



College of Agriculture

Newsletter

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Change your path, not the goal...

Classes resume online as College of Agriculture doesn't stop

Atul Gaur

B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Rajat Joshi

B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Everyone was fighting back and reviving from corona virus. The things had to be normal again. A notice by Office of Registrar was issued stating that all the classes of UG, PG and PhD students were to be continued in online mode. The prefinal examination which came to standstill were to be conducted in online mode and the semester final examinations will also be held online.

It is said that tough times don't last but tough people do. The dynamic Dean of College of Agriculture, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, made sure that the college functions in the right manner. The diligent and dedicated faculty members of the college started taking online classes. Some faculty members and students were still battling against corona virus, some were reviving yet managed to align with the process of teaching and learning. Despite all the challenges, the process once again started by dint of online platform and is still going on competently. The flexibility and adaptability of college to shift from offline classes to online mode is a sign of perseverance and determination to serve the nation by educating regardless of the tough situation.

The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar is one of the most significant part of the University known for its inexorable spirit to move forward. Once again making allusion to the same spirit, the college resumed the classes in online mode amidst the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. An increased spike of COVID-19 cases led to lockdown in several states including Uttarakhand. The University was closed once again and keeping in mind the safety of students, they were asked to vacate the hostel premises.

The times became tough and the situation was worsening with every passing day but stopping was no option.



"Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man."

- Gorge Washington

Entrepreneurial model initiated by students of Department of Agricultural Communication

Rajnish Pandey
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Smrutirekha Pati
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Setting up a new milestone in entrepreneurial learning, a team of eight M.Sc. and Ph.D. students of Department of Agricultural Communication, College of Agriculture along with the final year B.Sc. Community Science students of College of Home Science developed an entrepreneurial model of student-run cafeteria which was functional at Aaharam, the cafeteria situated in the University Centre - NAHEP Building. The entrepreneurial stint commenced with the aim of providing easy to make, cost-efficient and nutritious refreshments to the participants of different training programmes and workshops conducted at University Centre - NAHEP Building. Keeping in mind the dual aspect of quality of food and health of the students, the menu of cafeteria included many self-cooked items as well. The ambience of the cafeteria was also a thoughtful creation. The decorative stuff was crafted out from scraps that added a splendid touch to the interiors. It gave a sense of relief to the trainees in between the brainstorming activities in the training programmes and workshops.

This venture helped the students in understanding the various intricacies of handling a business enterprise right from procuring the raw material to marketing aspects to managing the



financial aspects. The team successfully catered the challenges of handling large student masses during concurrent training programmes and workshops at University Centre - NAHEP Building with great competence. The initiative was highly applauded by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Pantnagar University, Dr. Tej Partap. An exemplary effort was put forth by the team behind this entrepreneurial stint who managed this initiative along with their hectic academic schedule. Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture, and PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar reflected that this entrepreneurial model functional in Pantnagar is a stepping stone towards culture transformation. This endeavour reflects the idea that no work is inferior, the way you do it defines the work.

Consistent efforts by College Placement Committee for nurturing students

Nitin
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Rishabh
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The College Placement Committee of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has been proficiently working on providing opportunities to the young minds of the college. Actively operating, the Placement Committee focuses on elevating the skills and personality of students in order to provide them the opportunities of quality internships and placements from renowned organizations. Career orientation workshops are also organized for guiding the students towards different professional fields and entrance examinations such as JRF, CAT, and other Government exams. Besides, the Placement Committee guides the students to improve their CVs. Currently, the Placement Committee has collaborated with Professor Sandeep

Mann, a placement mentor, to guide the college students, especially the third and final year undergraduate students and postgraduate students, to improve their communication skills by conducting various activities at the interpersonal level such as group discussions, one-minute speech, and extempore. He is also guiding the students towards projects aligning with agriculture and corporate sectors and internships to improve their expertise.

The efforts of College Placement Committee led to internships being offered to students from several organizations including the Customer Acquisition and Sales Internship opportunity with ITC India Pvt. Ltd., Management Trainee and other Portfolio in Corteva Agrisciences Pvt. Ltd., Research and Content Writing Assistant for Corporate Professionals, Management Trainee in Tata Rallis Pvt. Ltd., and Management Trainee in MSX International. Also, Mr. Karibasappa a Ph.D. student of the college was recently placed as a Plant Pathologist in National Plant Protection Limited, Bangalore. With copious opportunities, the College Placement Committee is nurturing students and widening the scope for their self-improvement as well as enhancing their job prospects.

Upgrading the flora database of Pantnagar: Two-months internship undertaken by College students

Mallika Tripathi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Ravi Kumar Jha
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The World Bank funded Institutional Development Plan of the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (IDP-NAHEP) running at Pantnagar University has been contributing in different ways to hone a multitude of in-demand skills in the students. An array of multidimensional opportunities is being simultaneously provided especially to undergraduate students of the University. Recently, the IDP- NAHEP, Pantnagar in successful collaboration with College Placement Committee, offered two months internship opportunity to the students enrolled in the UG, PG, and Ph.D. degree programme of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar.

The interested students had to submit their resumes and statement of purpose mentioning their qualification and their

suitability for the project as the first step towards selection. After the screening of submitted resumes, a Personal Interview Round was conducted and three students were selected for the internship. The students were Mr. Mayank Kumar (Id. No. 44425, Ph.D. Entomology), Ms. Sheeba Belwal (Id. No. 44440, Ph.D. Floriculture), and Mr. Suraj Gond (Id. No. 46039, Ph.D. Agronomy). The project required the selected interns to identify and prepare an inventory of tree species in the campus, along with tagging of standing trees for their identification and specific details. The interns found the internship extremely useful as it enhanced their knowledge and provided them with pertinent work experience. The interns will be awarded with a certificate of internship along with a stipend of 10,000 rupees per month.

An internship opportunity is a commendable approach by IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar to provide a practical work environment to the students, and make them future-ready and give an extra edge to academics by fulfilling the principle of 'Earn while you Learn!' On behalf of the College Editorial Committee, we extend our heartfelt wishes to the selected interns for their internship and future endeavours.



My love for nature pulled my instincts towards this two-month internship programme regarding identification and tagging of tree species of our Pantnagar Campus. The two-month internship opportunity proved to be an experience drenched with new learnings and revelations.

- Ms. Sheeba Belwal (Id. No. 44440, Ph.D. Floriculture)

It was a wonderful experience I felt during my internship survey period regarding the identification and tagging of tree species of Pantnagar. The task was planned under the guidance of Dr. S.K. Kashyap (Dean, College of Agriculture). Initially, our team faced a few difficulties in the identification of some trees but with the help of our teachers and literature we could easily identify several species of tree.

- Mr. Suraj Gond (Id. No. 46039, Ph.D. Agronomy)



It was an amazing and wonderful experience for me, especially the survey period. The mentors were very supportive and guided throughout. The internship has acquainted me with our surrounding diverse tree species, current situations, and upcoming challenges. It has helped me to enhance my capabilities and skills.

- Mr. Mayank Kumar (Id. No. 44425, Ph.D. Entomology)



Four undergraduate students selected for internship by ITC India

Rashi Chahal
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Saurabh Goswami
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Prachi Pandey
B.Sc. IVth Year



Prerna Pandey
B.Sc. IIIrd Year



Abha Belwal
B.Sc. IIIrd Year



Niharika Arora
B.Sc. IIIrd Year

The College Placement Committee of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar offered an eminent opportunity for the students by announcing a four-week long Customer Acquisition and Sales Internship Programme with ITC India Private Limited. The internship was open to all the students enrolled in B.Sc. Agriculture. Out of the large number of submitted resumes, 11 students were shortlisted. Later, all the shortlisted 11 students were put through a rigorous online group discussion by the esteemed panel consisting of Mr. Ashu Phakey (Vice President and Business Head - Frozen and Fresh Foods, ITC Ltd.) and Ms. Nimisha (HR Head - ITC Frozen Snacks). After a commendable session of group discussion, four students were selected for the internship programme of ITC India Private Limited. Ms. Abha Belwal (Id. No. 53017), Ms. Niharika Arora (Id. No. 53045), and Ms. Prerna Pandey (Id. No. 53005) were selected from B.Sc. Agriculture third year, and Ms. Prachi Pandey (Id. No. 51388) was from B.Sc. Agriculture final year.

The College Placement Committee deserves a commendable acknowledgement for providing such a golden opportunity to the students. This internship not only provides a great curve of learning for the students but also gives a first hand experience to the students in the world of corporate institutions

and businesses. Due to the ongoing pandemic the internship would be held in online mode initiating from May 10, 2021 onwards. Ms. Niharika Arora, selected intern reflected upon the opportunity given and gave her gratitude to the College Placement Committee for their untiring efforts in providing the opportunity and for providing such a prominent platform to the students during the difficult period of COVID-19. She further expressed her delight and said that she wants to pursue her dream in the corporate sector and this internship programme has served as first step towards the same. She also thanked the panel of ITC for her selection and ensured to extend further cooperation in this regard.

Nurturing future entrepreneurs by providing intensive hands on learning

Tejaswini Pandey
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Unmati Joshi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



In 2021, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has added another feather to its cap by laying the foundation of new Horticultural Agribusiness Units within the premises of the college. The units are under establishment and are being created with the support of Innovation and Incubation Centre of Institutional Development Plan of National Agricultural Higher Education Project (IDP-NAHEP), which is a World Bank funded project currently running at Pantnagar. The agribusiness units will house various horticultural polyhouses that use the hydroponics and aeroponics technologies, which are slowly but steadily gaining ground in India. Using these technologies, a variety of ornamental, succulent, and mother plants will be raised and sold. The major highlight of this endeavour is that it will be

run entirely by a student body. Right from raising the plants to their marketing and sales, everything will be handled by the students. This is a major step ahead for the students of Pantnagar, as it will not only hone their technical skills but also help them acquire entrepreneurial skills. In fact, the very aim of this

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Dr. N.K. Singh honoured with Dr. P.S. Khankhoje Gold Medal

Asad Rehman
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Deeksha Shahi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



It is a matter of great pride and pleasure that Dr. N.K. Singh, Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has been honoured with Dr. P.S. Khankhoje Gold Medal. This award is given by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola for outstanding contribution in the concerned field of Agriculture/Animal Sciences/ Fisheries/Agricultural Engineering while working in India. For year 2021, the award was given to Dr. Singh for his commendable work in the field of genetics and plant breeding in general and maize improvement in particular.

Dr. N.K. Singh is a remarkable researcher and has done extensive work in the field of maize. He has contributed in the development of seven maize hybrids, 105 inbred lines including coloured sweet corn of popcorn lines. Moreover, he took lead in induction of wild relative teosinte in maize for improving adaptation and also for enhancing maize germplasm. Dr. Singh's area of specialization is maize improvement and molecular

markers of genetic engineering. In addition, he has also done research work on prediction and performance of hybrids, characterization of maize germplasm for carotenoids and validation of markers for carotenoids biosynthesis pathways. He has published over 80 articles in reputed national and international journals and has one edited book and several book chapters to his credit. For his praiseworthy work, Dr. Singh has received many accolades including Dr. Jogender Singh Memorial Award 2019, Dr. R.B. Ekbote Award 2017, DRDO Technology Group Award, Faculty Excellence Award, etc. He has completed many research projects financed by LSRB (DRDO), DBT, ICAR, BRNS (DAE), NAIP and NATP. His splendid and remarkable work is not hidden from anyone for his unique contribution in the field of genetics and plant breeding. Besides being a keen researcher, he is a student friendly teacher as well. He teaches both at undergraduate and postgraduate level and has been guiding many doctoral students with great enthusiasm and paving their pathway to success.

Dr. Singh has been raising up the bars as always through his hardwork and determination. We have often heard that sky is the limit and he proves this saying precisely.



Dr. N. K. Singh receiving the Dr. Jogender Singh Memorial Award 2019

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undertaking is to mould students into entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture. The students involved will gain a lot from their work experience in terms of practical knowledge, confidence and skills that are required to run a successful business venture.

This initiative is also unique as it heralds a future where traditional practices of horticulture in India will slowly be replaced with more efficient ones, as of hydroponics and aeroponics. Introducing these technologies to the students at an

early stage will ensure that they keep pace with the evolving technologies in agriculture. This will help them to become tech-savvy and stay relevant in India where technology is becoming increasingly important in agriculture and allied sectors. In totality, these agribusiness units have immense prospect in evolving an innovation based ecosystem in the college and in the University. It will also play a pivotal role in encouraging students to take up agri-entrepreneurship as a career option.

Alumni Connect

Enlivening Journey of Mr. Kaushal K. Jaiswal: Inspiring Millennials

Ria Mehra
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Palak Chaturvedi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



via campus interview. This audacity of facing bigger challenges took him to great heights eventually from a sales job in Rallis India Ltd. in 1991 to the present day Managing Director of Rivulis Irrigation India Pvt. Ltd. He has served in different capacities in several corporate organizations including Zuari Agri Sciences Ltd., SMC India Private Limited, and Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd. He says he has been on a very satisfying journey and even today he gets something new to learn every day. An interview of Mr. Jaiswal was taken by the members of the college editorial team. The insight and the experiences of Mr. Jaiswal are as follows.



The man with the philosophy of learning by doing, a great sports enthusiast, an illustrious alumnus of batch 1983 of College of Agriculture, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar - Mr. Kaushal Kumar Jaiswal, with the work experience of more than 30 years in hand; specialized in the diverse fields made the toughest decision of his life by abandoning his post-graduation and resuming a sales job

Q Pantnagar must be holding a special place in your heart. Walking down the memory lanes of Pantnagar, what specific memories do you still cherish?

• I have a lot of memories of Pantnagar. Most of my close friends are those whom I met here in Pantnagar. I still remember winning the 100 meter race and getting the tag of fastest man on campus. I still remember that we organized one of the best Agro weeks during 1984-85 and I was the Vice-Chairman and Dr. Shivendra Kashyap (who is presently the Dean Agriculture) was the General Secretary of Agriculture Society. We named the event as Indradhanush. Also, having Samosa at Fattu's shop in the main market or having tea during a class break at Deepak's Restaurant at Gandhi Hall are few of the cherished and fun-filled memories.

Q Failure is an inescapable and a critically important part of any successful life. Were there times when you escaped from reaching your targeted goal and how did you manage the situation then?

• I have this strong feeling that being a sports enthusiast has helped me a lot. No school or college teaches you to handle failure. Only sports teaches you that. In any sport you play, someone will win and someone will lose. The question here is not about failure, it is to first accept the failure, analyze it, identify and diagnose the mistakes and learn from it. When you try new things the chances of mistakes are there but do not repeat the same mistakes again and again. This has been my mantra to handle failure.

Q Challenges are what makes life fascinating. What was the challenge you faced during the initial stages of your professional journey and what were your learnings from it?

• My professional journey started in 1988 when I was in the third semester of my M.Sc. and I got selected in the Sales Department in Rallis India Ltd. through a campus interview. I took the first tough decision of my life to choose between academics and job. It was a challenge to be successful because

I had left my post-graduation to get this job. Here I learnt that the two most important things to be successful in a sales-oriented professional domain are, 1) To have common sense and 2) To have the courage to speak the truth with customers. This has led me to rise higher and higher in my professional life.

Q Agriculture is now just not limited within field jobs, new opportunities and ventures are emerging day by day. So, how should the present day agriculture students cope with this change?

• Firstly, be proud that you are going to be in a profession that feeds the world. Modern agriculture is continuously evolving with new agricultural innovations and farming practices. There is immense scope for agriculture graduates. Lot of companies are now engaging in R&D which is enhancing the prospects for PG and PhD students as well. The only challenge is that the students should be willing to move out of the comfort zone of the home district and home state syndrome.



Motivational Strings



Dr. S. K. Kashyap
Dean, College of Agriculture

Dear Students,

It has been an expedition for the whole college to get acquainted with the challenges of online teaching-learning due to the pressure of pandemic. As an institution we were not expecting such a situation where cent percent teaching and examinations would be shifted to an online platform. Still, we emerged with confidence to introduce online infrastructures like interactive panels across into the college and all the departments and training faculty members for effective online teaching, examinations and other academic responsibilities. The challenges were immense, the network problems, the issue of common platform, the availability of gadgets and the accessories at the students' end, the growing count of COVID cases etc., still with utmost efforts we could manage to retain the academic pace looking into the interest of the students. The difficult times push for difficult decisions with utmost conviction. This is what has been the story of many of the countries of the world who could prevail during the pandemic with direction, dedication and discipline. We all suffered the flames of the pandemic in one or the other way, and are still going through it. It seemed to be dreadful and disastrous from all angles. But ultimately humanity has to survive for which extreme patience and perseverance is a prerequisite. With utmost precautions and conviction, we are emerging out from the wave of threat and despair. The semester is at the verge of completion. The final year graduating students have to get ahead on newer paths towards their future goals and rest of the students will lead towards a new academic session with zeal and vigour. The challenge of the time is to translate this utmost problem as an opportunity to learn and equip ourselves from across the globe through online endeavours. We never know upto what date we have to continue with the online propositions. Therefore, utmost sincerity will be needed on your side to stretch for learning in this changed ecosystem. Ultimately, it is your career and future which you have to design and decide through your efforts. I hope that this pandemic will subside at the earliest and we shall get you back in the campus as vibrant and enthusiastic as ever. Keep utmost precautions to remain healthy, get vaccinated at the earliest and strongly maintain your daily routine of classes, self study, physical exercises and some co-curricular activities. I wish a very happy and healthy future to you all.





Editors of the Issue

Ms. Abha Belwal

Ms. Anureet Kaur Sandhu

Mr. Gautam Harbola

Ms. Geetika Joshi

Mr. Neeraj Tewari

Ms. Pooja Kaira

Ms. Prachi Nagarkoti

Ms. Simran Pundir



Contact

Dean, College of Agriculture
G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar 263145, Uttarakhand

Email

agpdean@yahoo.com, deanagriculturepantnagar@gmail.com

Official Youtube Channel of the College

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMw8k8_iO5zeor_LQx6VFg