



College of Agriculture

Newsletter

Issue 4, September 2020

Endowment Fund: Concept of excellence and self-sustenance

The educational scenario across the globe has emerged quite competitive, with very stringent ranking parameters emerging to analyze the quality of education across the universities. Looking into the global requirement and the status of higher education for the Indian context, it becomes imperative to look into the educational frameworks of leading institutes of the world. When we look into the global top rankers, we come up to understand that one key factor for their financial sustainability is Endowment Funds, through which they mobilize their alumni strength to contribute for their universities. There are different types of endowment funds visible across into the world - term endowment, asset endowment, quasi endowment, restricted endowment, and many more. The concept is equally prevalent among both public and private universities across the world for which formal structures and system are in place.

In the United States, according to Harvard Crimson Report, the amount of endowment in the university in 2019 fiscal year was USD 40.9 billion, which was USD 1.7 billion more than the previous year. The Oxford Endowment Fund has distributed 781 million pounds since inception, as reported in 2020. The five largest university endowments belong to Harvard University, University of Texas, Yale University, Stanford University and Princeton University, each holding 25 billion in assets.



In Indian context, within very rigid structural framework, the educational institutes have not yet harvested the proposition and worth of endowment. IIT Delhi initiated its global alumni endowment fund in the late 2019, targeting \$1 billion over the span of 7 years. It initiated with initial commitment of Rs. 250 cores by 10 founder alumni converging together. This fund was launched by Hon'ble President of India, Sri Ramnath Kovind, in the presence of Minister of Education, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal, and it has a backing of 52 thousand alumni. In continuation with this, it is required that more higher education institutes of the country proceed with this innovative concept of endowment fund to ensure financial sustainability.

College of Agriculture initiates college endowment fund

G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, the first agriculture university of the country has completed six decades and has produced more than 40,000 brilliant graduates. These people are prevalent across the world at eminent positions in various national and international organizations in different roles. The University is also continuously performing up to the fullest, with various awards under its belt. The Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award in 2020, ICAR Rank 3 (Rank 1 in SAUs) in 2019, Governor's Best University Award for last three consecutive terms and many other accolades achieved by the faculty members and students. Yet, the University is severely struggling due to

financial constraints at multiple junctures. The six decades old infrastructure including hostels needs massive renovations. The UG and PG laboratories need to be updated and equipped with state of the art facilities. Capacity building is yet another area which needs substantial investments. These are the junctures where the University needs to work upon untraditional sources of revenue, like endowment fund from their vast pool of esteemed alumni.

National Agricultural Higher Education Program (NAHEP), the ICAR-World Bank funded innovative proposition to strengthen and support agricultural education across the country

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"We have neglected the truth that a good farmer is a craftsman of the highest order, a kind of artist."

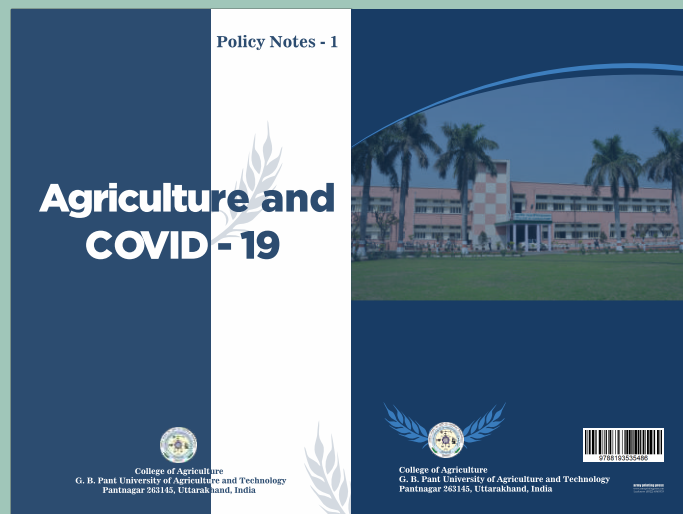
- Wendell Berry

College launched a Policy Notes recommendation book series

The first title is Agriculture and COVID-19

The current pandemic has raised pertinent questions with respect to the importance of agriculture, food, livestock, agricultural practices, supply chain, and related aspects. The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar having a vast pool of experienced scientists and researchers, took the initiative of collating the intellectual output of these scientists and researchers and other academicians and practitioners from different institutes and organizations. The collation was done in the form of a Policy Notes recommendation book and was named as Agriculture and COVID-19. This initiative will be further continued in the form of Policy Notes on different emerging issues. The first book in the series has been dedicated to suggest policy level recommendations for COVID-19 pandemic. The book consists of 12 research-based articles suggesting challenges occurring in agriculture and farming operation, supply chain and storage issues, difficulties in seasonal sowing of crop, alternative practices for farming community, modifications in cooperating organisations in agriculture field, agricultural institutions and other stakeholders, prospects of reverse migration, significance of indigenous practices, Uttarakhand specific possibilities, market and pricing related conflicts and required technological interventions. The book renders a fair chance to introduce guidelines aiding the improvement in agricultural practices, systems innovations, technologies and policies, thus providing methods to battle against the arduous situation of this COVID-19 global pandemic.

The articles for this first Policy Notes book were contributed by various subject matter experts including faculty members of the college, scientists from ICAR and other reputed institutes,



state agriculture officers and research scholars. The compilation, designing, and editing efforts were undertaken by the members of the College Core Action Group who worked meticulously to give this Policy Notes book its current shape and structure. Publishing a book regarding contemporary issues depicts the relevance and significance of the college in context of contributing the intellectual output for a larger cause and enhancing its reach and impact. Apart from contributing in teaching, research and extension, it is the demand of current time that being a hub of learned individuals, it is the social responsibility of the college to put forth recommendations for the policy makers.



Contributed by:
Pooja Kaira, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

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has proposed to strengthen the alumni network nodes, and endowment funds across agricultural universities. The IDP-NAHEP project at Pantnagar has worked strategically to explore the possible network nodes. In the University campus, the different colleges obviously emerge as the network nodes which help in aligning with a large number of alumni, committed for the cause of their college. Colleges are the epicenter of alumni affection, as the connect depends on a nostalgic feeling towards their college and their college juniors in particular and towards the university in general.

Looking into this dire necessity, IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar initiated an endowment fund drive beginning with College of Agriculture. This college endowment fund is the first such kind of systematic initiative to generate financial support from the alumni of the college. There is a massive response from across the batches, for the college endowment fund concept and it is wonderful to observe the old batches coming together to pool the funds, to support their college in a significant manner. Speaking about the concept, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Tej Partap wholeheartedly applauded the idea and remarked that the time has ripened to look towards these unconventional and prospective opportunities to emerge as a brilliant global university in support



of humanity. Moreover, the college aspires that through this endowment fund and similar other initiatives of alumni networking, the alumni strength of the college can be utilized in a structured way for the welfare of the college students. In times to come, if the college has to emerge as a global centre of learning, the connect and support of alumni is extremely significant.



Contributed by:
Abha Belwal, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Amintiri'20 – The first ever digital farewell of the college

Goodbyes have never been easy. Not now, not ever. But, as the legacy goes, making the last moments of the seniors memorable, college farewells have been the most awaited moments of every year. However, this year, as things unfolded and everyone got stuck in their homes, because of the COVID-19 situation; one might be wondering what happened to the farewell plans. Well, the farewell stood the test of the time and switched to online mode. Amintiri'20 – the online farewell was indeed an occasion filled with joy and nostalgia. For the ones pondering over the connectivity issues - has distance ever spoiled bonds, the senior-junior bonds are nonetheless strong and unwavering. With all the final year students, ready in their farewell outfits, the charm was at its peak. Among fun-filled chats and memories, the enthusiasm was shared by all.

The event was filled with all amazing performances, from dance to theme melodies. There were games, from Guessing the Individual to Collect the Items, keeping everyone thoroughly involved. Awarding the seniors with titles was equally full of fervency.

The evening was an extremely exhilarating experience. With the third year students all prepped-up for making the evening special for their seniors, and the final year students sharing their best memories of their undergraduation years, this evening was



treasuring. All the students enjoyed the events placed within the comfort of their home, what else could one ask for. Some food maybe. Nonetheless, despite the distance, there was no loss of zeal. Sharing a culture of honor and togetherness, all the seniors bid adieu to their loving juniors. Like this, another interesting batch of the college moved ahead in their journey gathering immense learning. The college aspires that this passing out batch reaches to new heights of personal and professional excellence, and continues to connect with its alma mater and contributes in its development.



Contributed by:
Samiksha Yadav, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Pantnagar: A house of rare biodiversity

Biodiversity is typically a measure of variation or diversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level. Various species are found in the Terai region of Pantnagar that even includes vulnerable species like *Santalum album* L (family - Santalaceae) and *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.), De Wilde (family - Fabaceae), etc. *Mangifera indica* L (family - Anacardiaceae) is assessed as data deficient (DD) species which although isn't native element here, rather its either planted or it is the seedling escape of planted mango. About 81 species assessed for threat status in India are known to occur in Pantnagar areas, for example *Acorus calamus* L, *Alstonia scholaris* L, *Bauhinia purpurea*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Cajanus scarabaeoides*, *Cyprus difformis*, *Dentella repens*, *Sesbania bispinosa*, etc. Recently, there was a different looking beehive spotted on a huge tree in the College of Agriculture garden. The local people claimed that they had never witnessed such a thing earlier, as the brown coloured, woven patterned beehive appeared in the shape of an earthen pot. To know more about this beehive, the scientists of entomology department were called upon who informed that usually wild bees make such different looking beehives and it is made up of soil unlike the traditional beehive which is made up of beeswax.

Pantnagar is rich in presence of pollinator species and flora as well. The European honeybee, *Apis mellifera* is also found here. Approximately about a total of 49 species (under 23 general and 10 families of insect foragers) are recorded here. Out of these, maximum number of 41 species belonged to the order Hymenoptera followed by Diptera (8 species). The Hymenoptera includes 33 non-apis bee species. The highest number of 26 insect



species were found on mustard and vana tulsi each, where lowest number of five insect species were recorded to visit chickpea and chrysanthemum. The most frequent pollinators visiting are *Apis mellifera* and *Apis dorsata*. *Syrphus corollae* (27 plant species) and *Episyrphus balteatus* (25 plant species) were the most frequent visitors among Diptera on the foraged plants. As many as 78 floral resources of insect pollinators in and around Pantnagar have been reported. Thus, there exist various species (a huge fauna and flora biodiversity) in Pantnagar. Apart being a rich biodiversity region, it also houses many rare biodiversity as well. In the present times, when in the race of development the jungles of concrete are rapidly emerging, Pantnagar University is proud of maintaining and sustaining its green cover as well as keeping the living space of other important elements of our ecosystem safe.



Contributed by:
Geetika Joshi, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Final examinations completed successfully in online mode

When the world is struggling hard to work in this global pandemic, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar successfully conducted online examination for all the students abiding by the guidelines issued by competent government authorities. Due to COVID-19 everything was shifted to online mode and it was the biggest challenge for University administration to conduct online examination of all the students and keeping in mind that no one should be left behind. After rigorous planning and preparation, an official notice regarding the conduct of online examination was released by Registrar Office on July 23, 2020. It was decided to conduct the examination in three phases. In phase one, semester final examination of final year graduating students were scheduled (from August 1-10, 2020), followed by phase two wherein semester final examination of PG and Ph.D. students were held (from August 10-20, 2020), and in phase three, semester final examination of remaining students and compartment examination were scheduled (from August 21-September 9, 2020). Guidelines to conduct online examination were released by the Registrar Office and all the instructors were informed to connect with each and every student by means of WhatsApp and telephonic medium.

A fortnight before the schedule of final examinations, mock test was conducted so that students get familiar with the process. Link of google forms containing question paper was uploaded on the classroom group in Microsoft Teams and students were given specific time to open the link, complete the paper and upload it within given time frame. This practice helped the students reduce their apprehensions about the online examination pattern. The final examinations were conducted in two shifts, one in the



morning from 10:00 – 11:00 am and the other in the afternoon from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Before the start of the examination, the students were asked to submit their attendance on their respective WhatsApp class groups and thereafter the examination began. The students viewed the question paper on their respective Microsoft Teams account and then had to write all the answers on paper sheets in which on the top right corner name of student and Id. No. was supposed to be mentioned along with the page number at the bottom. These answer sheets then had to be uploaded. In case of any technical issues faced by the students, a central team at Pantnagar immediately helped the students. Both students and faculty members worked hard for the completion of this process as it was a new experience for the University. Proper communication between the faculty members and the students was the key factor because of which the entire process was completed smoothly. All the students were happy with this new development and new experience and everyone decided to work in this pandemic also, so that no opportunity should be missed.

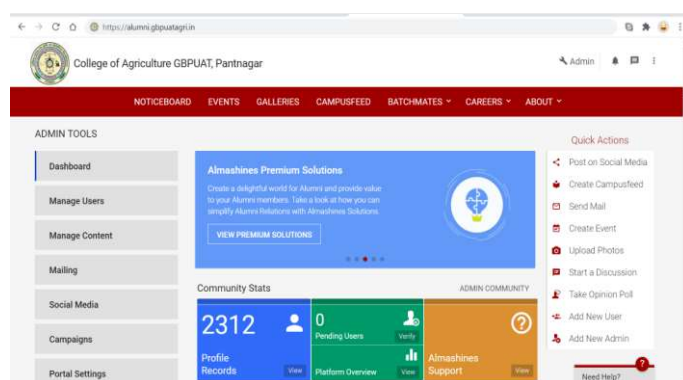


Contributed by:
Neeraj Tewari, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

A call to the college alumni

The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has initiated a marathon campaign. This is to align all the alumni of the college on a single portal. The college has completed 60 years and thousands of illustrious alumni have glorified the college through their exemplary contribution across into the nation and abroad. In this context a professional portal has been put into function with the support of AlmaShines company. This portal will help aggregate updated information of all alumni and will enhance the networking possibility among the alumni as well. The portal provides the facility of searching other alumni, according to their name, current location, department or year. Almost 2300 alumni have already registered themselves on the portal till time and through this newsletter we would like to put forward a request to all alumni to register themselves soon.

While speaking about this effort, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture said "Looking into the spread of graduate, post graduate and research scholars of the college across the country and globe, it seemed to be essential to compile a complete database on the completion of six decades of the college". Also, the coordinator of College Documentation and Showcasing Committee (CDSE), Dr. Sumit Chaturvedi who heads this



initiative told, "A professional platform for systematic data updating was essential, to get in depth in six decades. The effort has already started yielding impact through rapid pace of data documentation". He also appealed to all alumni of college to support the effort wholeheartedly so that the pious pledge of getting all alumni together on the occasion of completion of six decades is fulfilled.



Contributed by:
Simran Pundir, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Warriors of online examination amidst COVID-19

The current times have been a great boost to digitalization especially in the education sector. Several schools and colleges in India went for classes in online mode for the first time. The College of Agriculture and Pantnagar University also went for full-fledged online classes and online examinations for the first time. The success of this entire initiative is credited to the hard work of both the faculty members and the students and the unending support of the staff members. In case of successful conduct of examinations for all students of College of Agriculture enrolled in UG, Masters and PhD programme, the four member team including Dr. Navneet Pareek, Professor, Department of Soil Science (as Coordinator), Dr. Ravi Mohan Srivastava, Professor, Department of Entomology (as Incharge, Confidential Section), and Ms. Pratima Tewari and Mr. Nikhilesh Kumar (Programmers, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar) worked tirelessly to structure the examinations and implement them upto the tail end.

The work initiated with creation of Microsoft Teams account for all faculty members and students in order to proceed with online classes, lab finals and mock tests. This enormous task of creating hundreds of faculty accounts and thousands of student accounts was systematically executed by Ms. Pratima Tewari and Mr. Nikhilesh Kumar. Also, extensive training of faculty members for taking online classes and conducting online examinations was also done by the two IDP-NAHEP programmers. Simultaneously, Dr. Navneet Pareek, College Coordinator, Online Examinations prepared a day wise structure of examination hall activities (central point located in the University campus), organized mock examination run for faculty members a day prior to their respective subject final examination, and ensured that all faculty members are in connect with their students so that the presence of all can be confirmed and can be easily reached out in case of any difficulty faced during the examination. Dr. Ravi Mohan Srivastava, College Incharge, Confidential Section managed the entire schedule of creation of online examination paper for all subjects by connecting with faculty members and supporting them generate their online examination paper and online link, creating parallel copy of online examination (in case of any technical error) and saving of

answer copies submitted by students in online mode. The complete technical backhand support and troubleshooting was again looked after by Ms. Pratima Tewari and Mr. Nikhilesh Kumar. The online examinations were conducted over a period of 40 days in three phases, first for final year graduating students, then for Masters and PhD students and finally for remaining undergraduate students and those who had to appear for compartment examinations. The team of these four individuals led the responsibility of organizing the online examinations in a remarkable way, while the faculty members and the students of the college must also be appreciated for their perseverance and hard work in managing with this new system of online teaching-learning.



Dr. Navneet Pareek
Professor, Department of Soil Science
College of Agriculture



Dr. Ravi Mohan Srivastava
Professor, Department of Entomology
College of Agriculture



Ms. Pratima Tewari
Programmer
IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar



Mr. Nikhilesh Kumar
Programmer
IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar



Contributed by:
Vikash Kumar, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Farm to Film: Short videos on alumni being prepared by UG students

The University is acclaimed for its quality students and College of Agriculture being the first college of the University has the largest spread of alumni. The college alumni have left no stones unturned in bringing fame to the name of the University and the college. To further compile and share the inspiring stories of the college alumni, the students enrolled in the Agricultural Journalism course came up with the idea of featuring the lives of the alumni of Alma mater into short videos. The idea was encouraged by the course instructor Dr. S.K. Kashyap, who is also the Dean of the college. The purpose behind the exercise was to give a tribute to our illustrious alumni and an inspirational push to the current generation of students. Also, these videos are a digital documentation of the professional and personal achievements of the alumni. To begin with, the students

approached the alumni for the same cause and were responded with utmost warmth. The alumni briefed the students about their engrossing journey and then a script was prepared for the final video. Currently four short films have been prepared and many more are under production. This entire experience was a great motivation for the students, as it provided them a chance to interact with alumni from the initial batches of 1960, 1970 and 1980. When a current student talks and listens to the life journey of a senior who has excelled in life, then it provides a different kind of appeal regarding the degree programme, college, university, and life itself.



Contributed by:
Niharika Arora, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Pro-student initiatives on the run by college authorities

A situation which is unbelievable, unprecedented, and untold of. The COVID-19 global pandemic has led to vacant educational institutes all over the country, and all teaching-learning is being practiced online. It is a rare happening and experience for the students to be at home and undergo a home-based college life. With less options in hand, as of now, this is the reality. However, the College of Agriculture, Pantnagar under the directives of its Dean decided to get ahead with several liberal and pragmatic measures in order to ease the difficulties of students, especially for those who were in the final semester of their degree programme. Since, final year graduating students have various official formalities to be completed before they are provided with their degree, thus to aid them in completing their formalities in a timely such that none of their future endeavours are on stake, a series of initiatives were taken by the college.

Firstly, the dues of Practical Crop Production (PCP) were not cleared due to COVID-19 lockdown. Therefore it was decided to send the balance sheet of the dues in soft copy form to the students which was prepared in a short span and then sent to the students through email. The responses were then gathered according to the Practical Crop Production groups, forwarded to accounts department, and money was remitted after verification. This task was diligently structured and carried out with the support of Dr. Sunita T. Pandey (Professor, Department of Agronomy and PCP Incharge), Dr. K.S. Shekhar (Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy), and Dr. Naresh Malik (Professor, Department of Agronomy). Secondly, the final year graduating students had not received their National Service Scheme (NSS) certificates. These certificates are generally provided by the respective course instructors, however, the college authorities collected all certificates on behalf of the students and gave it to hostel wardens. This was done so that when students return to collect their



belongings, they can easily collect it from the hostel warden's office. Dr. S.K. Maurya (Junior Research Officer, Department of Vegetable Science), Dr Anju Pal (Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture), and Dr. Santosh Kumar Yadav (Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy) coordinated this entire initiative. Finally, the most meticulous task involved providing the Provisional Degree Certificate (PDC) to the students at the earliest. The final examinations for final year undergraduate students were completed on August 10, 2020 and from then onwards the planning and process of how to get the no dues of all the students done began. The Student Section of the college played a crucial role in this context, and they took the toil to fill the no dues form of each student on their own by seeking relevant information from the concerned student and various departments of the college and the University. After filling the form, they were submitted to University Library and then to the Registrar Office for final approval. This way, three important initiatives were taken by the college under the leadership of the Dean and implemented with the help of its faculty members, administrative staff, and definitely the students who cooperated efficiently as and when required.

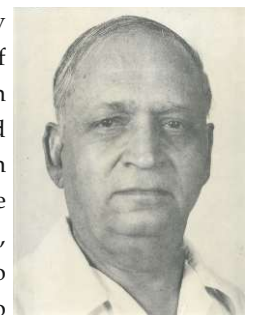


Contributed by:
Riya Maithani, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

A dedication to Dr. N.K. Anant Rao: First Dean of College of Agriculture

There are individuals who leave their indelible mark on all those lives and all those institutes who get an opportunity to be with them. Professor N. K. Anant Rao was one such personality. An agronomist, a passionate agriculturist, a dedicated teacher, and an administrator, his life is a great source of inspiration for many. He came to Pantnagar in 1960, and joined on the professional responsibility of the first Dean of College of Agriculture. He is credited for the insightful course of Practical Crop Production (APH-351), which is still in practice and is providing hands on experience to undergraduate students of agriculture in their third year of graduation. He also introduced a service contract scheme to assist the farmers. He made countless efforts during his tenure in Pantnagar and remarkably led several positions such as Dean Student Welfare, Librarian, and Chairman of the Disciplinary and Academic Probationary Committees. He was also the founder Director of the College of Home Science and also served as acting Vice-Chancellor on several occasions. In his 14 years of administrative journey at Pantnagar from 1960 to 1974, his countless

contributions helped in shaping the newly established first Agriculture University of India and the College of Agriculture. In recognition of his sincere work ethics and tremendous contributions an auditorium complex has been named after him. The kind of contributions Dr. Anant Rao made, the college will be in gratitude forever. To further highlight his contributions and to make the younger generations aware about him as an inspiring personality, an initiative of preparing a video depicting his life experiences has been taken up by the undergraduate students of the college under the guidance of Dr. S. K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture. This video is also a tribute to his landmark contributions for the college and the University.



Contributed by:
Prachi Nagarkoti, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

College makes extra efforts to attract brilliant students

The undergraduation programme B.Sc. Agriculture is the flagship programme of the University and it attracts good number of students who compete to get admission in College of Agriculture each year. However this year, the college made extra efforts to popularize and promote both undergraduation programmes of the college, i.e. B.Sc. Agriculture and new launched B.Tech Food Technology. Special promotion material like posters and videos were prepared highlighting the uniqueness and prospects of these courses and a strategy was prepared to spread these materials across among the stakeholders to attract best possible students towards these disciplines. Highlighting about this different approach towards promotion of degree programmes, Dean, College of Agriculture Dr. S.K. Kashyap reflected that though agriculture is a prime discipline but conscious efforts are needed to promote and propagate the

discipline among the school students, telling them the scope and importance of the discipline. The aim is to highlight the future prospects of these disciplines so that it emerges as one of the prime choices of the students. As a result of the promotion campaign, an appreciable response was received. There were several phone calls from the students, enquiring about agriculture and food technology disciplines, their future prospects, their course outline, the eligibility, fee structure and other related information. Looking into the response received in a short span of time, it has been decided by the college authorities that such promotional campaigns would be organized in future as well for a larger number of prospective candidates.



Contributed by:
Vijay Kumar, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

College Updates

- Dr. Ramesh Chandra joins as the new Head of Soil Science Department. He succeeded Dr. G.K. Dwivedi who contributed immensely for the growth of the department. Dr Ramesh Chandra envisions the department to emerge as a centre of excellence in creating, acquiring and disseminating knowledge in soil science and sustainable and productive use of natural resources for welfare of humankind.
- The College prepares to launch five certificate courses under the Online Certificate and Diploma Courses as approved by the Academic Council of the University. As informed by Dr. Ranjan Srivastava, College Coordinator, Online Certificate and Diploma Courses, these five courses will be Sericulture, Bee Keeping, Nursery Production and Management, Mass Production of Bio-Control Agents, and Protected Cultivation of Horticultural Crops. These certificate courses are scheduled to be launched from September 25, and more updates about these are available on the University website (www.gbpuat.ac.in) and on IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar website (www.idppantnagar.in).



Contributed by:
Sumit Tewari, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Contributed by:
Saurabh Chandra Tamta, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



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