



College of Agriculture

Newsletter

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A Year It Was, 2020-21: Hope, Enthusiasm, Challenges, Evolution

Contributed by: *Prachi Nagarkoti*
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



The academic year 2020-21 was a distinct year and will go down in the history of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. The year will be remembered as a landmark, as a critical step towards a new phase of growth and development. The cumulative effort for overall growth, formation of new college level committees, improved constituting structure of student committees, and an urge to take the college to new heights of excellence - with this began the year 2020-21. Accompanying all the aspirations and enthusiasm was the unprecedented pandemic which nevertheless contributed towards a different domain of capacity building and infrastructural development. However, during the entire year a number of new initiatives were taken to strengthen the academic activities as well as the infrastructure of the college. These developmental initiatives are paving the path for the college to emerge as a global centre of learning.

Key Developments in College of Agriculture, Pantnagar

- Reconstitution and Strengthening of College Committees
- Formation of College Advisory Panel
- Launch of 10 Online Certificate Courses
- Publication of Policy Note Series
- Preparation of 23 UGLab Manuals in process
- Series of ICARSC Component Trainings Held
- 45 Overseas Expert Lecture
- Digital Classrooms Established
- Renovation of Heritage Corridor
- Establishment of College Library in process
- Installation of Interactive Panels in all Departments
- MS Teams Accounts for all Faculty Members and Students



"Agriculture can trigger job-led economic growth, provided it becomes intellectually satisfying and economically rewarding."

- M.S. Swaminathan

A Year It Was, 2020-21: Hope, Enthusiasm... (contd.)

The plethora of activities conducted in the college in last one year has been an overwhelming experience. The journey began with reconstitution of College Core Action Group and formation of different committees to take the agenda of the college ahead. Despite prevailing threat of COVID-19, the year 2020-21 was indeed a very productive year and the major credit for the same goes to the visionary leadership prevailing in the college.

– Dr. J.P. Jaiswal, Professor, Genetics & Plant Breeding; Chairman, College Core Action Group



The COVID-19 pandemic enforced several changes in the academic as well as in the infrastructure setup. The College of Agriculture started from scratch and addressed some of the key areas of development in the college such as restoring the College Placement Cell for further development of the graduating students, infrastructural changes like fencing, renovation of parking, redesigning of entrance and garden areas are some of the impressive changes made during this pandemic time. The last one year has been unprecedented, yet revolutionary for the College of Agriculture under the leadership of Dean, Dr. S.K. Kashyap in several aspects.

– Dr. Salil K. Tewari, Professor and Head, Genetics & Plant Breeding

An year has passed since the pandemic emerged which indeed brought so many changes in the teaching pedagogy. However, the college took the initiative to induce innovations at different levels to continue with all its activities. Under the guidance of Dean Agriculture, the college escalated to a new level of development, positive outlook, and desire to excel. The supportive team of NAHEP which is also led by Dean Agriculture was extremely supportive in training and helping in a smooth transition towards the new normal of online teaching systems.

– Dr. Neelam Bhardwaj, Professor & Head, Agricultural Communication



The College of Agriculture has always believed to stand strong in spite of adversities. The unprecedented time did not halt the activities of teaching, but proved to be a turning point. There are many infrastructural changes that can be observed in the college, which has added life to the college. I firmly believe that the vision of the Dean, College of Agriculture and the collective efforts of faculty members, will help the college achieve the next level of excellence.

– Dr. S.P. Pachauri, Senior Research Officer, Soil Science

Amid unprecedented adverse pandemic situation, the College of Agriculture successfully conducted all the teaching activities and examinations without any hurdle at scheduled time. It was commendable performance of faculty members and motivation of top leadership, which led to this achievement. Also, alignments were established with foreign academic stalwarts which enhanced the exposure and collaboration options for faculty members. All this could happen due to the overall positive environment of the college and technically sound professionalism of top leadership.

– Dr. R.M. Srivastava, Professor, Entomology



A Year It Was, 2020-21: Hope, Enthusiasm...(contd.)



The entire last year proved to be really good for us, the changes which occurred in college were tremendous and appreciable. The structure and functioning of the Agriculture Society was revamped and many new initiatives were taken. Several online events, lecture series, and the National Youth Fest Adamyra were organized. We are really thankful to our Dean Dr. S.K. Kashyap for guiding us and cooperating with us in the entire journey.

– Dr. Omvati Verma, Senior Research Officer, Agronomy; Staff-Counsellor, Agriculture Society

The past year has brought many changes in the college, whether it is teaching or infrastructure changes, it seems like the entire college has changed in a positive manner. During the most unprecedented condition of the pandemic, the entire college and the faculty members stood together and brought back the teaching and learning on track through the online mode. This transaction of switching to online mode was so essential and helpful for the sake of students, all the faculty members were new to this online learning mode but with cooperation of our respected Dean Dr. S.K. Kashyap, it was possible to change with the changing situations. The overall changes in the college in the entire last year are so motivating and thus provide a better aura for teaching and learning.

– Dr. S.K. Maurya, Junior Research Officer, Vegetable Science; Co Staff-Counsellor, Agriculture Society



I felt very positive about exploring the team working during last year. Working in small groups or teams encourages communication between team members and it creates enthusiasm for idea generation. This excellent vision of top leadership of the college to unite the thought for better work and for new collaborative projects was admirable. New facilities developed at college and University level was commendable which helped a lot in the adverse situation of pandemic. During that short time the concept of smart teaching, digital technology and online teaching helped faculty members to upgrade the skills and to take up challenges effectively.

– Dr. Renu Pandey, Assistant Professor, Entomology; Coordinator, College Lab Manual Team

The last one year saw an upsurge in opportunities and transformation in the aura of the college. Being a research student, I could experience and feel the difference emerging in the college in terms of infrastructure development, student friendly initiatives, improvement in hostel amenities, and continuous organizing of skill based workshops and entrepreneurial trainings. I would sincerely appreciate and express my gratitude to the college leadership for the vision and strong execution of all initiatives.

– Ms. Babita Bhatt, Ph.D., Second Year



When the world around had taken a pause, it was the agriculture sector which boomed and showed a positive trend and the same was reflected by our college. The college campus had metamorphosed while the students were at home. Additionally, numerous student friendly initiatives were taken for their skill and career development. All of this would have been impossible without effective leadership and it is in the good fortune of the students that the college is led by the profound guidance of Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean Agriculture and the vibrant team of professors playing their part not only in enhancing the teaching-learning process but also in improving the skills of the students.

– Mr. Sarthak Kothiyal, B.Sc. Ag., Final Year



First External Advisory Panel Meeting of College of Agriculture Held

Contributed by: *Prachi Nagarkoti*
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar constituted an External Advisory Panel in order to seek guidance from stalwarts of agriculture for further growth and development of the college. The first meeting of the Advisory Panel was held on March 1-2, 2021 and witnessed the presence of five members of the Advisory Panel, viz. Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay, Former Dean, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar and Former Vice-Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat; Dr. V.V. Sadamate, Former Member, Planning Commission, Government of India; Dr. V.P.S Arora, Former Vice Chancellor, Kumaun University and Founder Dean, College of Agribusiness Management, Pantnagar; Dr. S.P.S. Beniwal, Former Head, CGIAR Facilitation Unit, ICARDA and Chairman, Asian Agri-History Foundation, and Dr. M.L. Jat, Principal Scientist and Systems Agronomist and Strategy Lead for Sustainable Intensification, CIMMYT, Mexico.

The two days meeting comprised different sessions with faculty members and students of the college. Initially three concurrent sessions of Education, Research and Outreach Review

meetings were held. The first one for the discipline of Agronomy, Soil Science, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Agrometeorology under advisory guidance of Dr. M.L. Jat which was coordinated by Dr. Vipin Dhyani, Associate Professor, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. The second session was conducted simultaneously for the disciplines of Entomology, Plant Pathology, Horticulture and Vegetable Science under the advisory guidance of Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay, along with Dr. S.P.S. Beniwal with Dr. R.M. Srivastava, Professor, Department of Entomology as the session coordinator. The third important session was held with Dr. V.V. Sadamate along with Dr. V.P.S. Arora. This session was well coordinated by Dr. S.K. Sharma, Professor and Head, Food Science and Technology, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar.

A plenary session was also organized on the same day, wherein the advisory panel members shared their experiences and insight. This session was coordinated by Dr. Salil Tewari, Professor and Head, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding. Initially, Dr. Jat laid emphasis on importance of social inclusion and understanding behavior of farmers for enhancing their participation in society, particularly those who are at a

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disadvantage through enhancing and improving various opportunities for them. Dr. Mukhopadhyay took this session ahead in a great way by bringing the focus on the idea of taking actions that will fulfill the needs of the country and will benefit the different stakeholders of agriculture. Dr. Beniwal, an alumnus of the University (1961 batch) and an M.Sc. student of Late Dr. Y.L. Nene, put forth his unique idea of criteria of research evaluation system at college level to assess the significance and impact of different research projects. Dr. Sadamate focused on one of the mandates of agricultural education i.e. extension, and talked of achieving next decade extension which is digital extension to enhance the outreach of extension activities. Towards the end, Dr. Arora talked of relevance of agricultural education and added that every course should align not only with programme outcomes but also with industry demands. Closing the session, Dr. J. Kumar, former Registrar and former Dean of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar who also chaired the session, talked about the glorious past of the University and how it has been serving the nation in different ways.

The intensive discussions and deliberations regarding future prospects of the college were the key highlight of this two day meeting. In addition to the insights of all five stalwarts, Dr. Mukhopadhyay even contributed an amount of ten lakh rupees. This contribution will be utilized as Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay Merit cum Means Scholarship and Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay Gold Medal for excellent efforts of a student in academics and extra-curricular activities. On this occasion, hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. Tej Partap reflected that it was a bliss to have listened to such eminent stalwarts and their valuable inputs will help in creating a greater vision for the college and the University as well. In the valedictory session of the two day meeting, Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr. S.K. Kashyap expressed his deepest gratitude to all the advisory panel members for their valuable suggestions, that would surely shape and support the functioning of College of Agriculture in a big way. Dr. J.P. Jaiswal, Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding and Chairman, College Core Action Group presented the vote of thanks in the valedictory session to all the dignitaries, faculty members and students for their valuable presence in the colleges' first ever External Advisory Panel meeting.

Academic leaders from around the world share their mantras on agri-innovations

Contributed by: **Abha Belwal**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



An International Summit on *Agri-Innovations in 21st Century and the Ways Ahead* was organized by the College of Agriculture, Pantnagar in association with IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. The two day summit was held online on March 9-10, 2021. Researchers, scientists, professors and students from all across the country came forward to express various concerns, problems and ultimately solutions on aspects of agri-innovations in present and future contexts. More than 500 participants were a part of this informative and interesting summit. The two days expedition had varied sessions on a wide range of subjects including the inaugural address by Dr. Rattan Lal, Recipient of World Food Prize 2020 and Professor, Environment and Natural Sciences, The Ohio State University, Columbus, U.S.A.

The two days summit was also attended by Dr. Tej Partap hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Pantnagar University. Sharing his views in the summit, he stated that agri-innovations are not only required in the fields or in agri-business, but also in agricultural education. Academic innovations are crucial and the starting point for agri-innovations to be nurtured into the young minds. Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar was also present during the entire two days summit. He remarked that such conglomeration of thoughts and ideas from all over the world are extremely beneficial for student community in expanding their purview and perspective. He further expressed his gratitude for all experts, faculty members, alumni, and students who made tremendous efforts which ultimately led to fruitful discussions and insights for all.

The team of faculty members including Dr. J.P. Jaiswal,

Experts of the Summit



Dr. Rattan Lal
Professor, Soil Science
The Ohio State University,
Columbus, USA
The World Food Prize
2020 Recipient



Dr. B.B. Singh
Visiting Professor
& Senior Fellow
Department of
Soil and Crop Science
Borlaug Institute for
International Agriculture
Texas A&M University, USA



Dr. Rameshwar Kanwar
Charles F. Curtiss
Distinguished Professor
Agricultural and
Biosystems Engineering
Iowa State University, USA



Dr. V.V. Sadamate
Former Adviser Agriculture
Planning Commission
GOI



Dr. Digvijay S. Jayas
Vice-President
(Research & International)
Distinguished Professor
University of Manitoba
Canada



Dr. Basant Maheshwari
Professor
Dean's Unit
School of Science
Western Sydney University
Australia



Dr. Alex Winter-Nelson
Professor & Director of
ACES Office of
International Programs
University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign
USA



Dr Shiv Kumar Agrawal
Scientist, ICARDA
Morocco



Dr. Prasanta K. Kalita
Professor, Soil & Water
Resources Engineering
Presidential Fellow
University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign
USA

Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding; Dr. A.K. Singh, Professor, Horticulture; Dr. N.K. Singh, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding; Dr. R.M. Srivastava, Professor, Entomology; Dr. Navneet Pareek, Professor, Soil Science; Dr. V.P. Singh, Professor, Horticulture; Dr. Rajeew Kumar, Senior Research Officer, Agronomy; Dr. Amit Bhatnagar, Senior Research Officer, Agronomy; Dr. Vipin Dhyani, Associate Professor, Agronomy; Dr. Sweta Rai, Assistant Professor, Food Science and Technology; and Dr. Anil Kumar, Junior Research Officer, Food Science and Technology coordinated the entire programme of the summit.



Adamyia – The first National Youth Fest organized by Agriculture Society

Contributed by: *Niharika Arora*
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



The Agriculture Society of College of Agriculture organized Adamyia – The National Youth Fest from March 20 – March 22, 2021. It was for the first time since genesis, that the Agriculture Society organized a national level event with participation of more than 350 participants from 30 different universities of the country. The fest was organized to provide the students with an opportunity to connect and network with stalwarts of agriculture as well as hone their skills and knowledge on contemporary aspects of agriculture. The different events organized under the fest were all related to different themes of agriculture and were held under different categories including a cultural rally, national literary event, national conclave, band show, cultural events, dramatics, and fine arts. A brief description of the events is as follows:

Cultural Rally: The three days fest began with the colourful and expressive cultural rally. The rally was a display of the cultural, social, and historical dimensions of agriculture. The participant

teams presented these dimensions via different modes and their wonderful presentations in the rally were appreciated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and Dean, College of Agriculture. The three days fest was also declared open with the start of the rally.

Dramatics: The dramatics component had two events, namely Abhivyakti (Monoact Competition) and Udgar (Open Mic Competition). The monoact was performed on the themes of impersonating frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and importance of food. The open mic activities included stand-up comedy, story-telling, poem recitation, and shayari.

Fine Arts: The motive of this component was to bring out the best in budding artists and to encourage students to try their hands on different skills in the arena of fine arts. There were four events in this component, i.e. Naqsh - The Painting Competition, Aakar-The Best Out of Waste Competition, Meraki - The Sketching Competition, and Facodora -The Face Painting Competition. The themes of different events were related to Indian agriculture, ethos, heritage, and contemporary concerns.

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National Conclave: The conclave was organized on the theme of Reducing Carbon Footprints: A Roadmap to Sustainable Agriculture. Eminent agricultural stalwarts including Dr. Anil Gupta, Padma Shri recipient, Former Professor, IIM Ahmedabad, and Founder, Honey Bee Network; Shri Jagat Singh Jungli, Renowned Environmentalist and Forest Creator, and Ms. Puja Bharti, Co-Founder, Back to Village. Apart from the deliberations by the stalwarts, a national level poster presentation was also held which had four themes - Switching from Conventional Agriculture to Conservation Agriculture, Organic Farming: More Than Just Yield, Carbon Sequestration: Better Than Escape, and Role of Energy Technology Innovations in Reducing Carbon Footprints.

National Literary Event: In this segment, the first ever online National Level Extempore Competition - Panache was organized by the Agriculture Society. The Competition took place on Microsoft Teams platform. Both Hindi and English language

extempore took place simultaneously on different online links. Participants from different universities from across the nation participated in the event enthusiastically and expressed themselves.

Cultural Events: The cultural event component celebrated the spirit of life through interventions of music and dance. There were two events namely, Tarana - The Singing Competition and Taptales - The Dancing Competition. The participants of both the events showcased the harmony and enthusiasm of life through their performances.

Band Show: The band show was one of the most fun filled event of the fest. The students of the college as well as other University students participated in it. Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand Smt. Baby Rani Maurya was also a part of the band show.

The three days national fest came to a successful closure with well organized events and immense dedication and hardwork of the students and the faculty members of the college. This new initiative will pave the path for many more such innovative initiatives to be taken in future.

Adamyia – The first National Youth Fest...(contd.)



For the first time in the history of College of Agriculture the Agri-Fest was organized by the Agriculture Society, College of Agriculture. The vision and guidance of our Dean led to the initiation of the idea of the fest, with the aim of providing the best opportunities for the students to demonstrate their abilities while guiding them to learn as well. The success of the event was marked by the response it received in the form of enormous participation from all across the country as well as from among the University students.

– Ms. Shruti Mishra, B.Sc. Ag., Final Year

This event tested our mettle and the present pandemic scenario posed even bigger challenges. However, the feelings of pride and contentment that followed the conclusion of the event made me feel ecstatic. Undoubtedly, Adamyia 2k21 left me with memories and a great many learnings that will last me a lifetime. I have nothing but gratitude towards the Agriculture Society, who entrusted me with this great responsibility of being a part this spectacular event.

– Ms. Lata Panoura, B.Sc. Ag., Third Year



Ideas and creativity are the epitome of potential for uniqueness. The Agriculture Society tends to be moulding it in the form of a new initiative through the national level fest. As a member of the coordinating team, we had hectic schedules and successful completion of any event in the pandemic situation, hence improvised our management skills. The beauty of this event was the integrity and enthusiasm showed by the seniors, juniors, and batchmates and ofcourse the leadership of the faculty members.

– Mr. Sagar Bhatt, B.Sc. Ag., Second Year

Hard work pays off. The quoted words are enough to define the grand success of event 'Adamyia' organised by Agriculture Society. During these tough times, conducting an event at such a large scale had never been a cakewalk yet the student fraternity under the guidance of faculty members took this initiative, toiled day and night and conducted the event successfully in both online and offline mode.

– Ms. Stuti Lavania, B.Sc. Ag., Second Year



The National Fest Adamyia'21 was a wonderful and inexplicable experience as it was a first hand experience for the first year students. The fest really stood by its name Adamyia which means indomitable. It was a good way to welcome the newly admitted students. Despite all the challenges and hardship, the fest concluded successfully.

– Ms. Sakshi Lohani, B.Sc. Ag., First Year

It was for the first time, that I participated in a national level fest after getting into the college. The energy, vibrance, and enthusiasm all around was just amazing. I could visualize how exciting and full of learning would be the coming years in Pantnagar. I would heartily appreciate the efforts of the college administration for taking such initiatives even during the pandemic times.

– Ms. Vartika Gupta, B.Sc. Ag., First Year





30 hours remedial crash course: An extra edge for preparation of competitive examinations

Contributed by: **Neeraj Tewari**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



The COVID-19 pandemic brought lot of problems, but it benefitted the education stakeholders in terms of digital literacy and utility of digital platforms for imparting education. The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar is also not behind in this, and several first time initiatives were taken. One such initiative was the launch of online remedial classes for undergraduate students of the college for preparation of competitive examinations with the support of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar. To boost up the current preparation of final year undergraduate students, a 30 hours online remedial crash course was initiated from February 13, 2021. This crash course was a follow-up of the two months remedial classes which were organized earlier in December-January 2020. The main aim of the crash course was to make preparing students familiarize about the level of exam and to know about their shortcomings so that they can work upon themselves, since, ICAR-JRF as well as other competitive examinations require different strategies and methods to crack.

The crash course was organized under six modules, namely Agronomy and Soil Science, Entomology, Extension, Economics and Statistics, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Horticulture and Vegetable Sciences, and Plant Pathology. The alumni of the college led the entire crash course. The unique aspect of the remedial classes and this crash course is that all of them are coordinated by the college alumni. The majority of the students grabbed the opportunity and they were satisfied by the content

delivered. Students on being asked about the classes reflected that, it is like a magic wand for all those who are preparing seriously, we appreciate our college administration for providing us wonderful learning opportunity and we are waiting for many more such courses in the future.

Module & Course Expert

- | | |
|--|--|
| 01 Genetics and Plant Breeding
Ms. Rimi Shampa
Ph.D. Scholar, BCKV, Kalyani

Mr. Deepayan Roy
Ph.D. Scholar, Genetics and Plant Breeding GBPUAT, Pantnagar | 02 Plant Pathology
Dr. Yogita Bohra
Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology PAU, Ludhiana

Dr. Devanshu Dev
Assistant Professor, G. D. Goenka University, Gurugram, Haryana

Dr. Anshul Arya
Assistant Professor, SGT University, Gurgaon, Haryana |
| 03 Entomology
Dr. Sal Reddy
Assistant Professor, Entomology, RPCAU, Bihar

Mr. Mayank Kumar
Ph.D. Scholar, Entomology, GBPUAT, Pantnagar | 04 Horticulture and Vegetable Science
Ms. Pratibha Jain
Ph.D. Scholar, Fruit Science PAU, Ludhiana

Mr. Bhargav Kiran
Ph.D. Scholar, Horticulture & Vegetable Science ICAR-IARI, New Delhi |
| 05 Agronomy and Soil Science
Dr. Gangadhar Nanda
Assistant Professor, Agronomy, RPCAU, Bihar

Dr. Sirazuddin Assistant Professor, Doon (PG) College, College of Agricultural Science and Technology | 06 Extension, Economics and Statistics
Dr. Debashish Dash
Assistant Professor, Agricultural Extension, C.V. Raman Global University Bhubaneswar

Ms. Lekha Kalra
Ph.D. Scholar, Agril. Economics, SKRAU, Bikaner |

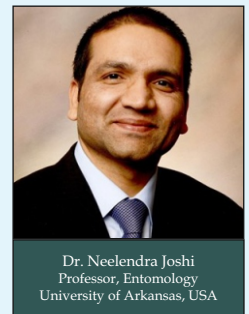
Interactive guest lecture series organized by Department of Entomology

Contributed by: **Samiksha Yadav**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



The Department of Entomology of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar organized an Interactive Guest Lecture Series on the topic *International Opportunities for Professional Development in Entomology and Precision Integrated Pest Management*. The sessions were held online on February 18, February 22, February 26 and March 11, 2021. These sessions were organized to aid in the learning and understanding of the field of entomology at a professional level. The expert invited for the lecture series was Dr. Neelendra Joshi, Professor, Entomology, University of Arkansas, USA. The lecture series covered the topics of numerous opportunities in the field of entomology in detail. The expert Dr. Joshi also discussed different aspects relating to his expertise in the area of fruit entomology, integrated pest

management and toxicology, and pollinator health. He listed the emerging areas of research and practice in these areas as well as other significant areas of entomology. The prospects of professional development in the same field of expertise were considered at length. With the increasing requirements of subject matter experts in the country as well as abroad, there is immense scope in the field of entomology. Now, is a great time for the students looking to build up their career in the field. Moreover, with the current pandemic situation, the sector of agriculture has a lot to offer. Entomology being a part of the agriculture sector has a huge potential. The four lectures of Dr. Joshi were appreciated both by the faculty members and the participating students alike due to his extensive knowledge and interesting way of deliberation.



Dr. Neelendra Joshi
Professor, Entomology
University of Arkansas, USA

Two days online training organized on remote sensing and aspects of water management

Contributed by: **Abha Belwal**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



A two days training was organized under the overseas expert training segment on the topic *Multi-Criteria Approach for Urban Stormwater and Flood Management using Remote Sensing Technology*. The training was headed by Dr. Shray Pathak, Assistant Professor, School of Geographic Science, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China. The training dates were February 11-12, 2021 and was coordinated by Dr. R.K. Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Agrometeorology. During the two days training programme, various topics such as the role of remote sensing and GIS in estimating urban water resources and management, sustainable approach for long term management, spatial water demand, etc. were covered. With topics like the involvement of public opinions in decision making and strategic planning, and also discussion of two case studies on pluvial flooding, the training session was filled with discussions and inputs from both the sides. Towards



Dr. Shray Pathak
Assistant Professor
School of Geographic Science
East China Normal University
Shanghai, China

the end of the training session, Dr. Shray Pathak discussed the socio-environmental considerations towards flood risk assessment, and gave a briefhands on training to the participants in GIS software. The training session was a successful affair attended by selected 50 students from all across the University.



NASA scientist interacts with the student community

Contributed by: **Anubhav Singh Raj**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



Space based technology is of value to farmers, agronomists, food manufacturers and policymakers who wish to simultaneously enhance production and profitability. It provides key data for monitoring soil, snow cover, drought, rainfall, crop development as well as several aspects related to agriculture. Regarding this critical aspect, an interactive online session was organized under the overseas expert training segment. The interactive session was conducted on the topic *Emerging Multi Satellite Dataset Techniques in Farming World* on February 9, 2021. Dr. Krishna Prasad Vadrevu, Remote Sensing Scientist, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama, USA led the session.

In his presentation, Dr. Krishna discussed various aspects of agriculture related to satellite technology. He talked about the NASA land cover and land use change program. Thereafter he explained the need as well as the role of Southeast Asia Research Initiative. Thereafter he talked about G.E.O as an international program focused on the use of earth observations for societal

benefit. Further he explained machine learning as well as the use of machine learning algorithms in agriculture. Elaborating further, he explained about the unsupervised learning, K means clustering, supervised learning, support vector machines, decision trees, ensemble methods, random forests, United States crop land data layer and neural networks. He also explained the way by which one can select the best machine language. Adding the computing perspective, he talked about various types of programming languages and computing environment useful for machine learning. Further he motivated the students by giving few career guidance as well as the salary status of remote sensing jobs at different levels in United States. Concludingly, he notified the participants regarding various online courses available at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun as well as the ways by which one can get admission in United States universities. The participants appreciated the holistic outlook and friendly gesture of the expert.



Dr. Krishna Prasad Vadrevu
Remote Sensing Scientist,
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
Huntsville, Alabama, USA

College students nurtured into proficient English speaking skills

Contributed by: **Mohit Singh Bohra**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



Language skills hold foremost importance for any student and professional. The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar realizes this, and makes continuous efforts in this direction. Recently, 30 days English speaking classes were organized from February 20, 2021 onwards. The purpose of these classes was to primarily help students in overcoming their fear related to English language and thereby help in improving their fluency and command over the language. The workshop was conducted under the guidance of Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture along with the four mentors who were senior Masters and PhD students and alumni of the college. Mr. Prajwal Singh, M.Tech. Manufacturing Engineering and Management, GBPUAT, Pantnagar; Ms. Divya Goswami, M.Sc. Mathematics, Kumaon University; Ms. Shefali Srivastava, Ph.D. Agricultural Economics, GBPUAT, Pantnagar; and Ms. Sheeba Belwal, Ph.D. Horticulture, GBPUAT, Pantnagar were the mentors for these classes. The language classes were unique in a way that mentors were involving students through different activities and students were also enjoying this learning process. Group discussions in small groups, personal interviews, storytelling, extempore, word formation, etc. helped the students in building up their confidence. Some of the reflections of the participants on

completion of the classes are as follows:

“Earlier, I hesitated a lot while speaking in English, rather I tried to escape from it. These classes helped me in various ways such as increase in self-confidence, fluency, etc. I thank the College and IDP-NAHEP for arranging such classes and I am looking forward for more such classes.”

- Prabhat Kumar Singh, B.Sc. Agriculture, Id. No. 54404

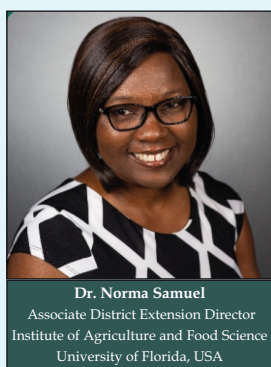
“The English speaking classes not only improved my communication skills but also boosted my confidence. My gestures, etiquettes and pace while speaking has improved a lot. The sessions were very interactive and fun.”

- Riya Goswami, B.Sc. Agriculture, Id. No. 54377



Foreign expert lecture organized by Department of Agricultural Communication

Contributed by: **Pooja Kaira**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



Dr. Norma Samuel
Associate District Extension Director
Institute of Agriculture and Food Science
University of Florida, USA

The three mandates of agricultural education include teaching, research and extension. Considering the changes taking place in each of three segments, and understanding the need to keep updated about the same, the Department of Agricultural Communication of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar organized a guest lecture. Dr. Norma Samuel,

Associate District Extension Director, Institute of Agriculture and Food Science, University of Florida, USA was the foreign expert invited and she delivered the lecture on the topic, *The U.S. Cooperative Extension System: A Futuristic Perspective*. The lecture was held on March 5, 2021 and was coordinated by Dr. M.A. Ansari, Professor, Agricultural Communication. The lecture initiated with a brief overview of the agricultural extension

system in the United States. Following it, Dr. Samuel highlighted the distinctions of the cooperative extension system, and how a similar system could be made functional in the Indian context. She explained the similarities and differences in the extension system of USA and India and what are the prospects of learning from each other's system. Dr. Samuel then discussed in detail about the future possibilities and associated merits and demerits of the cooperative extension system. While closing the lecture, an intensive question and answer round was held wherein the participants asked interesting questions related to varying evolving dimensions of agricultural extension. Dr. Ansari gave the concluding remarks and closed the event.



International Women's Day celebrated in the hostel premises

Contributed by: **Vanshika Gupta**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



Women are among the strongest pillars of our society; they are the caretakers of the entire society. To acknowledge their social, economic, and political achievements in the society and their success in all the spheres of life, inmates of Subhash Bhawan hostel celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 2021. The celebration started with the blessings of warden of Subhas Bhawan hostel, Dr. Anju Pal, Assistant Professor, Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. She talked about the role of women in society and the hardships through which a woman goes. She also emphasizes that how women carry all the emotions within themselves and still contribute to the society.

The celebrations of the day were devoted to all those women who through their hard work, determination and optimistic attitude made history. Since the pandemic situations are prevailing in the whole world, tribute was also given to all the frontline workers specially women who are serving the society without worrying about their lives. Further, Dean, College of Agriculture who is also the chief warden of Subhash Bhawan hostel, Dr. S.K. Kashyap glorified the achievement of women. He

motivated all the hostel inmates with his inspirational and energetic talk. Many students showcased their amazing talents in the event and made the event worth remembering. Prizes of the competitions held in the past one year were also given to the deserving hostel inmates to motivate and revere their achievements. At the end, vote of thanks was rendered by general secretary of Subhash Bhawan. The entire event concluded on an inspiring note with high hopes, aspiration, and commitment towards making a difference in the lives of people around as well as those in need.



Alumni support: One month internship provided to the students

Contributed by: **Samiksha Yadav**
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



The College Placement Committee of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar offered a one month internship opportunity with AgroNxt Services Private Limited. According to their website, AgroNxt delivers products and services of significant value to farmers, thereby transforming farmers, from livelihood earners to profitable agripreneurs. The main project required the selected interns to work and update the crop modules of farm advisory platform of AgroNxt, along with looking into the agronomic, pathological, entomological and soil aspects of the different crops. The internship was open to all the students enrolled in the Bachelor and Masters degree of Agriculture. The interested students had to submit their resumes and go through the selection process. The one month internship had additional perks, including a Certificate of Internship, provided on successful completion of the internship; along with a stipend of 10,000 rupees per month. The interns would be guided under the mentorship of an illustrious alumni, Mr. Rajat Vardhan, Co-founder and CEO, AgroNxt Services Private Limited. These are admirable initiatives brought up by the College Placement Committee of the College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. Similar

internships provide a better insight of the corporate world to the students. Altogether, these opportunities help the students to grow and explore their career prospects and pave way for a bright future.

Three students were selected for the internship after the execution of the selection procedure. These were, Chetan Joshi (Id. No. 52996), B.Sc. Agriculture, Third Year; Balram (Id. No. 53086), B.Sc. Agriculture, Third Year; and Vishal Kumar (Id. No. 46179), M.Sc. Soil Science. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the internship would be held in online mode for all the three selected students. Chetan Joshi reflected on his accomplishment, and said that the efforts of the newly formed College Placement Committee are indeed commendable and he would like to thank them for this opportunity. He further expressed his happiness and said that rarely students used to get such an internship during their UG degree programme, but he is now hopeful that the doors for many such opportunities will now open for the college students. On behalf of the College Editorial Team, best wishes to all the selected students for their internship endeavours.



Gap analysis: A road map to augmented development of college

Contributed by: *Niharika Arora,*
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



It is rightly acknowledged in the society, that knowing your weakness is equally important as knowing your strength. The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar under the leadership of its Dean, Dr. S.K. Kashyap is also making efforts taking this mantra ahead for the growth and development of the college. An introspective visit of the complete college premises was held on

February 26, 2021 by Dr. Kashyap along with the respective Head of the Departments. The moto of the visit was to know the lacunae at various departments and subsequently to fill them in future. All the laboratory renovations, classroom renovations and other modifications supposed to be done in various departments were decided. Also, the elevation of laboratories through necessary advanced technologies was taken into account. The rigorous exercise of visiting each and every big or small, significant or insignificant unit of the college premises gave volumes of scope for further augmented development.



Understanding thrust of field researches: Visit of faculty members to CRC

Contributed by: *Neeraj Tewari*
B.Sc Agriculture, IIIrd Year



Agricultural researches have a strong thrust of field oriented experiments. In order to further explore the emerging issues in field researches, a visit to the Norman E. Borlaug Crop Research Centre at Pantnagar was made by the faculty members of the College of Agriculture, Pantnagar under the guidance of Dean Agriculture. The faculty members of agricultural communication, agricultural economics, agrometeorology, and food science and technology were a part of this exploratory visit. Several aspects pertaining to involvement of undergraduate students in field experiments, enhancement of exposure of undergraduate students to problems of field management, nurturing post graduate level students to understand problems of the field from the perspective of different stakeholders of agriculture, and thereby identifying researchable issues, and finally the faculty members gave their inputs on how their participation and involvement into field researches can be improved. Coordinating the entire discussion, Dr. Kashyap said that it is not only important that we undertake field based

researches, but also align and incorporate the research experience into classroom teaching. This will help in building up a strong theoretical as well as practical foundation of the students into different subjects of agriculture. The visit was a unique experience for all faculty members and towards the end avenues of future research were also discussed.





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Official Youtube Channel of the College

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