



Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University

Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar-848 125

Volume-7

Issue-8

August-2026

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FROM THE DESK OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to share the August 2026 edition of the e-Newsletter of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa. The month has been marked by significant progress in research, academic excellence, technological collaboration, student development and institutional advancement.

Research continues to remain at the heart of our efforts towards addressing the emerging challenges of agriculture and rural development. During the 21st Research Council Meeting (Special), more than 60 new proposals under University Research Projects were presented, most of which were approved. This reflects the growing research momentum within the University and our continued commitment to promoting innovative, need-based and farmer-oriented research.

A significant milestone during the month was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RPCAU and IIT Ropar in the emerging domains of Digital Agriculture, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Agricultural Robotics and Smart Farming Technologies. This collaboration will provide new opportunities for interdisciplinary research, technological innovation, capacity building and the development of smart solutions for agriculture. Such partnerships are essential for preparing Indian agriculture to meet the demands of a rapidly changing technological landscape. The University also takes great pride in the achievement of 100% placement of the students of the 2024–26 batch of the School of Agribusiness and Rural Management (SAB&RM). This accomplishment reflects the quality of education, professional competencies and industry orientation imparted by the School, as well as the dedication of our faculty and students. It is also a testimony to the University's efforts to enhance employability and nurture future professionals and entrepreneurs in the agribusiness and rural management sectors.

At RPCAU, we firmly believe that agricultural education, research and extension must work in synergy. Our efforts therefore continue to focus on strengthening the connection between laboratories, classrooms, fields and farming communities. Through our Colleges, Research Centres, KVKs and other institutional units, we are committed to ensuring that scientific knowledge and technological innovations contribute meaningfully to farmers' livelihoods and sustainable agricultural development. The University is also steadily advancing towards a future driven by digital and precision agriculture, artificial intelligence, robotics, climate-resilient technologies, efficient natural resource management and value addition. These efforts are aligned with the broader national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and with our responsibility to contribute to the transformation of agriculture in Bihar and the country.

I sincerely appreciate the dedicated contributions of our faculty members, scientists, officers, technical and supporting staff, students and research scholars. Their collective efforts have enabled the University to continue progressing towards academic and research excellence. I also acknowledge the valuable support and cooperation of our partner institutions, government agencies, industries, farmers and other stakeholders. As we move forward, let us continue to work with dedication, innovation and a spirit of collaboration to strengthen RPCAU as a leading institution of agricultural education, research and extension. Together, we can create knowledge, develop appropriate technologies and build human resources that contribute to a more productive, sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.




(P. S. Pandey)

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

21st Research Council Meeting – Kharif Organised from 6th–8th July: The 21st Research Council Meeting (Kharif)–2026 was successfully held from 6 to 8 July under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey. The meeting provided a platform for a comprehensive review of the university's ongoing research initiatives, technologies developed, and newly evolved crop varieties. Addressing the council, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor highlighted that the university's research programmes are being implemented in alignment with national priorities, farmers' needs, and the vision of “Viksit Bharat.” He called for greater emphasis on digital agriculture and stressed the importance of ensuring that research outcomes reach farmers in a timely and effective manner.



World Nature Conservation Day : World Nature Conservation Day was celebrated jointly by RPCAU, Pusa and Barauni Oil Refinery, Barauni, Muzaffarpur, Bihar on 28-07-2026. Dr. U.K. Behera, Director Education, RPCAU, Pusa graced the event as Guest of Honour. Dr. U. K. Behera delivered an invited lecture on “Conservation of Nature through Ecosystem Restoration”. Dr. Kuldeep Rana, Assistant Professor from RPCAU, Pusa distributed about 100 trees seedlings to the participants and organized a GK competition among the participants on this occasion.



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

PDUCH&F, Piprakothi imparted Hands-on Training Program on value addition of horticultural crops:

Following the recommendations of 6th Dean Committee curriculum wherein ELP is an important activity to bridge the gap between classroom learning and field-level realities, the B.Sc. (Hons.) Hort. students imparted hands-on training program on value addition of horticultural crops. Under this training program mango pickle, mango leather and parwal mithai etc. were prepared by the students. Through this programme, students gained first-hand experience in raw material handling, processing, quality control, packaging, and marketing skills that are essential for building confident, self-reliant agri-entrepreneurs.



Dr. U. K. Behera, DoE, RPCAU, Pusa, chaired a meeting on 9th July, 2026 with the faculty members of TCA, Dholi, and the COF, Dholi, who are serving as Director of Education (DoE) Nominees for PG and Ph.D. students. During the meeting discussions focused on the roles and responsibilities of DoE Nominees and the members of the advisory committees to ensure effective guidance and monitoring of PG and Ph.D. research and academic activities.



The 2nd semester students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, TCA, Dholi, successfully carried out paddy transplanting in the instructional farm as a part of the practical component of the Seed Production Technology course. During the programme, students received Hands-on-Training in scientific paddy transplanting techniques, including seedling selection,

maintenance of optimum spacing, proper planting depth and field management practices.



The End-Term Examination of the 2nd semester (Batch 2025–29) of the B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture programme was successfully conducted during 22-28th July, 2026. The Dean, TCA, Dholi, appreciated all faculty members for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the smooth and orderly conduct of the examinations, as well as the timely uploading of internal assessment marks on the IUMS portal.



RPCAU Celebrates Double Pride with 100% Placement and Padma Shri Honour : Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa, celebrated a moment of double pride on 31.07.2026 as the Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University School of Business Management and Rural Management (RPC-AU SABRM) achieved 100% campus placement for the MBA (Agribusiness Management) and MBA (Rural Management) Batch 2024–26. The achievement reaffirmed the University's commitment to academic excellence, industry-oriented education, and holistic student development.



The occasion was further elevated by the felicitation of Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. P. L. Gautam on being conferred the prestigious Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honours, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to agricultural science, education, and nation building.

Congratulating the graduating students, Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. P. L. Gautam appreciated the University's commitment to quality education, experiential learning, and strong industry partnerships. He described the 100% placement achievement as a reflection of RPCAU's academic excellence and visionary leadership. He urged the students to

uphold the values of integrity, innovation, and leadership while contributing to the transformation of Indian agriculture and the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. S. Pandey congratulated the students and highlighted the University's consistent focus on producing globally competent professionals through academic excellence and industry engagement.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Rajendra Hybrid Maize-5 (RHM-5) and Rajendra Maize-6 (RM-6) developed by the university, were presented during the Research Council Meeting (Kharif) for recommendation. In total, 58 university-funded research projects and 8 externally funded research projects were also presented over the course of the three-day deliberations.

RPCAU Mango Fest – 2026 Organised : The Mango Fest - 2026 organised at RPCAU, Pusa, emerged as a vibrant celebration of the indigenous mango diversity, taste and rich horticultural heritage honouring the delicacy of mangoes. The event was graced by the distinguished presence of Chief Guest Dr. V. K. Mishra, while the inspiring guidance of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, added further significance to the programme. Progressive mango growers across the state were felicitated on this occasion. The festival featured an impressive exhibition of several attractive and superior mango varieties. A mango-eating competition was also organised on the occasion, creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm, joy and camaraderie among participants and spectators.



Training-cum-capacity building programme Organised on Management of Litchi Sting Bug :

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, organised a one-day training-cum-capacity building programme on “Management of Litchi Stink Bug (*Tessaratoma javanica*)” on 28 July 2026 at Vidyapati Sabhagar, Pusa, through Directorate of Extension Education. The programme was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, in the presence of Chief Guest Dr. Bikash Das, Director, ICAR–National Research Centre on Litchi, Muzaffarpur. Experts discussed key aspects of litchi stink bug management, including identification, biology, Integrated Pest Management, KVK action plans, and farmer awareness strategies, with the programme expected to strengthen scientific pest management and enhance farmers’ productivity and income.



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Farmer Training and Capacity-Building Programmes at KVKs : Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Gopalganj organized two Practicing Farmer (PF) training programmes for 69 farmers on value addition of millets and scientific cultivation practices in paddy, three rural youth training programmes for 76 participants on scientific dairy farming, vermicomposting, mushroom production and farm machinery technician skills, and an awareness programme for 115 prisoners at District Jail, Gopalganj, on mushroom production and value addition, selection, operation, repair and maintenance of paddy seeding implements, and natural and organic farming, all during July 2026.



Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Birauli conducted a one-day training programme cum Kisan Gosthi on the package of practices for makhana cultivation at the KVK Campus on 14.07.2026, in

which 55 farmers and farmwomen participated, followed by a Kisan Gosthi cum training on balanced use of fertilizer at the same venue on 17.07.2026 for 62 farmers and farmwomen, focusing on soil health protection, reduced dependence on chemical fertilizers such as urea, and soil test-based nutrient management through Soil Health Cards.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Parsauni, sponsored by the Advance Makhana Research and Development Centre, RPCAU, Pusa, organized a one-day training-cum-awareness programme on makhana seed production at KVK Parsauni to boost the income of local farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

Digital Agriculture and Technology Promotion Initiatives :

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madhopur organized a Kisan Gosthi cum Farmer Awareness and Interaction Programme at KVK Madhopur to promote the use of the ICAR-developed Kisan Sarathi mobile application among farmers, with Smt. Renu Devi, former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and present MLA, Bettiah, attending as Chief Guest; during the programme, 550 farmers downloaded and registered on the app while 612 farmers participated in in-app polling and submitted feedback.

Specialized Trainings on Mushroom and Makhana Cultivation : The Advance Centre of Mushroom Research,

RPCAU, Pusa organized a seven-day on-campus training programme on “Medicinal Mushroom Production and Processing Techniques” from 25 to 31 May 2026, attended by 22 participants (21 male and 1 woman farmer), aimed at enhancing farmers’ knowledge and practical skills in medicinal mushroom cultivation and processing.



The Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay College of Horticulture and Forestry (PDUCHF), Piprakothi organized a training programme on the makhana-based integrated system at Sangrampur Kotwa, East Champaran on 30 July 2026, attended by more than 50 participants, to create awareness among farmers about scientific cultivation of makhana and the integration of horticultural crops to enhance farm productivity and double farmers’ income.

Plant Protection and Crop Protection Extension Activities :

The Directorate of Extension Education, RPCAU, Pusa organized a one-day Training and Capacity Building Programme on “Management of Litchi Stink Bug (*Tessaratoma javanica*)” at the Vidyapati Auditorium, Pusa,

inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, with Dr. Bikash Das, Director, ICAR–National Research Centre on Litchi (NRCL), Muzaffarpur, as Chief Guest along with other dignitaries Dr. Mayank Rai, Dean, PGCA, Dr. R. K. Jha, Director of Extension Education. The training highlighted the role of KVKs in strengthening extension services in litchi-growing regions, an extension booklet on management of the litchi stink bug was released, and technical sessions covered pest identification and biology, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, and district-level action plans through KVKs.

Likewise, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gopalganj organized a Front Line Demonstration on solar-operated knapsack sprayers under the SC-SP programme at KVK Gopalganj, wherein sprayers were distributed among farmers for the spraying of pesticides for crop protection.

Institutional Meetings, Field Days and Stakeholder Consultations : The Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Council (ZREAC) Meeting–2026 was organized by RPCAU, Pusa at Vidyapati Sabhagaar, RPCAU, Pusa on 28 July 2026, with the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, delivering the presidential address emphasizing farmer-centric research, innovation, and an effective extension system; deliberations covered availability of quality seeds, marketing systems for agricultural produce, marketing of fruits and vegetables, and disease management in sugarcane, with participation from University and KVK scientists, State Government officials, progressive farmers, and other stakeholders. The Sugarcane Research Institute, RPCAU, Pusa celebrated a 'Field Day' on the theme "Varietal Development and Breeder Seed Production in Sugarcane" at Chhawania Farm, Pusa on 30 July 2026, in the presence of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Pandey, showcasing field demonstrations of sugarcane from seedling generation through Clonal Generation-I to Clonal Generation-IV and highlighting the systematic advancement of promising sugarcane clones through different stages of varietal evaluation.



TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR/ AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED

A Fire Safety Awareness Programme and Hands-on Fire Extinguisher Demonstration was successfully organized at the Girls' Hostel, TCA, Dholi, with enthusiastic participation from hostel residents and staff members. The programme aimed to enhance awareness of fire safety measures and provide practical training in the proper use of fire

extinguishers during emergencies.



Brainstorming Meet on Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics: The Department of Statistics and Computer Applications, CBS&H, RPCAU, Pusa organized a Brainstorming Meet on "Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics" on 3rd July, 2026 in the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. P.S.Pandey. The session was chaired by Dr. Anil Rai, Former ADG (ICT), ICAR, along with Dr. R. N. Sahoo and Dr. K. K. Chaturvedi. Eminent experts Dr. Sudeep Marwaha and Dr. D. C. Mishra delivered lectures on emerging trends and applications of AI and Big Data Analytics. The programme concluded with a panel discussion on research priorities, opportunities and future collaborations.



VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

Dr. P. L. Gautam

Hon'ble Chancellor, RPCAU Pusa
visited university on 31 July 2026

Dr. A. K. Pathak

Former Vice-Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University
visited university on 06 July 2026

Dr. B. Gangwar

– Former Director, ICAR–Modipuram
university on 07 July 2026

Dr. Pramod Kumar

Additional Director (Plant Protection), Government of Bihar
visited university on 31 July 2026

FAREWELL

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

1. **Dr. Devendra Singh**
Professor, Agronomy, PGCA, Pusa
2. **Shri Purshottam Kr. Mani**
STO (T-6), Building & Infrastructure, Pusa
3. **Shri Mukesh Kr. Singh**
STO (T-6), Agronomy, PGCA, Pusa
4. **Shri Hari Naryan Paswan**
SSS, CAE&T, Pusa
5. **Shri Ram Bilash Mahto**
SSS, DoEE, Pusa



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Published by:**Publication Division****Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University**

Pusa, Samastipur-848125 (Bihar), India

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