



**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University**

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## FROM THE DESK OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to present the June 2026 issue of the E-Newsletter of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa. As an Institution of National Importance, RPCAU continues to strive towards excellence in agricultural education, research, extension, innovation, and capacity building while addressing the emerging challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The month witnessed several significant academic and outreach initiatives that reaffirm our commitment to farmer welfare, skill development, sustainable agriculture, and knowledge dissemination. A notable highlight was the successful organization of the National Conference on “Purvodaya Krishi Sangam: Skill, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development by Youth” under AgriVision 2026. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Government of India, and Shri Mithilesh Tiwari, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Bihar, in the distinguished presence of eminent academicians, policymakers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and students. The event provided a vibrant platform for deliberations on digital agriculture, artificial intelligence, drones, climate-smart farming, natural and organic agriculture, water conservation, agri-startups, value addition, and entrepreneurship, with special emphasis on unlocking the agricultural potential of Eastern India. RPCAU also continued its efforts towards promoting sustainable farming practices through a specialized training programme on Natural and Organic Farming for faculty members of Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology. Such collaborative initiatives strengthen institutional partnerships and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Empowerment of marginalized communities remains a key priority of the University. Under the SC-SP project on freshwater pearl culture, a series of awareness-cum-hands-on training programmes were conducted for Scheduled Caste women of North Bihar, equipping them with entrepreneurial and livelihood skills for self-employment and income generation.

The University, in collaboration with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), and Bihar Agriculture Science Academy (BASA), organized a Capacity Development Programme on Integrated Impact Assessment in Agricultural Research, enhancing the competencies of researchers and academicians in evidence-based agricultural policy and development planning.

I am also delighted to share that RPCAU, Pusa has achieved remarkable recognition in the IIRF Ranking 2026, securing the 8th position among Agricultural Universities in India and 11th position among Government Universities. This achievement reflects the collective efforts of our faculty, students, scientists, staff, alumni, and stakeholders in strengthening the University's academic and research ecosystem.

Our extension activities remained vibrant, with more than 3,400 farmers, rural youth and women, and extension workers receiving training in various agricultural technologies. The continued demand for quality seeds produced by the University further demonstrates the confidence of the farming community in RPCAU's technologies and services.

I congratulate all faculty members, scientists, students, officers, staff, and stakeholders whose dedication and hard work have contributed to these accomplishments. Let us continue to work together with renewed commitment towards agricultural innovation, sustainable development, and the prosperity of our farming communities.

In response to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's appeal for austerity and prudent resource utilization, I urge all University employees and students to adopt fuel- and energy-saving measures, promote the use of electric vehicles and bicycles, minimize unnecessary consumption of electricity and cooking gas, and make effective use of online meetings and digital platforms wherever feasible to reduce travel cost and conserve resources.

Jai Hind.

  
(P. S. Pandey)



## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

### **RPCAU, Pusa Secures 8th Rank Among Agricultural Universities in IIRF 2026**

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa, has once again demonstrated its excellence at the national level. The university has secured the eighth position among agricultural universities in the country in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2026 rankings. It also secured the 11th rank among all central universities.

Dr. P.S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RPCAU Pusa expressed his pleasure at this achievement, noting that the university has consistently performed well in national rankings for the past three years. He added that this achievement is not the result of any one individual, but the collective efforts of the university's faculty, scientists, officers, staff, and contract workers.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor said that when an institution has a clear goal and everyone works together to achieve it, success is certain. He congratulated all members of the university family, stating that this achievement exemplifies teamwork and dedication. He stated that the university's next goal is to achieve a better position in international rankings. A strategy has been developed for this purpose, and serious work is underway at all levels. He expressed confidence that the university will achieve significant global success in the coming years.

### **First Zonal Convention cum National Conference on “Purvodaya Krishi Sangam: Skill, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development by Youth”**

The First Zonal Convention cum National Conference on “Purvodaya Krishi Sangam: Skill, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development by Youth” was jointly organized by Agrivision and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa on 16–17 May 2026. The convention served as a dynamic platform for academicians, scientists, researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, farmers, and students to deliberate on contemporary agricultural challenges and opportunities, with a special focus on youth-led innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Government of India, as Chief Guest; Shri Mithilesh Tiwari, Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of Bihar, as Inaugurator; Prof. Raghuraj Kishore Tiwari, as Special Guest; and Dr. P. S. Pandey, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, as Chairman. The dignitaries emphasized the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship, agricultural transformation, and youth participation in nation-building.

The two-day convention featured technical sessions on Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Natural Farming, AI and Digital Technologies in Agriculture, Crop Improvement and Protection, Women-Centric Agri-food Entrepreneurship,

Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, Horticulture for Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Makhana for Health, Wealth and Sustainability. Experts from ICAR institutions, universities, industry, and government organizations shared insights on climate-smart agriculture, precision farming, natural farming, artificial intelligence, digital agriculture, value addition, and sustainable agri-business models. Parallel technical sessions and poster presentations provided opportunities for researchers and students to showcase their work, while the Role Model Session inspired participants through the entrepreneurial journeys of successful agri-startup founders and innovators. A cultural programme celebrating India's rich heritage added vibrancy to the event.

The convention witnessed 405 registrations, with 386 participants attending, including 71 faculty members and professionals, 315 students, and progressive farmers. Participants represented several states including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand.



## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

**College of Community Science, Pusa** organised a visit of Food Corporation of India (FCI), Samastipur on 21st May, 2026 for the students of B.Sc. (Food Nutrition and Dietetics) enrolled under the course “Food Standards and Quality Control”. During their visit to the FCI Silos at Pusa Road, Samastipur, the students learned about the quality assurance processes and modern storage systems operated by Adani Logistics Ltd., Samastipur.



**College of Basic Sciences & Humanities, RPCAU, Pusa** undertook an educational tour for 3rd Year B.Tech.

(Biotechnology) students to various educational, research and industrial institutions in Sikkim from 19th –27th May, 2026. The tour aimed to provide students with practical exposure to research, higher education, biotechnology applications, horticulture, agricultural engineering and agro-based industries. The students visited Sikkim University, ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids, College of Horticulture, CAU, Bermiok and College of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology, CAU, Ranipool. Through interactions with faculty members and scientists, the students explored various academic and research opportunities. They also acquired knowledge of orchid germplasm conservation, breeding, and tissue culture, while gaining exposure to contemporary horticultural practices, agricultural engineering innovations, and post-harvest technologies. The students also visited the Temi Tea Factory, where they learned about tea cultivation, processing, quality control, and marketing. The tour offered valuable hands-on learning experiences, deepened their understanding of biotechnology and allied sciences, and provided exposure to Sikkim's biodiversity and sustainable agricultural practices.



**Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi** successfully conducted the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) meeting with members of IQAC in hybrid mode under the guidance of the Dean, TCA, Dholi in virtual mode. Sri Jata Shankar Choudhary, Retired IAS and Alumni Member shared his valuable insights and suggestions. The meeting witnessed meaningful deliberations on academic, research, extension and administrative activities of the institution with a strong focus on strengthening quality assurance practices, promoting academic excellence and enhancing overall institutional performance and functioning

**Two B.Sc. (Hons.)** Ag. students, Miss Ojaswi Priyadarshi and Mr. Happy Kumar of TCA, Dholi have been selected in Jeevika for the post of Young Professionals.

**A lecture on “From Campus to Career: Cracking Competitive Examinations and Building a Successful Future in Agriculture”** was delivered by Dr. Atul Kumar, Principal Scientist and Associate Dean at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, on 22nd May 2026 in the College Auditorium of TCA, Dholi. The lecture focused on guiding students in preparing for competitive examinations and exploring diverse career opportunities in the agricultural sector, while highlighting key strategies for professional

growth and success.



## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

**Scientists participated in 26th Annual Group Meeting of ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops :** Scientists representing RPCAU, Pusa participated in the 26th Annual Group Meeting of the ICAR-AICRP on Tuber Crops at University of Horticulture Sciences, Bengaluru during 21st to 23rd May 2026. The compiled research work of the project was presented, and the future technical programme was discussed.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**National Campaign On Balanced Use of Fertilisers:** A Sensitization-cum-Awareness Workshop on "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA): Campaign on Balanced Use of Fertilisers" was organised on 23 May 2026 by the Directorate of Extension Education, RPCAU Pusa. The workshop sensitized more than 80 BSc/MSc/Ph.D. students and prepared a "One Team One Task" approach to address short-, medium-, and long-term challenges identified in previous VKSA campaigns. The programme promoted science-based nutrient and input management practices among farming communities through student outreach. KVK Vaishali in collaboration with ICAR-NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur, KVK Turki and KVK Sheohar, respectively, conducted awareness programmes, sensitising farmers on balanced fertiliser application, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), and scientific management of litchi and mango orchards. Additional awareness and training programmes were

organised across several villages of Vaishali district, emphasising soil health management, organic inputs, green manuring, vermicompost, and INM for sustainable agriculture. Farmers and rural women actively participated in the eco-friendly farming initiatives.



**Capacity Building & Training Programmes:** The Directorate of Extension Education in association with Omega Telesolutions conducted a Content Management System (CMS) training programme on 19 May 2026 at Mahabhashya Hall, CBSH, RPCAU, Pusa for all Computer Operators of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under RPCAU to re-oriented participants on the operation, updation, and maintenance of KVK websites through the CMS platform, covering staff details, news and events sections, photo gallery, project pages, and more. An interactive Q&A session addressed participants' queries effectively. Likewise, KVK Vaishali organised a one-day training programme on 19 May 2026 for 26 newly appointed Probationary Officers of Canara Bank under the aegis of Rural Development and Self Employment Training (RUDSET) Institute, Hajipur. Topics included rural development, agri-based livelihoods, financial inclusion, crop residue management, and Custom Hiring Centre activities. Officers also visited various KVK demonstration units. KVK Turki conducted a five-day rural youth training programme on low-cost oyster mushroom production technology at the KVK campus, with 30 rural youth participating. Practical sessions included filling oyster mushroom bags (spawning) by layering hydrated, pasteurised substrate with mushroom spawn in polypropylene grow bags, with emphasis on hygiene and 65% moisture content for healthy mycelium growth.

**Frontline Demonstrations & On-Farm Trials:** KVK Turki conducted an On-Farm Trial (OFT) on bagging of litchi bunches for quality fruit production at the Nawada location. Two treatments were evaluated: bagging at 30 Days After Full Bloom (DAFS) with polypropylene pink bags and with polypropylene white bags. Farmer feedback confirmed that fruit bagging reduces cracking up to 93%, sunburn up to 88%, and significantly cuts fruit borer/fruit fly infestation, reducing dependence on chemical pesticides. KVK Turki also conducted a frontline demonstration on commercial marigold cultivation featuring the Pusa Narangi variety at Baghaihi village, Sakra block on 25 May 2026 on a 2.5-acre area, with 25 farmers participating. KVK Vaishali initiated makhana plantation in the newly established demonstration pond under

the "Advance Makhana Research and Development Centre" project. The initiative promotes scientific Makhana production, strengthens livelihoods, and encourages diversification through sustainable aquatic farming practices.



**Farmer Outreach, Awareness & Empowerment:** Under the Bihar Fourth Agriculture Roadmap, RPCAU Pusa organised an awareness programme through its Krishi Gyan Vahan at Titra Bishanpur village, Muroul Block, Muzaffarpur district. Approximately 15 progressive farmers participated and were educated on balanced fertiliser use and soil conservation through informative video films on modern agricultural technologies. A dedicated WhatsApp group was created for continued information dissemination. During May 2026, the vehicle created mass awareness across Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Begusarai districts, and also participated in the "Litchi Bihar Sangam" at ICAR-NRC Litchi on 25 May 2026. KVK Sheohar conducted a training programme on setting up Nutrition Gardens, aimed at combating local health challenges such as iron-deficiency anaemia and child malnutrition. Farmers were trained on establishing year-round, chemical-free kitchen gardens that supply iron-rich leafy greens, promote dietary diversity, lower household food expenditure, and enable surplus produce sales. The model also promotes recycling of kitchen wastewater and organic scraps into compost. Under the SCSP programme, KVK Sheohar distributed grain storage containers to SC farm women, along with a one-day training on scientific food storage techniques. Vegetable nursery plants were also distributed to farmers at Tariayani Chapra village, Sheohar district.



## TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/ AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

**Training-cum-Workshop Programme on Advanced Machine Learning Methods :** Department of Statistics and Computer Applications, College of Basic Science and Humanities, RPCAU, Pusa organised a five-day Training-cum-Workshop Programme on 'Advanced Machine Learning Methods' from 19th – 23rd May 2026. The objective of the programme was to create awareness and build capacity in advanced computational and data driven techniques for agriculture and allied sciences. The programme enrolled 22 participants comprised of 11 postgraduate students, 7 Ph.D. scholars, 3 faculty members, and 1 external student. The training programme was structured into four modules: Python Programming and Basic Machine Learning, Advanced Machine Learning, Basics of Deep Learning, and Advanced Deep Learning. During the reporting period, the first two modules were successfully completed.



**Tirhut College of Agriculture (TCA), Dholi** observed the Urja Rakshak Abhiyan on 22nd May, 2026 at the TCA Dholi campus under the national initiative for fuel and energy conservation, following the appeal of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, RPCAU, Pusa. The programme featured an awareness campaign on energy conservation, promotion of cycling, walking and public transport, and a pledge-taking ceremony in which all NSS volunteers, students, faculty and staff of TCA, Dholi committed themselves to the responsible use of fuel and energy.

**Policy Deliberations, Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagements :** A high-level meeting was held on 27 May 2026 between RPCAU, Pusa and a committee constituted under the Bihar Government's "Saat Nischay-3" (2025–30) programme to deliberate on strategies for "Double Employment – Double Income." The committee was led by Shri Naveen Kumar, Former IAS Officer and Chairman, along with Prof. T.C.A. Anant, Former Professor, Delhi School of Economics and Former Member of UPSC. Key discussion areas included makhana production and value addition, women's empowerment in agriculture, mushroom cultivation, horticulture (mango and litchi), fisheries and aquaculture, and agriculture-based employment generation. The University reaffirmed its commitment to policy inputs, technical expertise, and collaborative initiatives for sustainable agricultural and rural development in Bihar. Likewise, KVK Vaishali, in collaboration with Agha Khan Rural Support Programme India and Social Alpha, organised a stakeholder workshop on 8 May 2026 to promote sustainable and women-friendly agricultural technologies. Startup representatives

demonstrated battery-operated farm machinery and solar dryers, while experts highlighted balanced fertiliser use, soil health, organic farming, crop rotation, biofertilisers, and post-harvest management practices. The programme served as an effective platform for stakeholder interaction, agricultural innovation, and promotion of renewable energy-based solutions



## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

**Dr. Sudhanand Prasad Lal, Officer-In-Charge, ATIC, DoEE, was conferred the Best Poster Presentation Award during AGRIVISION-2026;** First Zonal Convention-Eastern Bharat cum National Conference on "Purvodaya Krishi Sangam: Skill, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development by Youth" held on 16–17 May 2026 at RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar under the sub-theme "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture" on the topic "Invigorating She-Entrepreneurship Concerning Marketing Linkage in MKSP and Non-MKSP Regions: Optimized Feed-Forward Neural Networks (FFNNs) Architecture".

## VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

### Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Government of India visited university on 16 May 2026

### Shri Mithilesh Tiwari

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Bihar visited university on 16 May 2026

### Dr. Prabhat Kumar

Horticulture Commissioner, Government of India, visited university on 17 May 2026.

## FAREWELL

➤ A Farewell ceremony for the following university employee who superannuated from university service on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 was organized in the gracious presence of Hon'ble, Vice -Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa

1. **Shri Basant Kumar Singh**  
STA (Farm), SRI Pusa

2. **Shri Bashisth Narayan Singh**  
Driver, Central Workshop

3. **Sh. Raj Kishore Rai**  
SSS, DSW



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