



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 great pleasure to present the e-Newsletter for the month of March 2026, highlighting the key achievements and activities of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa. This month, university has made significant strides in crop improvement by recommending five new varieties, Rajendra Suflam-1 (mustard), Shakti Man-6 (maize), Rajendra Sonia (turmeric), Rajendra Chana-2, and Rajendra Chana-3 (chickpea) approved to be released by the State Seed Sub-Committee, Bihar. This accomplishment reflects our continued commitment to developing high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties for the farming community.

Academic excellence remains at the core of our mission. The 17th Academic Council Meeting provided an important platform to review and strengthen our academic programmes and governance structures. In series of several capacity-building programmes during the month, the university organised hands-on training on advanced analytical techniques on HPLC and GC and a workshop on statistical analysis using R software. The ICAR-sponsored Winter School on "Integrative Multi-Omics Strategies for Enhancing Stress Tolerance in Field Crops under Climate Change" further enriched interdisciplinary research and innovation among participants drawn from across the country.

A major highlight of the month was the successful organisation of the "लघु एवं सीमान्त कृषक कार्यशाला सह मत्स्यकी, यांत्रिकी, बागबानी एवं पशु मेला-2026" at KVK, Piprakothi. The event was graced by Shri Samrat Choudhary, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar; Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Government of Bihar; Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Former Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare; along with several other distinguished dignitaries. The Mela showcased innovative agricultural technologies and reinforced our unwavering commitment to farmer-centric development. The College of Community Science organised a well-attended programme on "Women in Agri-food System," which witnessed enthusiastic participation from women farmers across the region and underscored their vital and irreplaceable role in sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Another landmark achievement of the month was the inauguration of the Advanced Makhana Research and Development Centre, alongside the National Seminar on "Makhana Research and Development: Linking Farmers, Science and Market." The programme was graced by Shri Ram Nath Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, in the presence of Shri Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, Government of India. This initiative is expected to significantly strengthen the makhana value chain and enhance the income of farmers engaged in its cultivation.

The University also hosted a National Conference on "Advances in Biochemistry and Biotechnology for Nutritional Security in the Era of Climate Change," which brought together scientists, academicians, and students from across the country to deliberate on emerging challenges and cutting-edge innovations in the field. RPCAU, Pusa remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence in education, research, and extension, guided at all times by the principles of innovation, sustainability, and farmers' welfare.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the efforts made by our faculties for making so many noteworthy achievements and a warm welcome to Dr. R. Subbaiah for joining our university as Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology. I wish him every success in his new role.

(P. S. Pandey)

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Inauguration of 'Advanced Centre on Makhana Research and Development' and Two-days National Seminar on Makhana Research & Development: Advanced Centre on Makhana Research and Development at RPCAU, Pusa was inaugurated on 26th Feb 2026 by Shri. Ramnath Thakur, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Govt. of India and Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, MoA&FW, Govt. of India. The centre is sponsored by the Central sponsored scheme 'National Makhana Board', an initiative by the Govt. of India to strengthen the Research and Development on Makhana. During the two-days deliberations of the National Seminar, several issues in Makhana production and value-chain were discussed by the delegates.



Kisan Mela Piprakothi-2026 : Kisan Mela Piprakothi was organised during 14-16 February, 2026. Small and Marginal Farmers Workshop cum Horticulture and Animal Mela organised at KVK Piprakothi. A three-day workshop cum Horticulture and Animal Mela for small and marginal farmers, was organised at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Piprakothi. The event was formally inaugurated in the presence of several distinguished dignitaries. The Chief Guest, Shri Samrat Choudhary, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, led the ceremony. He was joined by Guests of Honour including Ram Kripal Yadav, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Bihar; Radha Mohan Singh, Member of Parliament, Motihari and former Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and Dr. P.S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU Pusa. Other prominent guests included MLAs Pramod Kumar (Motihari), Krishnanandan Paswan (Harsidhi), Shalini Mishra (Kesaria), Sachindra Prasad Singh (Kalyanpur), Shyam Babu Prasad Yadav (Pipra), Rana Randhir Singh (Madhuban), and Lal Babu Prasad Gupta (Chiraia). Lalan Sahni, Chairman of the State Fishermen Commission, and Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director of ATARI, Patna graced the events. On this occasion, a solar energy system and a modern security and surveillance system were inaugurated on the campus under the National Gokul Mission, marking a step forward in sustainable and technologically enabled agricultural infrastructure.

The fair featured 132 exhibition stalls, showcasing advanced agricultural technologies, horticulture innovations, livestock management practices, organic and natural farming models, and modern farm mechanization. These stalls emerged as a major attraction for visiting farmers.

Interactive sessions were also held during the event, bringing together farmers, scientists, and agricultural experts. The event reflects the university's strong commitment to connecting farmers with innovative technologies and strengthening sustainable and profitable agricultural systems in the region.



RPCAU Hosts National Conference on Biotechnology and Nutritional Security Amidst Climate Change : National Conference on "Advances in Biochemistry & Biotechnology for Nutritional Security in the Era of Climate Change" was successfully organized during 27th -28th February 2026 by the College of Basic Sciences and Humanities, RPCAU, Pusa. The conference brought together scientists, academicians, industry experts, research scholars and students to deliberate on innovative strategies for improving nutritional security under changing climatic conditions.

The inaugural session was graced by Dr. P. S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa as the chief guest, distinguished guests included Dr. T. R. Sharma, President, SPBB, Dr. S. L. Mehta, Former Vice-Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur and former DDG (Education), Dr. A. K. Tyagi, Former Director, NIPGR, New Delhi, and P. Ananda Kumar, Former Director, ICAR-NRCPB, New Delhi. The conference was convened by Dr. Amaresh Chandra, Dean, CBSH. Eminent scientists including Dr. R. Bhattacharya and Dr. B. C. Tripathy also participated and chaired the technical sessions. Around 220 participants from nearly 20 universities and research institutes across the country attended the conference. Scientific discussions focused on themes such as biochemical mechanisms of stress tolerance, biotechnology for crop improvement, nutritional enhancement and biofortification, climate-resilient agriculture, functional foods, and molecular regulation in plants. The conference featured several lead lectures, invited talks, and oral and poster presentations by researchers and young scientists. A special highlight was the SPBB-Springer Young Scientist Award session, where about 18 young researchers presented their

innovative work. The conference concluded successfully with a strong commitment from the scientific community to advance research in biochemistry and biotechnology for sustainable agriculture and nutritional security in the face of climate change.



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Ms. Anuja Singh and Ms. Aishwarya, 1st semester, B.Sc. (Hons.) Ag. students (Batch 2025-29) of TCA, Dholi have been selected for Smt. Kanak Agarwal NAAS Girls Scholarship 2025- 26. This is the 2nd consecutive year where TCA, Dholi students have been awarded with this prestigious scholarship.

B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture students of TCA, Dholi achieved first position with a cash prize of Rs 5000/- in quiz competition organised by Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Bihar on the occasion of Bagwani Mahotsav 2026.



The Director Education, RPCAU, Pusa, Dr. U.K. Behera, visited and monitored the experimental site of M.Sc. (Ag.) and Ph.D. students at the Research Farm, TCA, Dholi on 6th February, 2026. All the students along with their respective advisors were present during the visit. The Director Education appreciated the well-maintained research plots and expressed satisfaction with the quality of on-going research work at TCA, Dholi Campus.



Field visits were conducted for the first-semester B.Sc. (Hons.) Ag. students at the Crop Cafeteria, TCA, Dholi, to identify different crop species. The students also visited the Dholi Kothi Farm where they identified various tillage implements and farm machinery under the guidance and presence of the course instructors. During the visit, the students acquired practical insights into crop identification, tillage operations and the use of farm machinery under field conditions.



Two-day Intra-College Sports Meet “Junoon-2026” was organized at the Multi-Purpose Sports Ground of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay College of Horticulture & Forestry, Piprakothi on 27th and 28th February, 2026. The event aimed to promote physical fitness, leadership qualities, discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship among students. The meet witnessed enthusiastic participation from both boys and girls across different semesters. A total of 113 students actively participated in 15 different sports events conducted in different indoor and outdoor categories. Shri Rajendra Prasad Gupta Ex-Chairman, Zila Parishad, Motihari, Dr. S. K. Purve Director, ICAR-MGIFRI, Motihari and Dr. Kundan Kishore Dean, PDUCHF, Piprakothi graced this occasion. Dignitaries inspected the march-past and interacted with students, motivating them to uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship. A large number of students, faculty members, and staff were present, marking a vibrant beginning to JUNOON-2026.



The Agricultural Premier League (APL), 2026 Cricket Tournament was organized by the B.Sc. (Hons.) Ag. students of Batch 2022-26 from 19th – 23rd February, 2026 at the Sports Ground, TCA, Dholi. The tournament was inaugurated by Dr. P. P. Singh, Dean, TCA Dholi. The event featured a total of six teams: Breeding Bulls, Patho Fighters, Agro Titans, Horti Hunters, Ento Warriors, and Soil Super Kings. The main objective of the APL tournament was to promote unity, leadership, and a strong sports culture, while also providing an exciting platform for players to showcase their

talent and teamwork. The final match was played between Patho Fighters and Agro Titans, in which Patho Fighters won by 13 runs, emerging as the champions of APL 2026.



First Ph.D. Award from College of Fisheries, Dholi : Dr. Aditi Banik has made a historic academic achievement by becoming the first Ph.D. graduate from the College of Fisheries, Dholi, under Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University. She is also the first scholar to receive a Ph.D. degree from the Department of Aquaculture at the institution, marking a significant milestone in the University's academic and research excellence. Her doctoral research, titled "*Evaluation of Aquatic Plants for Glycemic Activity to Utilize Foxtail Millet Bran in Grass Carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella)*", presents an innovative and interdisciplinary approach to aquaculture nutrition. The study systematically explored the use of aquatic plants in improving carbohydrate metabolism in grass carp. The findings revealed that these macrophytes significantly enhanced glucose regulation, insulin activity, and metabolic efficiency, particularly during early post-feeding stages. Through a series of well-designed experiments, Dr. Banik demonstrated that foxtail millet bran can be safely incorporated into fish diets up to 30%, while an optimized combination of 45% FMB with 10% aquatic plant supplementation yielded the best results. This integrated dietary strategy improved growth performance and overall metabolic health of the fish. The plant-based combinations exhibited promising anti-hyperglycemic properties, indicating potential applications in developing low glycemic index functional foods for higher animals and humans. The work of Dr. Aditi Banik is a testimony of good Ph.D. research work with the support of flexi fund project of Bihar Govt. under 4th Krishi Road Map.



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

A One-Day Hands-on Training Programme organised on High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and Gas Chromatography (GC) : The Central Instrumentation Facility, RPCAU, Pusa organised a one-day Hands-on Training Programme on High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and Gas Chromatography (GC), in collaboration with Spinco-Shimadzu, India on 6th February, 2026. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor inaugurated the event in presence of the Deans and Directors. Thirty M.Sc. and Ph.D. Scholars from different disciplines of the university participated in the workshop to have a hands-on experience on HPLC and GC for various sample analysis.



RPCAU participated in the XIII Group Discussion of ICAR-AICRP on Fruit Project : RPCAU Pusa participated in the 13th Group Discussion of the ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Fruits held at GBPUAT, Pantnagar from 9th to 12th February 2026. The Associated scientists participated and presented the research accomplishment of the project of RPCAU, Pusa. During the deliberation, research trial on Dragon fruit is allotted to the RPCAU, Pusa as a new additional crop.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Vocational and Skill Development Trainings: A five-day vocational training on Fish Production was conducted from 24–28 February 2026 by KVK Saraiya, covering fisheries scope, polyculture, pond management, nutrition, fish diseases (aetiology, symptoms, diagnosis, prevention and control), and

relevant government schemes such as PMMSY and the 4th Krishi Road Map of Bihar. Twenty-five rural youth participated. Similarly, a six-day Skill Development Programme on Animal Health and Disease Management for Pashu Sakhis was organized at KVK Begusarai (23–28 February 2026), where 25 participants received practical training. Since 2023, 104 Pashu Sakhis have been trained, contributing to community-based livestock healthcare and rural livelihoods.



Crop-Based Trainings and Farmer Awareness Programmes: KVK Saraiya conducted a training on “Scientific Cultivation of Sugarcane” on 9 February 2026 at Lathi Chowk, Kanti under the Mukhya Mantri Ganna Vikas Karyakram, with participation of 50 farmers. Registration for free seed distribution was also carried out. KVK Turki organized a Kisan Gosthi on Rabi crop practices (14 February 2026) with 53 participants, along with exposure visits to various units. A field day on mustard variety Rajendra Suflam-1 was held on 18 February 2026 with 73 farmers, and cluster frontline demonstrations covered 688 acres in Muzaffarpur.



Entrepreneurship and Income Generation Trainings: Several programmes focused on livelihood enhancement. KVK Turki and Madhopur organized training programmes on scientific mushroom cultivation, while KVK Saran conducted trainings on value addition of fruits (33 women), pig farming for SC youth (53 participants), and beekeeping (36 participants). KVK Vaishali organized a 10-day RPL training on vermicompost production and mushroom cultivation, along with an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme on litchi-

based enterprises in collaboration with ICAR–NRC on Litchi and MSME.



Thematic Residential Training Programmes: The Directorate of Extension Education, RPCAU, conducted multiple residential training programmes: Scientific Cultivation of Medicinal Plants (3–7 February; 47 farmers), Scientific Fish Farming (9–13 February; 61 farmers), Millets Production and Importance (17–21 February; 43 farmers), and Millets Production and Value Addition (26–28 February; 30 participants). Another training on fodder production for dairy and goat farming (26–28 February) also trained 30 participants. Additionally, training on low-cost liquid bio-fertilizer production was conducted under AICRP-WIA.



Women-Centric and Extension Functionary Programmes: KVK Sheohar organized training on Herbal Gulal Making for



farm women and capacity building of Anganwadi workers. KVK Begusarai's Pashu Sakhi initiative and KVK Saran's women training programmes significantly promoted women empowerment and entrepreneurship. KVK Madhopur also organized a Krishi Yantrikaran Mela, showcasing modern agricultural machinery and technologies to farmers.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar Sri Ram Kripal Yadav and Dr. P S Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa, visited Exhibition stall of TCA and interacted with scientists during Small and Marginal Farmers Workshop cum Fisheries, Engineering, Horticultural and Animal Fair held at KVK, Piprakothi, East Champaran, Bihar from 14th -16th February, 2026. TCA, Dholi team was awarded with 2nd prize during this program.



TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/ AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

An event on "Sensitization-cum-awareness workshop to strengthen women in agri-food systems" were organised by AICRP-Women in Agriculture, CCS, Pusa at KVK, Madhopur, West Champaran on 16th February, 2026. The programme was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Umakant Bahera, Director Education, Dr. Mayank Rai, Dean, PGCA and Dr. Usha Singh, Dean, CCS, Pusa as Guest of honour. The Chief guest stated that strengthening the agri-food system is possible not only through women's cooperation but also through their leadership. This programme is very important in the context of "International Year of Women Farmers-2026" and will play a great role for development of Nari Shakti- the human capital development by involving women farmers which will contribute to-towards Vikasit Bharat@2047. In this Sensitization-cum-Awareness Workshop over 250 farm women became aware regarding secondary agriculture, including innovative women-centric products. This workshop is in line with 'the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF)' as declared by the United Nations in 2026. Dr. Sangeeta Deo, Professor & PI; Dr. Gitanjali Chaudhry, Associate

Professor and Co-PI, AICRP-WIA played a key role in organizing the event.



An workshop on "Exploring the effectiveness of integrated and climate-smart Agriculture for improved nutritional outcome" was organized on 5th February, 2026 by CCS, RPCAU, Pusa under the chairman ship of Dr. P.S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa. Dr. Usha Singh, Dean, CCS played a key role in organising the workshop.

VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

Shri Samrat Choudhary

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar
Visited KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Bihar
Visited KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026

Shri Radha Mohan Singh

Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Motihari and former
Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Visited KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026

Shri Pramod Kumar

Hon'ble MLA, Motihari
Visited the KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026

Shri Krishnanandan Paswan

Hon'ble MLA, Harsidhi

Visited the KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026.

Ms. Shalini Mishra

Hon'ble MLA, Kesaria

Visited the KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026.

Shri Sachindra Prasad Singh

Hon'ble MLA, Kalyanpur

Visited the KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026.

Shri Shyam Babu Prasad Yadav

Hon'ble MLA, Pipra

Visited the KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026.

Shri Rana Randhir Singh

Hon'ble MLA, Madhuban

Visited the KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026

Shri Lal Babu Prasad Gupta

Hon'ble MLA, Chiraia

Visited the KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026.

Shri Lalan Sahni

Chairman of the State Fishermen Commission, Bihar

Visited the KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026

Dr. Anjani Kumar

Director, ICAR-ATARI, Patna

Visited KVK Piprakothi on 14 Feb 2026

Dr. T. R. Sharma

President, Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology, New Delhi and Former DDG (Crop Science), ICAR New, Delhi

Visited university on 27 Feb 2026

Dr. S. L. Mehta

Former Vice-Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur and Former DDG (Education), ICAR, New Delhi

Visited university on 27 Feb 2026

Dr. A. K. Tyagi

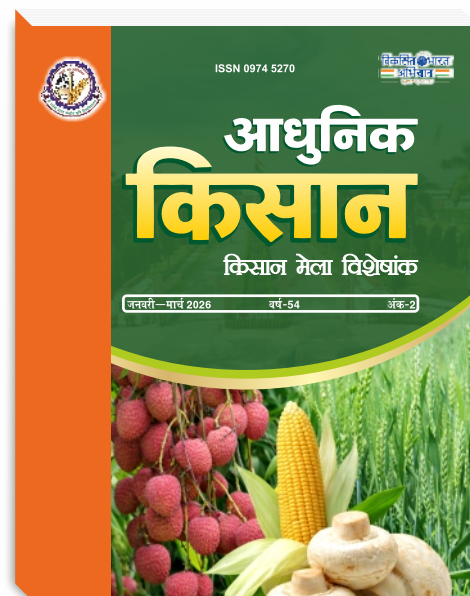
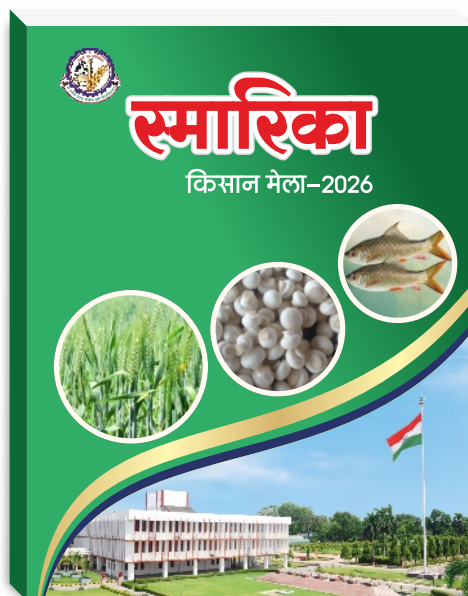
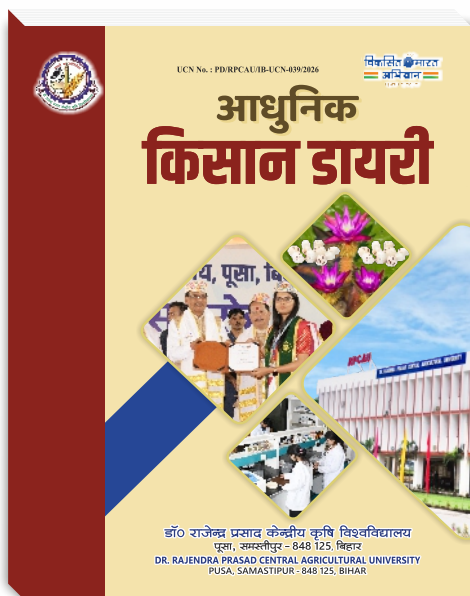
Former Director, NIPGR, New Delhi

Visited university on 27 Feb 2026

Dr. P. Ananda Kumar

Emeritus Scientist, Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad & Former Director, ICAR-National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi

Visited university on 27 Feb 2026



FAREWELL

➤ A Farewell ceremony for the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 28th February, 2026 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa

1. **Sri Arun Kumar**
Assistant, TCA, Dholi
2. **Sri Anil Kr. Priyadarsi**
Assistant, Estate Office
3. **Sri Anil Kumar Singh**
TA (T-3), CBS&H, Pusa
4. **Sri Newa Lal Rai**
SSS, CAET, Pusa
5. **Sri Mahadev Mehta**
SSS, TCA, Dholi
6. **Smt. Runa Devi**
SSS, TCA, Dholi
7. **Sri Budhdeo Rai**
SSS, RGM, Piprakothi



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