



Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University

Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848 125

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FROM THE DESK OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

It gives me immense pleasure to share that Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, continues to uphold its legacy of excellence in agricultural education, research, and outreach.

I am delighted to present the Monthly e-Newsletter for May 2025, highlighting the significant achievements and activities undertaken by the University in April, 2025.

In the month of April, the University achieved a significant milestone with the release of two improved crop varieties—Rajendra Genhu-4 (Wheat) and Rajendra Madua-1 (Finger Millet)—both notified by the Central Variety Release Committee. These varieties represent our dedication to developing climate-resilient, high-yielding crops with enhanced nutritional profiles, directly addressing the dual challenges of food and nutritional security. This shows our dedication to developing climate-resilient, high-yielding crops with enhanced nutritional profiles, directly addressing the dual challenges of food and nutritional security.

Our institution's strength lies in its human resources, and I am pleased to share that we have issued 89 appointment offers for faculty positions across various departments. This significant recruitment drive aligns with our vision of strengthening academic excellence and research capabilities as envisioned in the National Education Policy 2020.

April was also a month of celebrating milestones. The Sugarcane Research Institute celebrated its 93rd Foundation Day on 1st April, 2025 a testament to our long-standing commitment to sugarcane research and development in Bihar. Similarly, the Post Graduate College of Agriculture commemorated its 7th Foundation Day on April 25th, marking another year of academic excellence.

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings conducted at KVK Bhagwanpur Hat (Siwan), KVK Lada (Samastipur-II), KVK Birauli (Samastipur-I), and KVK Sheohar have been instrumental in aligning our extension activities with regional agricultural needs and farmers aspirations. These meetings have yielded valuable recommendations, including the promotion of millets and natural farming, establishment of crop cafeterias, quality planting material production, and strengthening custom hiring services. We wish our students the best of luck.

Our extension activities continue to make a significant impact, with 2,924 farmers, rural youth, women, and extension workers trained in various agricultural technologies in April. The university has also contributed to the farming community by providing quality seeds and planting materials.

Our university's commitment to holistic development extends beyond academics. I am proud to share that a 34-member contingent has been sent to participate in the XXII All India Inter Agricultural Universities Games & Sports Meet-2025 at Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology, Ayodhya to participate in 18 different sports events

Besides above activities, we also hold out 47th SOC meeting on 25-04-2025 to review and resolve the different issues to create and provide better ecosystems for work and living.

As we move forward, I urge all members of the RPCAU family to continue their dedicated efforts in realizing our vision of agricultural transformation and rural prosperity. Together, we can build a more sustainable and food-secure future for our nation.



(P. S. Pandey)

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

SRI celebrated 93rd “Foundation Day: Sugarcane Research Institute of RPCAU, Pusa celebrated its 93rd “Foundation Day” on 1st April, 2025. Inaugural session was chaired by Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, RPCAU, Pusa and the Chief Guest of Foundation Day was Dr. V. P. Singh, Former, Director, SRI, Pusa and Former Vice-Chancellor, Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU), Pusa. All the Dean Director of the university, Sugarcane Factory Officials and Progressive Farmers along with Head of Departments and faculties attended the programme. Brain Storming Session was also organized under the chairmanship of Dr. V. P. Singh. Faculties and heads of different departments discussed the burning issues related to quality seed production, insect-pest management, mechanization, waterlogging, micronutrient application, and processing techniques for sugarcane, as well as value addition in different jaggery products.



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Study tour of B.F.Sc students: A Study Tour-cum-Exposure Visit was organized for B.F.Sc students of the 2023–2027 batch on 25-04-2025. Students visited the ICAR-CIFE Centre in Motipur, Muzaffarpur, and Kash Fisheries in Bairiya, East Champaran. The objective of the visit was to complement theoretical learning with practical, field-level exposure, focusing on advanced aquaculture practices, fisheries management techniques, and emerging technologies in the fisheries sector.



Three B.F.Sc Students Selected as Fisheries Inspectors:

Three students from B.F.Sc (Fisheries Resource Management), namely Asmita, Lilima Nitam and Omkar Sahuare have been selected as Fisheries Inspector in Chhattisgarh.

TCA Dholi Student Secures Admission at IARI, New Delhi:

Ms. Jyoti Jha (Batch: 2020-24), students of TCA, Dholi got selected in M.Sc (Plant Pathology) programme at IARI New Delhi. The Dean of TCA, Dholi extended heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Jha, commending her hard work, dedication, and academic excellence that led to this remarkable achievement.

Students Participation in Conference: Students of the Food and Nutrition (FND) second semester actively participated in the annual conference of the Society of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism (SRNCOM 2025), held at Hotel Maurya, Patna on April 26, 2025. The students were accompanied by Dr. Kumari Sunita, Assistant Professor, Community and Clinical Sciences (CCS). As part of the conference, the students attended two intensive workshops focused on key areas of renal nutrition and got the opportunity to engage directly with leading dietitians, nutritionists, and nephrologists.



1. **Nutritional Assessment of Renal Patients:** This session covered biochemical markers, patient counselling, and follow-up strategies essential for effective nutritional management in nephrology.
2. **Nutrition in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD):** The workshop addressed evidence-based dietary interventions and nutritional support for patients with chronic kidney conditions.

NSS Wing of CCS Celebrates Poshan Pakhwada: The NSS wing of the College of Community Science (CCS), celebrated Poshan Pakhwada from April 8 to April 22, 2025, with great enthusiasm and active participation from students, including the newly admitted batch of the Food Nutrition & Dietetics (FND) program. As part of the celebration, students organized awareness activities such as slogan-writing competitions to promote the importance of nutrition and health. These events were conducted in the surrounding areas of the RPCAU campus, aiming to engage the local community and spread key

messages on balanced diets, healthy lifestyle practices, and the prevention of malnutrition.



Dr. Sangeeta Deo, PI, along with three Co-PI Dr. Gitanjali Chaudhary, Dr. Beenita Satpathy and Dr. S P Lal attended Annual Workshop of AICRP on Women in Agriculture and Global Conference on "Innovations to Impact: Gender Transformative Approach for Sustainable Agri-food Systems" from 08th March–10th March, 2025 at CIWA, Bhubaneswar. A Technical Bulletin on "Traditional Food Cuisine and Cultural Anthropology of Bihar" was released by Hon'ble Dr. R C Agrawal (DDG, Education) and Dr. Bimlesh Mann (ADG, EP and HS) during Annual Workshop of AICRP on WIA.



Dr. Gangadhar Nanda participated in a Kisan Gosthi organized by Sri Krishna Goushala Mokama, Patna on 16.04.2025 in collaboration with ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi U.P. Farmers were made aware about the benefits of growing perennial fodder crops, lucerne instead of growing only fodder oat during Rabi season, preparation of silage from excess green fodder during Kharif season.



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Wheat variety 'Rajendra Gehun – 4' and finger millet variety 'Rajendra Madua-1' were notified from CVRC

Profile of Rajendra Genhu – 1



- Biofortified wheat variety
- High iron (43) and zinc (38) content.
- Medium duration (126-135 days)
- Plant height 88-101cm.
- The yield potential is 55-60 q/ha.
- Resistant to major diseases and insects-pests are prevalent in Bihar.

Profile of Rajendra Madua – 1

- Pedigree/ Parentage: RAU 8 X GPU 28
- Breeding Method: Pedigree Method
- Released for the Area/ State: Bihar
- Average yield is 38.0 q/ha
- Erect, having light green colour leaves, brown colour panicle with height of 105-116 cm
- It matures in 118 days.
- It possesses high degree of resistance against leaf blast, rust, smut, brown spot, downy mildew and leaf blight.



Dr. Sweta Mishra has been Elected as a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London : Dr. Sweta Mishra, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics, has been elected as a Fellow of the prestigious Linnean Society of London, one of the world's oldest active biological societies, founded in 1788.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Poshan Pakhwada celebrated by KVK, Gopalganj: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Gopalganj, celebrated Poshan Pakhwada from 15 to 21 April, 2025, across various Anganwadi centers in villages including Kuchaikote, Bakhari Balua Tola, and Tola Sipaya. The programme witnessed active participation from 55 individuals, including Anganwadi Sevikas, Sahaikas, and children. The aim of this programme was to develop a nutri-garden in each anganwadi centre to enhance the nutritional status of young children to tackle the key issues of under nutrition, malnutrition, anaemia, low birth

weight. Focusing on early childhood nutrition to prevent starving and obesity to create healthier and better nourished population. Participants were encouraged to consume locally available, nutritious, and diverse foods, along with maintaining adequate water intake. To support the initiative, KVK Gopalganj distributed nutri-garden seed kits to participating centers. In parallel, a one-day workshop-cum-training programme for sugarcane growers was also organized by Vishnu Sugar Mills, Gopalganj. During the session, the Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) in Crop Production from KVK delivered a lecture on “Scientific and Improved Cultivation Practices of Sugarcane.”



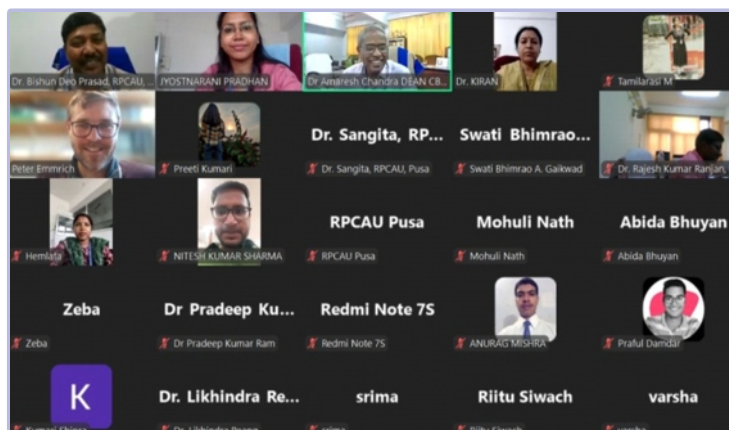
TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/ AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

Training on Spices and Oilseed Crops : BAMETI, Patna sponsored a domain specific Training of 52 days duration from 26.03.2025 at TCA, Dholi on Spices and Oilseed Crops under Bihar Skill Development Mission.



Lecture Series: The College of Basic Sciences and Humanities (CBS&H), Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central

Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa, successfully organized an insightful online lecture on April 25, 2024, as part of its monthly lecture series featuring nationally and internationally renowned scientists. The session featured a distinguished talk by Dr. Peter Emmrich, Group Leader at the John Innes Centre (JIC), Norwich, UK, on the topic “Unlocking the Resilience of Grasspea: From Genomics to the Seed System.” Dr. Emmrich shared cutting-edge research insights into the genetic improvement, stress resilience, and sustainable seed systems of grasspea—a legume of significant importance for food security in marginal environments. The session was chaired by the Dean, CBS&H, and witnessed active participation from around 50 attendees, including faculty members, research scholars, and students, fostering an inclusive and vibrant academic environment.



A three days residential training programme on “Development of Millet Based Value Added Food products” was organized under Centre of Excellence on Millet and Value Chain project (4th Krishi Road Map) from 01st March-03rd March, 2025. A hand on training on preparation of various value-added millets products (millet biscuits, millet cup cake, malted ragi flour, millet anarasa, millets mixture etc.) was provided to the 35 farm women of Dalsinghsarai, Samastipur district and Sakra, Muzaffarpur district.



A WARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

An oral presentation was carried out by Dr. Gitanjali Chaudhary, Associate Professor cum Senior Scientist and Co-PI (AICRP-WIA) on the topic entitled “Farm Women's R.P.C.A.U., Pusa

Awareness level, Need and their Perception towards Entrepreneurial Development: Case study of Sheohar district of Bihar” and received 3rd Oral Presentation Award during the Global Conference on “Innovation to Impact: Gender Transformative Approach for Sustainable Agri-food system” organised by Central Institute of Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar from on 8th March -10th march, 2025.



Dr. Sangeeta Deo, Professor and Chief Scientist, PI (AICRP-WIA), Co-Chaired the Technical Session for “Gender Responsive Agricultural Production Practices” during Global Conference on “Innovation to Impact: Gender Transformative Approach for Sustainable Agri-food system” organised at CIWA, Bhubaneswar from 8th-10th March, 2025.



Dr. Gitanjali Chaudhary, Associate Professor cum Senior Scientist received 2nd Oral Presentation Award on the topic entitled “Formulation and quality assessment of Zinc Enriched Millet based Nutri Bar” during the “75th Annual Conference of ISAS on Data Revolution in Agriculture: Innovation Statistical and Conceptual Methods for Viksit Bharat @2047” organised at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar from on 20th March -22nd March, 2025.



VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

Dr. V.P. Singh

Former Director, Sugarcane Research Institute (SRI) Chief Guest at the 93rd Foundation Day of SRI

Dr. D.V. Singh

Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Patna

FAREWELL

➤ A Farewell ceremony of the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 30 April, 2025 was organized in the gracious presence of Dr. Mayank Rai, Dean, PGCA, RPCAU, Pusa.

1. Shri Nagina Ram

Skilled Supporting Staff, Estate Section

2. Shri Mahesh Pd. Yadav

Skilled Supporting Staff, TCA, Dholi

3. Shri Ram Bilash Mahto

Skilled Supporting Staff, TCA, Dholi



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