



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

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## FROM THE DESK OF VICE-CHANCELLOR



Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to present the e-Newsletter for the month of February, 2026, ushering in the New Year with renewed energy, optimism, and vibrant aspirations. The beginning of 2026 at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa has been marked by enthusiasm, commitment, and a collective resolve to further strengthen our academic excellence, research innovation, and extension outreach.

A moment of immense pride for Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, was the conferment of the Padma Shri (2026) upon our esteemed Chancellor, Dr. P. L. Gautam, in recognition of his pioneering contributions to agricultural genetics, plant breeding, biodiversity conservation, and national agricultural policy. We are equally honoured by the conferment of the Padma Shri (2026) upon our former Vice-Chancellor, Dr. G. Trivedi, acknowledging his outstanding contributions to agricultural extension and institutional development. These prestigious national honours bring great distinction to the entire RPCAU fraternity and serve as a profound source of inspiration for our scientific and academic community.

As we step into the New Year, the timeless wisdom of our scriptures inspires us: “उद्यमेन हि सिध्यन्ति कार्याणि न मनोरथैः। न हि सुप्तस्य सिंहस्य प्रविशन्ति मुखे मृगाः॥” This spirit of purposeful action has been reflected in our achievements during the month. A major milestone was the release and notification of two maize varieties—Rajendra Baby Corn-2 (MBC 21-10) and Rajendra Pop Corn-2 (MPC-2141)—by the CVRC under the Seeds Act, 1966, as published in the Gazette of India. This accomplishment reinforces our commitment to impactful research and varietal development for the benefit of farmers and the agricultural community.

The University began the year with the Navvarsh Milan Samaroh, fostering unity and renewed motivation among faculty, staff, and students. Capacity building remained a key focus, with the organization of a three-day workshop on “Mastering Soft Skills and Interview Skills for Career Readiness,” empowering our students with essential professional competencies. The six-day “Karmayogi” Management Development Programme further strengthened administrative and financial governance, underscoring our belief that a strong institution is built upon continuous learning and professional integrity.

Our extension and community engagement activities were equally vibrant. The Chrysanthemum Field Day showcased over 150 varieties and highlighted floriculture as a viable avenue for income enhancement. The Mega Sensitization-cum-Awareness Workshop for Livelihood Upliftment of Farm Women, with participation of more than 400 farm women, marked a significant beginning to the International Year of Women Farmers – 2026.

As an Institute of National Importance, RPCAU remains steadfast in its resolve to integrate quality education, innovative research, effective extension services, and good governance. With the collective efforts of our faculty members, scientists, officers, staff, students, and stakeholders, we shall continue to strive for excellence and contribute meaningfully to sustainable agricultural development and nation-building.

With best wishes to all members of the RPCAU family for continued success and purposeful achievements in the year ahead.

(P. S. Pandey)

## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

**RPCAU Celebrates Republic Day:** Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU) celebrated Republic Day with patriotic fervor and a forward-looking vision for India's agricultural sector. Addressing students, faculty, and distinguished guests, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P.S. Pandey delivered a comprehensive speech that honored the core values of the Indian Constitution while outlining the university's ambitious milestones.

Anchoring his address on the themes of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) and the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor emphasized the pivotal role of agricultural innovation in driving national progress. Highlighting the university's commitment to research and food security, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor detailed recent successes in crop development. RPCAU has successfully released new, high-yielding crop varieties, notably Rajendra Baby Corn-2 and Rajendra Popcorn-2. Alongside these releases, the university has significantly expanded its seed production capabilities to empower local farmers. Dr. Pandey pointed to major advancements in animal husbandry, specifically highlighting the success of the university's new IVF lab for cattle, which was recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister. In a major institutional milestone, RPCAU has partnered with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to establish an Eddy Covariance tower. This cutting-edge facility will advance research in carbon farming and climate resilience. To ensure students remain at the forefront of modern agriculture, he announced a groundbreaking initiative: all undergraduate students will receive drone pilot training, equipping them with the skills needed for precision farming.

The address concluded on a high note with the revelation of the university's latest national standing. Thanks to the collective hard work and dedication of the faculty and students, RPCAU has leaped to the 14th rank nationally in the NIRF rankings for agricultural universities. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor finished his inspiring address with rousing chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram," leaving the audience energized and deeply connected to the vision of a progressive, self-reliant India.



**New Year Celebration- 2026 "Milan Samaroh"** was organized in the Deeksharambh Sthal of the Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa on 1st January 2026. The programme was graced by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Deans and Directors of the University. All the faculties, staffs and students were present in this event. On this occasion Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor greeted all the officers, faculties, staff and students and wished them all the best for the new year 2026.



## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

**Release of Important Publications of RPCAU, Pusa:** Directorate of Education and Publication Division of RPCAU, Pusa developed important publications highlights of PG & PhD. Research Topics for the year 2024-25, Annual Report (English) 2023-24, Annual Report (Hindi) 2023-24, RPCAU @ a glance (2nd Edition) and RPCAU e-Newsletters. These publications were released by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor in the presence of Deans, Directors, Publication Committee Members & Faculties on the new years get-together events. These publications were highly appreciated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor & other eminent members which gave a great visibility to the achievements of Directorate of Education & Publication Division of RPCAU, Pusa, Bihar.



**College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Pusa conducted Educational Tour for B. Tech. Agri Engg. (2022-26) students:** CAET, Pusa, successfully organized an

educational tour for final-year B.Tech. Agricultural Engineering (2022–26) students to Ludhiana and Panchkula from 30 December 2025 to 08 January 2026. During the tour, students visited the College of Agricultural Engineering, PAU Ludhiana, ICAR-Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana and ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Panchkula. The visits provided first-hand exposure to advanced laboratories, ongoing research projects, and emerging priorities in agricultural engineering, post-harvest technology, and soil and water conservation. While visiting PAU Ludhiana, the students attended an interactive session with Vice-Chancellor Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal on January 2, 2026. He motivated the students to pursue excellence with dedication and integrity. Notably, the educational visit of the CAET students was also featured on the official website of Punjab Agricultural University, reflecting the academic significance of the interaction. Overall, the educational tour proved to be a highly enriching academic experience, strengthening professional competence while fostering inter-institutional learning and research exposure.



**Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi conducted Educational Tour** for B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students (Batch 2023–27) from 24th December, 2025 to 1st January 2026. The tour covered visits to Anand Agricultural University, Anand; Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari; and ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. At AAU, Anand, students visited Hydroponics Unit, Department of Natural Farming, Department of Microbiology, and IRMA, Anand which provided valuable exposure to innovative agricultural practices.



At NAU, Navsari, students visited the Dadabhai Naoroji Agricultural Educatorium, Sardar Smriti Kendra, Post-Harvest Technology (PHT) Unit, Baboo Research Centre, and Banana Pseudostem Processing Unit and also interacted with the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of NAU, Navsari. Through these visits, students were acquainted with advanced agricultural technologies and innovative practices, which may inspire them to pursue higher education and entrepreneurship in agriculture and contribute effectively to the sector in the future.

**TCA, Dholi organised Anti-Ragging committee meeting** on 19th January 2026 under the chairmanship of Dr. P. P. Singh, Dean. During the meeting Miss Shivani Shrestha, Deputy SP (Trainee), all committee members along with parents, journalists, warden and hostel superintendent, students' representatives were present as per the UGC guidelines for curbing ragging in the campus. Dy. SP interacted with all the students and their parents in hybrid mode and shared information regarding the toll-free number for any police assistance.



**TCA, Dholi organized** an interaction session with Dr. Smruti Ranjan Padhan, Scientist (Agronomy), ICAR- IARI, New Delhi, for the 4th year students on 31st January 2026. He guided students on effective career planning in agricultural sciences and emphasized the importance of academic excellence and focused preparation. The students actively participated in the interaction and raised queries related to academic pathways and future career prospects.



**College of Community Science, Pusa conducted Educational Tour** for B.Sc. (Hons.) Community Science, 5th semester (batch 2023-27) students in the last week of December, 25 to 1st week of January 2026 to Kolkata. They visited NABL accredited laboratory of Indian Institute of Packaging, Textile Industry under the Ministry of Textiles, West Bengal, Four Star International an ISO 9001 certified company Yarn to Fabric processing unit, Viswa Bharti

University, Shantiniketan and KVK. The students exposed with the step wise processing of yarn to fabric and printing process and also learnt the working of different machines used for the UN certification of the packaging materials. The educational trip was very successful and informative.



**RPCAU celebrates National Youth Day 2026** “Celebrating the power of youth” on 12th January, honouring Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary and his teachings. University level Elocution, Quiz, Poster and Rangoli competition was organized on 08th, 09th and 12th January, 2026 to mark the celebration of Swami Vivekanand Jyanti. Dr. Raman Kumar Trivedi, DSW, cited that Swami Vivekananda Chicago address will be remembered for years to come. Addressing the programme, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P.S. Pandey emphasized that today's youth should continuously draw inspiration from Swami Vivekananda. He asserted that every student is unique and continuous, tireless effort is necessary to become exceptional.



**National Youth Day Celebrated** with great enthusiasm at PDUCH&F, Piprakothi on 12.1.2026. The event was graced by Colonel Surendra Kumar Pandey of the 25 Bihar Battalion NCC as the Chief Guest. He called upon the youth to play an



active role in nation-building, emphasizing the importance of discipline and character formation. Dean, PDUCH & F, Piprakothi, expressed that Swami Vivekananda's thoughts remain a guiding light for today's generation. He inspired students to contribute to the country's development by embracing self-confidence, diligence and moral values. To mark the occasion, the college organized debate and quiz competitions to engage the students.

**Zonal Students' Elocution Contest - 2026 (East Zone):** Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa, successfully hosted the Zonal Students' Elocution Contest - 2026 for the East Zone on January 29, 2026. The prestigious event was conducted virtually after the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), New Delhi, designated RPCAU as the Zonal Coordinator for the region. The contest challenged participants to articulate their visions on the forward-looking theme: “Agri-Food System of 2050 – Youth Perspectives on the Role of Women.” The event saw enthusiastic participation, bringing together 25 students representing nine different agricultural universities across eastern India. Mr. Shibanshu Swayampragyan, an undergraduate student from the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (CAET) at RPCAU, Pusa, secured the First Position at the UG level.

**RPCAU Students Secure Placement:** Eight students successfully secured placements with Pradan, New Delhi, during a January campus drive organized by the university's Placement and Career Counseling Cell. The selected candidates were offered an impressive annual package of ₹9.36 Lakhs, marking the highest salary package at the university so far this year. The successful cohort represents a diverse range of disciplines, including students from B.Sc. Agriculture, B.Sc. Community Science, B.F.Sc. Fisheries Science, B.Tech Biotechnology, and MBA Agri-Business. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. S. Pandey and Placement In-charge Dr. Raman Kumar Trivedi extended their heartiest congratulations to the students, expressing strong optimism that the university will continue to reach new placement heights this year.



## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

**Installation of Eddy Covariance :** Eddy Covariance has been installed at RPCAU, Pusa with a collaborative support from the Space Application Centre, ISRO to undertake frontier research on Carbon farming, carbon sequestration, water vapour fluxes, radiation balance and water management in different cropping systems. The facility was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor highlighting its significance in modern-days research. During this event, all the University Officers and faculty members were present.



**Scientists visited FLD programs** The team of scientists associated with ICAR-AICRP on Rapeseed and Mustard visited the farmer's field of Ujjiarpur and Rosera block of Samastipur district under FLDs programme on Mustard 2025-26. The crop variety DRMR-150-35 was sown and gives advisories to the farmers during the visit.



**Dr. Kundan Kishore, Dean, PDUCH&F, Piprakothi acted as an expert for Institute Research Council (IRC) meeting of ICAR-National Research Centre on Litch, Muzaffarpur on January 16, 2026.** During the event the ongoing research activities and future research plan of the institution was discussed.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**Scientific Awareness and Advisory (Krishi Gyan Vahan):** In the month of January 2026, RPCAU - Krishi Gyan Vahan in collaboration with various Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

delivered scientific knowledge directly to farmers' doorsteps across Madhubani, Gopalganj, and Siwan districts using ICT-enabled mobile units. Activities included: Advisories: Location-specific advice on crop productivity, livestock performance, and disease control. Training: Technical video films and expert interactions to address field-level problems. Focus: Special emphasis on empowering women and rural youth for self-employment and skill development.

**Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) and Field Monitoring:** In the month of January 2026, different units of the RPCAU, Pusa namely Tirhut College of Agriculture (TCA), Dholi, KVKs at Sheohar, Saraiya, Turki and Vaishali conducted Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) on mustard, mango, mushroom, biofortified wheat and oilseed crops were conducted under CFLD and CRA programmes. Scientists monitored crop performance, provided on-field advisories and demonstrated improved varieties such as DRMR-150-35 and Rajendra Suflam-1 to enhance productivity and profitability.



**Entrepreneurship and Seed Production Units :** On 15th January 2026, a Makhana Seed Production Unit was inaugurated over a 0.7-acre pond area to serve as a resource center for providing quality planting material to farmers and promoting region-specific enterprises under KVK Narkatiyaganj, RPCAU, Pusa



**Awareness Programme on VB-GRAMG** On 3rd and 4th January 2026, different KVKs under RPCAU, Pusa namely KVKs at Saraiya, Turki and Vaishali conducted Awareness programmes to educate farmers and rural stakeholders about the Viksit Bharat Gramin Rozgar evam Ajivika Mission Guarantee scheme, which replaces MGNREGA. Scientists highlighted enhanced employment guarantees, digital payments and infrastructure development opportunities linked with agriculture and rural livelihoods.

**TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/**

**AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED**

**Livelihood Upliftment Workshops and Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) Training for Farm Women :** AICRP on Women in Agriculture, College of Community Science, RPCAU organized a "Sensitization-cum-Awareness Workshop" on 27th January 2026 at Masina Farm, Khanpur Samastipur, which was attended by more than 400 farm women. Plans were announced to open a Knowledge Resource Centre and provide capacity-building training in Mushroom Production, Food Processing, Garment Designing, and Drone Technology. Likewise, KVK Vaishali (under SCSP Project) conducted three-day training program for 23 participants focused on mushroom cultivation, post-harvest handling, and storage to promote rural entrepreneurship during 27th to 29th January 2026. Similarly, AICRP-Women in Agriculture and Centre for Advanced Studies on Climate Change organized three days training from 23rd to 25th January, 2026 where fifty-three farm women and five men received training on using meteorological instruments (e.g., rain gauges, sunshine recorders) to manage climate-related risks.



**Field Day :** Chrysanthemum Field Day Celebrated on 9th January, 2026 by the Department of Horticulture, PGCA, RPCAU, Pusa. The event was graced by honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey and witnessed enthusiastic participation from university officials, faculties, students, florists and flower growers. In this special event, along with commercial varieties of chrysanthemum, breeding lines and high-quality elite germplasm were also displayed. Particularly, 28 seed setting germplasm of chrysanthemum were exhibited, which play an important role in breeding programs. University scientists provided detailed information to farmers and visitors about the characteristics and utility of these various varieties. A wide range of value-added products made from chrysanthemum were displayed at this event, including garlands, table tops, pot mums, bouquets, and flower jewellery, trophy, flower rangoli

which captivated all those present.



**Capacity Building Training Programmes**

Directorate of Extension Education, RPCAU, Pusa, in collaboration with ATMA & BAMETI, Govt. of Bihar have conducted Capacity Building Training Programmes in the month of January 2026. These training programmes includes: Impact of farm mechanization on climate resilient crop production: repairing and maintenance strategies : A residential training programme sponsored by BAMETI, Patna, Rejuvenation of Old Orchard and its Managements & Integrated Farming System: Training on Integrated Farming System; Training on Integrated Fish Farming, Training on Impact of "Beekeeping"; Training on Startups in Agriculture; Training on Honey Production and Marketing. Likewise, KVK, Siwan (in collaboration with ATMA) organized four ATMA-sponsored training programmes on Scientific Cultivation of Spices, Climate Resilient Agriculture, Mushroom Cultivation and Pulse Cultivation at ATMA centres in Siwan, Buxar and Patna. These programmes focused on improved varieties, adaptive farming practices, risk mitigation and income generation, benefiting more than 110 farmers and enhancing their technical competence.



## Training Programme on INM for Fertilizer Dealers

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Turki, Muzaffarpur-II and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Birauli organized a 15-day training programme on Integrated Nutrient Management for Fertilizer Dealers from 30 January to 13 February 2026 and from 22 December 2025 to 05 January 2026 respectively. The programme aimed to enhance participants' understanding of balanced nutrient application, use of organic inputs, and sustainable soil fertility management. Various interactive lectures, group discussions, and field-based demonstrations helped the dealers strengthen their technical knowledge. The training equipped them with practical skills to guide farmers in improving soil health and increasing crop productivity. Such initiatives play an important role in promoting environmentally sustainable farming and strengthening the agricultural extension network in the region.



## VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

### Shri Kanhaiya Chaudhary

Joint Secretary (Retd.), ICAR  
visited university on 27.01.2026

### Miss Shivani Shrestha

Deputy SP (Trainee)  
visited TCA, Dholi on 19.01.2026

### Surendra Kumar Pandey Colonel

Bihar Battalion NCC  
visited PDUCH&F, Piprakothi on 12.1.2026

### Dr. S.K. Guru

Professor and Head Department of Plant Physiology  
GBPUA&T, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand  
visited RPCAU, Pusa on 06.01.2026

## RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

**Padma Shri Award to Chancellor :** Honourable Chancellor of RPCAU, Pusa, Dr. P. L. Gautam has been decorated with the prestigious Padma Shri Award which is a proud achievement for RPCAU and the global agricultural research community. For nearly half a century, he has shaped the landscape of agricultural genetics and national policy. His pioneering work in crop breeding and biodiversity conservation has provided a new architectural framework for Indian agriculture, elevating it to a position of global prominence and enduring excellence.



**Padma Shri Award to Former Vice Chancellor :** Former Vice Chancellor of RAU, Pusa, Dr. Gopal Ji Trivedi has also been decorated with the prestigious Padma Shri Award. It is a matter of great pride and honour for the university. His contribution to the field of agricultural spread has been invaluable and inspiring. On this historic occasion, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P.S. Pandey congratulated and sent heartfelt greetings to both awardees, stating that this honour is a symbol of pride, inspiration, and self-esteem for the university.



**FAREWELL**

➤ A Farewell ceremony for the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2026 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Dr. Sunita Kumari</b><br/>Associate Professor., C. C. Sc., Pusa</li> <li>2. <b>Dr. Ashok Kr. Singh</b><br/>Asstt. Prof., S. Sc., PGCA</li> <li>3. <b>Sri Sudhir Kumar Verma</b><br/>PS to Vice-Chancellor</li> <li>4. <b>Sri Laldeo Pandit</b><br/>SO, TCA, Dholi</li> <li>5. <b>Sri Animesh Sil</b><br/>STO (T-6), SRI, Pusa</li> <li>6. <b>Sri Arun Kumar Singh</b><br/>Assistant, C. C. Sc.</li> <li>7. <b>Sri Subhash Ch. Singh</b><br/>Assistant, Registrar Sec.</li> <li>8. <b>Sri Chandra Mauli Sharan</b><br/>Assistant, TCA, Dholi</li> <li>9. <b>Sri Mahesh Rajak</b><br/>Assistant, Pusa Farm</li> <li>10. <b>Sri Birendra Chaudhary</b><br/>TO (T-5), SRI, Pusa</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <b>Sri Doneshwar Sahu</b><br/>TO (T-5), SRI, Pusa</li> <li>12. <b>Sri Rakesh Kumar</b><br/>STA (T-4), GPB, PGCA</li> <li>13. <b>Sri Sakhichand Tanti</b><br/>TA (T-3), TCA, Dholi</li> <li>14. <b>Sri Braj Bhushan Pd. Singh</b><br/>Sr. Tech. (T-2), SRI</li> <li>15. <b>Sri Prabhat Kr. Singh</b><br/>T-1, CCCS (AE)</li> <li>16. <b>Sri Jagannath Pd. Yadav</b><br/>T-1, CCCS (AE)</li> <li>17. <b>Sri Rambriksha Shukla</b><br/>SSS, PDUCH&amp;F, Piprakothi</li> <li>18. <b>Sri Rajdev Rai</b><br/>SSS, APRI, Pusa</li> <li>19. <b>Sri Arun Kr. Thakur</b><br/>SSS, SRI, Pusa</li> <li>20. <b>Sri Vijay Paswan</b><br/>SSS, SRI, Pusa</li> </ol> |
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