhi National Open University, one of the world's largest universities in Open Distance Learning. He has also been the Advisor (Agriculture and Rural Technology) in the office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India, New Delhi. He is the Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University since May 2005.



Dr Vijay Mehta

### **Dr Vijay Mehta takes over as VC, DBSKKV, Dapoli**

Dr Vijay Mehta took over the charge of VC, DBSKKV, Dapoli on 4 July 2006. He was Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Director of

Instruction, DBSKKV, Dapoli. He did his B.Sc. (Agric.) from Maharashtra Agricultural University, Pune in 1969; M.Sc. (Agric.) from Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri in 1972 and Ph.D. (Agric.) in 1982 from Gujarat Agricultural University. Dr Mehta started his career as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science at College of Agriculture, Dapoli in 1973. Thereafter he worked as Technical Officer to VC; Deputy Director of Research; Kharland Scientist; Head, Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science; Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Dapoli and Director of Research and Dean & Director of Instruction, DBSKKV, Dapoli. He also worked as Chairman, Maharashtra Agricultural University Examination Board for 2 years. He was Chairman or Member of 12 committees appointed by the Central or State governments. He published two books, two research bulletins and five technical reports. He has 70 papers to his credit, including 44 scientific publications, four technical publications and 22 extension publications. Dr Mehta was honoured with various awards such as Life Time Achievement Award of International Institute of Education and Management, New Delhi; Rashtriya Gaurav Award of India International Friendship Society, New Delhi; Eminent Citizen of India Award of National Institute of Education and Management, New Delhi; and Sahajeevan Puraskar.

### **Prof. C.S. Chakrabarti takes over as VC, WBUAFS, Kolkata**

Prof. C.S. Chakrabarti was born in Dacca on 22 January 1952. He obtained B.Sc. with Honours in Zoology from the University of Calcutta with gold medal (1973); M.Sc. (Zoology) from University of Calcutta (1975); Master of Philology (Zoology) from University of Burdwan (1986) and Ph.D. (1991) from University of Burdwan.



Prof. C.S. Chakrabarti

Dr Chakrabarti started his career as Lecturer in Zoology in 1978 and rose to the position of Reader in University of North Bengal (1990-98). He joined University of Burdwan in 1998 and served in various capacities, viz. Reader, Professor, Head of Department of Zoology, till joining as VC, WBUAFS, Kolkata on 7 August 2006. He has expertise in Autoradiography, Fluorescence and Scanning Electron Microscopy, Gel Electrophoresis, PCR-based Experiments Karyotyping and FISH Technology.

He has published 33 research papers, both in Indian and foreign journals and excelled in various research works on Cytogenetics of *Drosophila*, Silkworm and system and Human Molecular Genetics. He guided a large number of students in M.Phil. and Ph.D.

He undertook various administrative assignments like Member of various academic bodies, Member of Court and Executive Council in both North Bengal University and University of Burdwan. He is a Life Member of various scientific societies like Indian Science Congress Association, Zoological Society, Kolkata; Indian Cell Biology Society and All India Cytology and Genetics Congress.

## **Focus on Universities - Achievements and Events**

### **CENTRAL UNIVERSITY**

#### **CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, IMPHAL**

##### **North East Council Member visits CAU**

Shri P.P. Shrivastav, IAS, Member, NEC, Shillong was warmly felicitated by the staff and VC, CAU, Imphal, Dr S.N. Puri, during his visit on 15 July 2006. Shri Shrivastav highlighted the mandate of NEC for overall development of NE Region. He placed the issues relating to agricultural development of north-east India before the teachers and scientists of the university. He expressed desire to explore the richness of bio-resources of this region and appealed to the scientists to plan research programmes for better utilization of these resources for the welfare of the people of the region, especially in areas like bamboo technology and the improvement of ginger, turmeric, pineapple and fisheries in the region.



Arjun ghee (Herbal)



## UNIVERSITIES

### ACHARYA N.G. RANGA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD

#### Release of 26 new varieties or hybrids

The State Seed Subcommittee under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Andhra Pradesh released on 2 June 2006 another set of 26 new improved varieties or hybrids of crops developed by the university, thus bringing their total number to 328. These include four in rice, one in *ragi*, six in pulses, three in oilseeds, five in commercial crops, two in spices, four in vegetables and one in fruit crops.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, formally distributed newly released varieties and hybrids to the farmers, at a function organized on 7 June 2006 at A.P. Secretariat, Hyderabad. He also released a brochure *Crop Varieties Released*, depicting their salient features. The improved varieties will not only enhance the productivity but would also sustain the production with limited cost of production. The State Government allocated Rs 20 crores to the Department of Agriculture for further multiplication of these new varieties under Seed Village Programme.

#### Salient features of released varieties and hybrids

##### Rice

- Indra (MTU 1061), having tolerance to brown planthopper, for Godavari delta.
- Warangal Sannalu (WGL 32100), a fine-grain, high-yielding and best-quality variety with tolerance to salinity.
- Pardhiva (NLR 33892), having blast resistance and *molagolakulu* grain quality that fetches premium price.
- Sri Kurma (RGL 2332), suitable for late-planted, tank-fed conditions along with tolerance to gallmidge biotype-4 and blast.

##### Ragi

- Bharati (VR 762), suitable for all *ragi*-growing areas, with high yield of dry fodder.

##### Pulses

- Blackgram Lam 709 (LBG 709), with bold and shining seed, tolerant to Yellow Mosaic Virus and wilt, suitable for rice fallows and uplands.
- Trombay Pesara (TM 96-2), the only variety of greengram resistant to powdery mildew and *Corynospora* leaf spot.
- Redgram Lam 41 (LRG 41), with high tolerance to *Helicoverpa* and suitable for sole and intercropping in both *kharif* and *rabi*.
- Redgram Palem Kandhi (TRG 158), high yielding, resistant to *Fusarium* wilt disease and suitable for southern Telangana and Rayalaseema regions of A.P.
- Kabuli chickpea Lam Shanaga (LBeG 7), for increased productivity.
- Tirupati Field Bean 1 (TFB 11), the first field bean variety from ANGRAU with bushy habit, high yielding, non-season bound and dual purpose (green pod/dry seed or fodder).

##### Oilseeds

- Groundnut Prasuna (TCGS 341), tolerant to Kalahasti malady with rosy testa.
- Groundnut Abhaya (Tirupati 25), with drought tolerance and high water-use efficiency, suitable for both *kharif* and *rabi*.
- Sesame Hima (JCS 9426), white-seeded, drought-tolerant with high water-use efficiency, and high yielder with good export potential.

##### Commercial crops

- Lam Cotton Hybrid 7 (NSP HH 7), the first intra-specific, high-yielding superior long-staple cotton hybrid with resistance to jassids, suitable for export because of its length and strength.
- Cotton variety Sri Nandi (NDLA 2 463), good replacement for *desi* cotton with its superior performance.

- Nandyal Cotton Hybrid 240 (NDLHH 240), with big boll and long staple, suitable for rainfed conditions.
- Mesta variety Durga (AHS 69) (AMV 5), with less root content, more fibre tenacity and fineness.
- Sugarcane Sarada, the first variety suitable for rainfed situations as well as irrigated conditions, thus stabilizing production.

##### Spices

- Chilli Lam 334 (LCA 334), with high oleoresin, capsanthin and capsaicin contents, high colour retention, suitable for export.
- Coriander Sudha (LCC 128), a high-yielding variety, tolerant to powdery mildew with high volatile oil content.

##### Vegetable crops

- Colocasia Bhavapuri (KCS 2), a high-yielding variety with consumer acceptance, suitable for all regions.
- Tomato RNTH 1, high yielder with tolerance to late blight.
- Melon RNSM 3, high yielding with attractive yellow colour.
- Sweet potato RNSP1, high yielder with tubers having excellent market appeal.

##### Fruit crops

- Acid lime Balaji (Tenali clone), the first variety resistant to bacterial canker and having high content of citric acid.

### ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, JORHAT

#### Teacher's achievement

Dr Samarendra Hazarika, Assistant Microbiological, Department of Agricultural Engineering, AAU, Jorhat was awarded Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship by the British Government. He successfully completed a Post-Doctorate under Dr Rob Parkinson, University of Plymouth and Dr Roland Bol, IGER, the UK.

#### Student's achievement

Shri Sandeep Kumar, a final year B.Sc. student of College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara won the first prize in National Essay Writing Competition organized on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebrations of College of Veterinary Science, Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat. The topic of the essay was 'Challenges and opportunities for the veterinarian in national socio-economic awakening'. The award consisted of a Certificate of merit and a cash prize of Rs 1,500.

### CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR

#### DAAD delegation visits CCS HAU

In a bid to further strengthen research and development co-operation between India and Germany, a delegation of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) visited HAU on 17 February. During the visit they interacted with students and visited various colleges and research farm of the university to take an overview of teaching and research facilities available here.

The delegation included DAAD Director, Mr Ulrich Podewils and two programme officers, Mr Apoorv Mahendru and Ms Aditi Gosavi. While having interactions with varsity students, Mr Podewils and Mr Mahendru guided them on educational opportunities and fellowship programmes available for pursuing higher education and research pursuits in Germany. They also highlighted the role of DAAD in promoting opportunities for scientific exchange between India and Germany through education courses that German universities offer and financial support programmes available over there.

### DR BALASAHEB SAWANT KONKAN KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, DAPOLI

#### 26<sup>th</sup> Convention

The 26th Convention of DBSKKV, Dapoli was held on 25 April



2006. Dr Mangala Rai, Director-General, ICAR, New Delhi emphasized during his convocation address that in the era of globalization, privatization and liberalization, proper planning is needed in the fields of Agricultural Education, Research and Extension Education. As our country has tremendous manpower, bio-diversity, sunlight, land and seashore area, efforts should be made to improve the quality of farm produce by utilizing these resources effectively to enable us to face competition at international level. Hon. Dr S.S. Magar, VC, presided over the function and Hon. Vijayrao Kolte, Vice-President, MCAER, Pune was the guest of honour. Dr Bhavarlal Hirala Jain, Jain Industries, Jalgaon was honoured with the award of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by the university at this occasion.

### New hybrid rice Sahyadri 4

An early hybrid rice Sahyadri 4, maturing in 115 to 120 days, was recommended by Central Variety Release Committee for cultivation in five states, viz. Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana. It grows to 90 to 95 cm, has long slender grain type and yields 5.5 to 6 tonnes /ha at national level, which is 20 to 25 % more than the national average. It is moderately resistant to blast, neck blast, brown spot and tungro virus diseases.

### Excellent performance in JRF-2006

Shri Dhondiba Mane, the student of College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, of the university ranked second and Shri Rahul Patil ranked third at national level in JRF examination-2006. Total 26 students who appeared for the examination successfully passed the test, showing 100% success.

Shri H.D. Venuprasad, a student of College of Agriculture, Dapoli also ranked third at national level, whereas 35 students successfully passed the test. All the 26 students of College of Fisheries, Ratnagiri who appeared for the test also successfully passed the test and six students secured ranks 12, 15, 30, 32, 37 and 43 in the merit list. Two students from College of Forestry, Dapoli successfully passed the examination and Shri Ganesh Shelake ranked second at national level.

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

#### VC visits Faisalabad

A team of scientists and officers of the university, led by Dr Jagmohan Singh, VC, visited Faisalabad, Pakistan (14-16 March 2006) to participate in Centenary Celebrations of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and also participated in International Congress on Agricultural Sciences.

### JAWAHARLAL NEHRU KRISHI VISHWA VIDYALAYA, JABALPUR

#### Golden Jubilee of College of Agriculture

Established in July 1955 by Pt Shrikant Mishra, the founder Principal, College of Agriculture during its 50 years of its existence has helped revolutionize the agricultural production in Madhya Pradesh. Development of improved varieties according to the agro-climatic zones of the state, evolution of location-specific cultural practices leading to higher productivity besides imparting employment-oriented quality education with special emphasis on confidence building and entrepreneurial development are the crux of efforts being made by the college. The college has proved its excellence in seed-production programme, integrated pest and disease management, and conservation of horticultural and medicinal plants. The Centre of Advanced Studies in Soil Science has been imparting training to the natural resource-management group of scientists under HRD programme. Addressing the gathering as Chief Guest, Dr Mangla Rai, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR,



Golden Jubilee of College of Agriculture

stressed that the institute should excel in specific fields and should make efforts to be globally competitive.

### Vice-President inaugurates Medicinal Plant seminar

His Excellency, the Vice-President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekawat, inaugurated a 2-day seminar on processing, value addition and marketing of medicinal plants in Madhya Pradesh at the university on 25 December 2005. Distinguished guests were H.E. the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Dr Balram Jakhar; Chief Minister; Shri Babulal Gaur; Speaker of Vidhan Sabha, Shri Ishwar Das Rohani; Minister for Agriculture, Shri Gopal Bhargava; Minister in-charge Jabalpur, Ch. Chandra Bhan Singh; and Minister of State for Fisheries, Shri Moti Kashyap. Dr D.P. Singh, VC, welcomed the guests and apprised the progress of the university. Addressing the august gathering, the Vice-President urged that the farmers should be motivated to take up the cultivation of medicinal plants and horticultural crops. He strongly advocated assistance to farmers in post-harvest operations like processing, packaging and marketing of agricultural produce. He called upon the scientists to share information with farmers so that they take up medicinal plant cultivation and meet the demand in the market. He appreciated the on-going research on medicinal and aromatic plants in the university and also visited the medicinal and aromatic plants garden. He also inaugurated a newly constructed hostel for tribal girls studying in the university.



Vice-President of India delivering inaugural address at the seminar

H.E. the Governor, Dr Balram Jakhar felt the need to strengthen horticulture in the state. He emphasized that in view of the liberalization policy and WTO provisions, there is need for competitiveness in the world market. The nutritional security as well as economic prosperity can be achieved only through horticulture. Chief Minister also supported this view and opined that the state has great potential for development of horticulture.



Vice-President of India delivered inaugural address at the seminar

### Low-cost fruitfly trap developed

A low-cost, efficient fruitfly trap was developed and tested at Fruit Research Station, Entkhedi (Bhopal). Farmers can fabricate the trap themselves by using 1 litre mineral water or soft drinks plastic bottle. Remove the bottom, paint the bottle from one side with black paint or dark-coloured washable distemper. Make 1 cm diameter holes 5 cm apart from each other all over the bottle, leaving 6 cm space from the bottom. Fix transparent polythene bag (1 kg size) at the bottom with the help of rubber band or thread. Keep crushed leaves of *shyama tulsi* (*Oscimum sanctum*) in pierced polythene and replace it every alternate day, to be used as a male-attractant. Place it inside the bottle from upper side and hang the trap in the orchard in shade, as the flies congregate and take shelter in dense and humid areas of the orchard; then collect the trap catch before 11.00 am everyday. Fortnightly mean trap catches of male fruitflies were maximum in April-May and minimum in winter (November-December) at minimum temperature below 14°C. Entkhedi trap can be successfully used throughout the year for monitoring and management of fruitflies in mango and guava orchards.



A very low-cost fruitfly trap



## Earth-heat energy for cooling greenhouses

Earth-heat-energy system for cooling or heating greenhouses or livestock houses can bring about 5°C change in temperature while saving 20 to 50 % heat energy. The development of cooling technology would permit construction of passive, low-cost solar greenhouses or animal shelters using appropriate technology option for the hot arid region of the country to improve the agricultural production and economic condition. Equipment to measure soil equipment was fabricated, tested and installed. The data showed that soil temperature becomes constant at 1 to 3 m depth below the soil surface. Studies on phase-shift pattern indicated 11-16°C difference in temperature (between ambient air temperature and at 1 to 3 m depth below the ground surface) during hot summers and cool winters. This property of earth-heat exchange is being effectively utilized for maintaining temperature of the greenhouses using low-cost technology (PVC pipes and polyhouses).



Earth-heat-energy cooling system

appropriate technology option for the hot arid region of the country to improve the agricultural production and economic condition. Equipment to measure soil equipment was fabricated, tested and installed. The data showed that soil temperature becomes constant at 1 to 3 m depth below the soil surface. Studies on phase-shift pattern indicated 11-16°C difference in temperature (between ambient air temperature and at 1 to 3 m depth below the ground surface) during hot summers and cool winters. This property of earth-heat exchange is being effectively utilized for maintaining temperature of the greenhouses using low-cost technology (PVC pipes and polyhouses).

## MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, RAHURI

### Agricultural subject in school education

A high-powered government committee chaired by Dr R.B. Deshmukh, VC, MPKV, Rahuri submitted a detailed report to Ministry of Education, Government of Maharashtra that agriculture and allied subjects should be included in the primary and secondary school curricula in the state. The measure was being taken to reduce the number of school drop-outs from rural schools. If the farmers' children can identify themselves with agricultural subjects, they are expected to do well in their examinations. The students who go through the basics of theoretical aspects of agriculture will be in a better position to take up higher studies and contribute on the ground level.

### Vanmahotsav-2006

Vanmahotsav-2006, a massive tree-plantation programme was launched by the university on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Vasant Rao Naik, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, on 12 July 2006. Shri Vijayanna Borade, Vice-Chairman, Water Conservation Council of Maharashtra State was the Chief Guest and Vice-Chancellor Dr Rajaram Deshmukh presided over the function. On this occasion 9,148 saplings of 24 species were planted by the university staff and students, and total 1.40 lakh saplings of different species are being planted in the affiliated colleges, Schools of Agriculture, research stations and Central Campus.



Dr Rajaram Deshmukh addressing on the occasion of Vanmahotsav

### Varieties released

At the Joint Agroesco-2006 meeting of all the four agricultural universities of Maharashtra held at DBKKV, Dapoli, six new varieties of different crops and vegetables of MPKV, Rahuri were released by Shri Sharadchandraji Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi.

### Rabi sorghum Phule Chitra

The *rabi* sorghum variety Phule Chitra (SPV 1546) has given 30.4% more yield (21.7 q/ha) over M 34-1, 15.1% over CVS 216 and 22.1% over Phule Maulee under rainfed conditions. Similarly, SPV 1346



Rabi sorghum

(64.24 q/ha) gave 18.6 and 23.6% higher fodder yields than M 35-1 and Phule Maulee respectively in trials. Phule Chitra has high grain and fodder yield potential under rainfed situation, shows tolerance to drought, shootfly (15.3% dead-hearts) and charcoal *roti*, and has quality fodder and good *roti*-making quality. It is proposed to be released for cultivation under rainfed condition for the entire Maharashtra State, especially for medium-type soil.

### Bajra hybrid Shanti

The *bajra* hybrid Shanti (RHRBH 9808) has given grain yield of 30.13 q/ha, which is 16.64% more than of Shraddha and 10.56% more than of Saburi. It is resistant to powdery mildew disease and has good *roti*-making quality. It has uniform plant height and is mid-tall compared with Shraddha and Saburi. Shanti is proposed to be released for cultivation in Maharashtra State for *kharif* season.



Shanti bajra

### Bajra x Napier hybrid Phule Jaywant

Phule Jaywant has high yield potential with average green-forage yield 1,683.61 q/ha/year, has less oxalate content (1.91%), high leaf:stem ratio and no incidence of pests and diseases. It also shows 41% more potential for green-fibre yield (GFY), 43% more for dry-matter yield (DMY) and 42% more for crude-protein yield (CPY). It is proposed to be released for cultivation under irrigated conditions of western Maharashtra.



Bajra x Napier hybrid

### Sunflower Bhanu

Bhanu (SS 2038) gives seed yield 1,240 kg/ha, which is 25-30% more than of the variety SS 56 (936 kg/ha), has higher oil content (35.4%), shows tolerance to downy mildew, rust and necrosis diseases, has higher hectolitre weight (40 g/100 ml) ratio and early maturity (585-90 days). It is proposed to be released for cultivation in the sunflower-growing areas of Maharashtra State.



Sunflower Bhanu

### Tomato hybrid Phule Raja

Tomato hybrid Phule Raja (RTH 2) gives significantly highest yield (572 q/ha) over the check Namdhari 2535 (440 q/ha). The fruits are orange red, very stout, attractive with smooth surface, oval-round in shape, medium in size, having thick pericarp and better shelf-life. It also shows better reaction to major pests and diseases. Hence Phule Raja is recommended for release for cultivation in western Maharashtra.



Tomato Ohule Raja

### Broccoli Ganesh Dhanwantari

Broccoli Ganesh Dhanwantari (GK 2-5) gives significantly highest (66.12 a/ha) yield over the check cultivar KTS 1 (56.11 q/ha). The curds are dark green, compact, dome shaped, big in size and attractive with uniform flower-



Broccoli Ganesh Dhanwantari



bud maturity. It also shows better reaction to major pests and diseases. Hence GK-2-5 is recommended for release for cultivation in Western Maharashtra, under the name Ganesh Dhanwantari.

#### Award to Dr Rajaram Deshmukh, VC

Dr Rajaram Deshmukh, VC, was conferred with the prestigious Vasantao Naik Agriculture Award -2006 for his valuable contribution in the field of Agriculture. The award was given by Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, Government of India, on 1 July 2006. The Vasantao Naik Agricultural Research and Rural Development Foundation, Mumbai, offers cash prize of Rs 11,000. Dr Deshmukh made major contributions to pulse crop research, developing 15 improved varieties. He is the recipient of awards such as Colombo Plan, Dorin Mashier and King Bowedoin awards.



Shri Sharad Pawar giving Agriculture Award-2006 to VC Dr Rajaram Deshmukh

#### Visit abroad

Dr Rajaram Deshmukh, VC; and Dr K.D. Kokate, Director of Extension Education, along with 52 progressive farmers of Maharashtra State visited Israel during 6 to 13 May 2006. The team visited the 16<sup>th</sup> International Agricultural Exhibition at Tel Aviv, and took interest in technologies for Micro-Irrigation System and Mechanization in Agriculture.



Dr Rajaram Deshmukh and Dr K.D. Kokate along with farmers during visit to Israel

### MARATHWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PARBHANI

#### Dr S.T. Borikar on China Visit

Dr S.T. Borikar, Director of Research, and Principal Investigator and Country Co-ordinator of the CFC-FAO-ICRISAT research project entitled 'Enhanced utilization of sorghum and pearl millet grains in poultry feed industries to improve livelihood of small-scale farmers in Asia', was invited to attend Annual Work Planning and Steering Committee Meeting held at Sorghum Research Institute, Shenyang, China during 24-29 April 2006.

#### Control of cotton grey mildew and bacterial blight, and groundnut stem-rot

Pooled results of pathological studies pertaining to cotton and groundnut indicated the efficacy of spraying 0.1% carbendazim at 30, 60 and 90 days after sowing to control grey mildew, *Ramularia areola* and of cotton-seed treatment with PF-1 (*Pseudomonas fluorescens*) @ 10 g/kg seed + Pf-1 spray (0.2%) three times at 30, 60 and 90 days after sowing to control bacterial blight and *Alternaria*. Similarly, soil application of *Trichoderma viridae* @ 2.5 kg in 50 kg FYM before sowing groundnut proved effective in control of stem rot (*Sclerotium rolfsii*) disease.

#### Ajanta Sweet Tamarind

The university released Ajanta Sweet Tamarind cultivars for the first time at the state and national levels during recently concluded Joint AGERSCO held from 29 May to 1 June 2006 at DBSKKV, Dapoli. It is a regular bearer with good-quality fruit, suitable for dryland conditions. Dr S.J. Shinde and Dr R.M. Kulkarni of Fruit Research Station, Aurangabad took special efforts in developing this variety.



Ajanta sweet tamarind with processed products

### NAVASARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, NAVASARI

#### Krusha Mahotsav

Gujarat Government organized an intensive integrated month-long pre-monsoon mega campaign, Krushi Mahotsav, involving 1 lakh government personnel from 15 departments of the State, NGOs, APMCs, Co-operative Societies, Milk Unions, Input-supplying Agencies, Banks and 700 agricultural scientists to cover all the 18,600 villages of the state.



CM, Shri Narendra Modi, addressing Kisan Sammelan during Krushi Mahotsav

The physical targets achieved under different government schemes during this mega event include:

1. Distribution of Soil Health Cards to 9.52 lakh farmers and Kisan Credit Cards to 1.57 lakh farmers, along with Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Shramyogi input kits to 90770, 90592, 90533 and 46405 farmers respectively.
2. Excavation of 31,000 farm ponds and 2,973 village ponds.
3. Construction of 21,316 boribandhs and 8,494 check dams.
4. Formation of 6,78 Milk Co-operative and 4,78 Credit Co-operative Societies.
5. Vaccination of 43.85 lakh animals.
6. Clearance of 22,374 applications for subsidy on drip irrigation.



VC, Dr R.P.S. Ahlawat, with farmers and scientists during Krushi Mahotsav

The feedback received by the government departments and the SAUs during this joint campaign will enable them to make their schemes or research programmes need based.

#### Identification of forage sorghum SRF 286 at national level

The forage sorghum (single-cut) variety SRF 286 developed at Main Sorghum Research Station, NAU, Athwa Farm, Surat has been recently identified in the Varietal Identification Committee Meeting held at MAU, Parbhani at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Group Meeting during 11 to 13 May 2006.

SRF 286 was identified at national level for its high green-fodder yield (378.4 q/ha), dry-fodder yield (113.8 q/ha), green-fodder yield/day (4.90 q/ha) and dry-fodder yield/day (1.45 q/ha) as well as low HCN content (69 ppm) with good seed-production potential.



Fodder sorghum SRF 286

This variety is also tolerant to lodging and shattering, responsive to high fertilizer doses, suitable for the areas growing *kharif*-fodder sorghum (single-cut). The plant is tall (220 cm) with thin stem, lax panicle and drooping leaves. It is tolerant to anthracnose and downy mildew. This variety is also tolerant to shoot-fly and stem-borer, similar to the national check variety HC 308.

### PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, LUDHIANA

#### Rs 1 crore special grant each to six centres of excellence

The PAU has submitted a plan on 'Basic and strategic research in agriculture' to the ICAR, with details of spending Rs100 crores by the university. The grant was announced by the Union Finance Minister in his budget speech (2006-07) to parliament on 28 February 2005.

The road-map envisages setting up of six centres of excellence



and lays stress on three key areas of research, which are:

- (i) Strengthening of Integrated Pest management,
- (ii) Multi-location Testing and Region-specific Research, and
- (iii) Intellectual Property Rights, Market Intelligence Cell and Technology Impact Analysis.

The proposed six centres of excellence are in Crop Biotechnology and Improvement, Farm Animal Biotechnology, Food Processing and Value Addition, Natural Resources Management, Bio-energy, and Farm Power and Machinery.

### Soil scientist gets ICAR National Professorship

A Senior Soil Chemist, Dr Bijay Singh, was selected as ICAR National Professor. Dr Singh will work on plant need-based nitrogen management in rice and wheat. Dr Singh has made outstanding contributions leading to better understanding of integrated nutrient management in rice-wheat cropping system. He has also done pioneering research on nitrate pollution of ground-water in Punjab. His recent work on need-based fertilizer application to rice, using leaf-colour chart is a landmark development. It is becoming popular with the farmers, as it provides a breakthrough in economizing fertilizer nitrogen usage.



Dr Bijay Singh

Dr Bijay Singh is a recipient of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Prize of ICAR (1995), FAI Silver Jubilee Award of Excellence (1984 and 2001), and Recognition Award of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (2000). He is fellow of Indian National Science Academy, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Indian Society of Soil Science.

### MoU with two US universities

The PAU signed agreements of co-operation with two American universities, viz. California, Davis and Florida, to enhance academic interchange and to further the development of basic scientific and technological research and faculty-student exchange programmes.

The agreement of co-operation between PAU and University of California was signed by the VC Dr K.S. Aulakh and Chancellor Dr Larry N. Vanderhoef. This is for a period of 3 years. The MoU between PAU and University of Florida was signed by Director Research, B.S. Bernard Machen. This agreement terminates on 30 June 2009.

## RAJASTHAN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, BIKANER

### Dialogue on water policy

A Dialogue on Water Policy was organized under the aegis of Urmul Trust, UNICEF and RAU, Bikaner during 15-16 May 2006 at Academic Staff College, Bikaner. Prof. Parmatma Singh, VC, chaired the inaugural function. The key speaker Dr M.S. Rathore, Senior Hydrologist from IDS, Jaipur made a database presentation on the past and proposed water policy of Rajasthan. He apprised the audience with technical and ethical, ecological and legal aspects of water policy for the state. Shri Subhu Patwa, journalist and Chairman of Adult Education Samiti, Bikaner underlined the importance of participation of the people from grass-root level in the formulation of water policy.

During the dialogue, delegates from NGOs, farmers' representatives of government and agricultural university participated in the brain-storming session, whose important recommendations are given below.

1. Water policy should be in accordance with the specific agro-climatic conditions of Rajasthan, mainly for water-limiting situation.
2. Effort should be initiated for maintenance, renovation and construction of traditional water-harvesting system.
3. Water policy should be in resonance with policy concerning energy, development, industry, irrigation, agriculture, health and living.

4. Special attention should be given to depleting levels of ground-water.

5. There should be a balance between traditional and modern wisdom. The laws concerning the ownership of water should be understood in their correct perspective and legalities should be simplified. Shri Manik Chand Surana, Chairman, Rajasthan State Finance Commission and Shri Devi Singh Bhati, MLA participated in the dialogue.

## SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, MEERUT

### Mango Festival 2006

A state-level Mango Festival was organized at the university during 5-6 July 2006 in collaboration with National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon. In this festival, mango show was organized by inviting entries of fresh mangoes, processed products and packaging containers both from growers and government



Dr M.P. Yadav, VC along with members examining the entries received at mango festival

organizations. In total, 450 entries under different categories were registered and judged by a group of experts and accordingly awards were given. Among fresh mango fruits, the entry by Shri Nanak Chand S/o Shri Nathu Singh, village Nek, dist. Meerut was selected as champion of the show. The festival was inaugurated by Prof. M.P. Yadav, VC. A Kisan Goshthi was also organized on this occasion in the form of farmers-scientists interaction on various aspects of mango cultivation, co-ordinated by Dr S.C. Sirohi, Professor and Head (Horticulture). The festival not only helped promote mango orcharding in the locality but also displayed mango diversity available in western Uttar Pradesh.

### Vallabh Basmati 21

The rice variety Vallabh Basmati 21 (MAUB 21) developed by the university was evaluated in AICRP trials and standard varietal trials at Regional Agricultural Testing and Demonstration Centres of Uttar Pradesh for 3 years. It yielded 43.1 q/ha, and proved superior to popular varieties



Rice Vallabh Basmati 21

Pusa Basmati 1 and Tarori Basmati by 13.40 and 27.43% respectively, as well as in having longer kernel length (7.04 mm, which was 13.2 mm after cooking). Vallabh Basmati 21 expressed all quality traits or parameters accepted for basmati rice in the global trade. It had 66.2% milling and 51.0% head-rice recovery. Grain chalkiness was absent. It also had excellent aroma and palatability. The variety got overall acceptability rating on account of its appearance, cohesiveness, tenderness on touching and chewing, aroma, taste, elongation and flaky texture on cooking in the panel-test scores.

### Paper at international wheat conference

Dr Sundeep Kumar, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology, SDVBPU, Meerut presented his scientific contribution 'Inheritance and allelic relationship of resistance genes to spot blotch of wheat caused by *Bipolaris sorokiniana*' at 7<sup>th</sup> International Wheat Conference in the session on 'Breeding for resistance to biotic stress' at Mar del Plat, Argentina held from 27 November to 2 December 2005. Spot blotch is a disease of increasing concern in South Asia and Latin American countries, causing 70 to 80% yield losses, particularly in the areas where warm humid conditions persist during wheat-cropping season. This work will enrich the knowledge level of different wheat workers engaged in breeding for spot blotch resistance and will definitely support Indian farmers especially of NEPZ and NWPZ, which are under serious threat of this disease.



## SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SRINAGER

### One-day workshop on bee-keeping

During the workshop officers of Department of Agriculture, Scientists of the university and a large number of bee-keepers of the Valley participated.



Bee-keeping workshop

## UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE, DHARWAD

### Prof. Naik visits Canada to attend international meeting

Dr M.K. Naik, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, UAS, Raichur (Karnataka), attended a joint meeting on 'Biological interactions and biological cross-roads', held at Quebec city (Canada) during 29 July-2 August 2006. It was organized by American Phytopathological Society, Canadian Phytopathological Society and Mycological Society of America. Dr Naik made an oral presentation on 'Variability in *Rhizoctonia solani*, the fungus that causes sheath blight of rice'. The was attending by over 2,000 scientists with 500 oral presentations and 800 poster presentations.



Dr M.K. Naik

Dr M.K. Naik has been nominated on Editorial Board of *Indian Phytopathology*, the journal of Phytopathological Society, IARI, New Delhi for the period 2006 to 2008.

### Visit of Sudan's Agriculture Minister

The role of PAU in Green Revolution attracted a high-level five-member delegation from Sudan on fact-finding mission. The delegation led by Shri Mohamman Alameen Kabbashi Eisa, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Government of Sudan, visited PAU on 4 June 2006 and met VC Dr K.S. Aulakh as well as other senior scientists and officers of the university.



Dr K.S. Aulakh greets Mr. Eisa

The mission of the delegation was to know how the Green Revolution in Punjab has changed India from a food-deficit state to a surplus state. They were here to know the secret of this success and also how the university can help them improve their agriculture. Since Punjab and Sudan have similar topography and crops (wheat and sorghum), the Sudan government is keen to know how the success of Punjab can be replicated in Sudan.

Apprising the visitors of the factors that contributed towards Green Revolution, the VC informed that consolidation of land holdings, mechanization of farming and providing right inputs in terms of improved seed and their production technology were the major elements. Besides, a strong university-farmers linkage too played a key role. But the major credit goes to the hard-working Punjab farmers. Over the years the university has developed great rapport with farmers. More than 1.2 lakh farmers visit the university at Kisan Melas every year during March and September to get seeds of new varieties and new knowledge on farm front. The VC promised every help to the visiting Minister and agreed on signing MoU with his government.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## JUNAGADH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, JUNAGADH

### Award for research achievements

The JAU's main pearl millet research station, Jamnagar (Gujarat), has received three awards: (1) Chaudhri Devlal AICRP Team Research Award; (2) Merit Certificate from Society for Millet Research, ARS, Mandor, Jodhpur; and (3) Best Project Award (All-India Co-ordinated Pearl Millet Research Project), ICAR, New Delhi.

### Best Scientist award

Dr C.J. Dangaria, Research Scientist, Main Pearl Millet Research Station, JAU, Jamnagar, has received Best Scientist Award from the All-India Co-ordinated Pearl Millet Research Project, Mandor, Jodhpur.

## NATIONAL DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KARNAL

### Visits abroad

**Dr S.K. Anand**, Senior Scientist, Dairy Microbiology was invited as a Visiting Fellow and Panel Member, International Food Safety Issues, at 25<sup>th</sup> Food Microbiology Symposium and Workshop entitled 'Current concepts on food-borne pathogens and rapid and automated methods in food microbiology', held at University of Wisconsin, River Falls, the USA during 15-19 October 2005.

**Dr (Ms) Smita Sirohi**, Senior Scientist, Dairy Economics Statistics and Management Division, presented the research paper entitled 'Is CDM a win-win strategy for rural poverty alleviation in India?' at the international conference on 'Climate or development', held at Hamburg Institute of International Economics, Hamburg, Germany during 28-29 October 2005.

**Dr Bikash C. Ghosh**, Senior Scientist, SRS, Bangalore carried out his post-doctoral research work on Proteolytic activities of bacteria constituting the surface microflora of surface-ripened cheese at Federal Research Centre for Nutrition and Food, Kiel, Germany from May to October 2005 during revisit programme of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Bonn, Germany.

**Dr B.V. Balasubramanyam**, Senior Scientist (Dairy Technology), SRS, Bangalore was deputed to attend Users' training programme on operation and maintenance of food-texture analyser at United Kingdom during 22-25 November 2005. The training programme was sponsored by M/s Stable Microsystems Ltd., Vienna Court, Lamas Road, Goldalming, the U.K.

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