



College of Agriculture

Newsletter

Issue 24, May 2022

Yet another feather in the cap of the college College celebrates the appointment of alumnus Vinay Mohan Kwatra as 34th Foreign Secretary of India

Sushma Swami
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Rhythm Maini
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



his higher education in the field of agriculture. His interest thus led him to College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. On this momentous occasion of the appointment of Shri Kwatra as Foreign Secretary of India, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar expressed his joy and said that achievements of our alumni inspire us to stretch ourselves to provide our students the best possible teaching-learning ecosystem, so that all our students excel in their professional and personal lives and make their Alma mater proud of their achievements.

Before joining as the 34th Foreign Secretary of India, he has served as the 24th ambassador of India to France and 25th Ambassador of India to Nepal. The urge to learn the culture and language of places he visited, made him a readily acceptable person to the people in different countries. His strong networking skills, people management skills and dedication towards his Alma mater were demonstrated during the pandemic. During the annual foreign exchange visit to France, when students of Pantnagar were stuck in France due to COVID-19, it was Shri Kwatra who rescued the Pantnagar students as well as other Indians stuck in France.

The Editorial Team on behalf of the college and the University wishes Shri Kwatra good luck for his endeavours as the new Foreign Secretary. We are sure that under his leadership, India will strengthen its foreign relationships for the well-being and prosperity of the country and the world.

The alumnus of 1980 batch of B.Sc. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra was recently appointed as the 34th Foreign Secretary of India. Shri Kwatra also did his M.Sc. Agronomy from Pantnagar in year 1983-85. After completing his Masters degree, he prepared for banking examinations and joined Punjab National Bank (PNB) in 1985. After a short stint at PNB, he appeared for Union Public Service Commission examination and qualified it in his second attempt with All India Rank 42 in 1988. "He was motivated by Dr. Anand Swaroop, former Vice-Chancellor of Pantnagar University to join Indian Foreign Services", shared Dr. Jitendra Kwatra, Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kashipur and cousin brother of Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

Born on December 15, 1962 in Delhi, Shri Kwatra was fascinated by rural and agricultural practices and thus decided to pursue



Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra working in his office on day 1 of his appointment
Source: MEA, Govt. of India

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

– Dwight D. Eisenhower

Agriculture Minister of Uttarakhand analyses the developments of Pantnagar

Dean Kashyap presented the SWOT of the University

Preeti Thakur
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Kumkum Choudhery
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



On April 18, 2022 the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Ganesh Joshi visited Pantnagar for the first time after joining his term as the Agriculture Minister. He came to Pantnagar to take a review meeting with the Deans and Directors of the University in order to have an update on the tasks and targets, developments and future strategies of the different colleges and units of the University. The review meeting was held at University Centre - NAHEP Building.

Initiating the review meeting, Dr. A.K. Shukla initially introduced the hon'ble minister with all the Deans and Directors present in the meeting. Thereafter, Dean Kashyap made a presentation on the achievements and contributions of the University. He also shared a SWOT analysis of the University, highlighting some of the critical concerns of the University. In continuation, the other Deans and Directors also shared the achievements of their respective colleges and units and also apprised of the future plans. Dean Kashyap then further led the interactive session of the hon'ble minister with the University fraternity wherein the queries and concerns were addressed by the hon'ble minister. The hon'ble minister said that the University has played a seminal role in agricultural development and farmer welfare and the state will make utmost efforts to support the University in coming out of its challenges and concerns. He assured that all the major problems of the University will be addressed in the forthcoming fortnight. Indeed, the prompt support of the hon'ble minister boosted the morale of the University fraternity.



Visiting faculty of the College Dr. Serge Savary from France invested 3 days with the students Trained students on simulation modeling

Simran Arya
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Aakarsh Nath
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



The Department of Plant Pathology of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar organized a three days training international programme on *Simulation Modelling in Plant Diseases, Epidemiology and Crop Loss*. The training programme was specifically held for the masters and PhD students, early-career scientists, and any individual engaged in active research or willing to pursue research in this field. The training programme was held from April 4-6, 2022. The experts for the training programme were Dr. Serge Savary, Director of Research, INRAE, France, who is also the visiting faculty of the college and Dr. Laetitia Willocquet, Scientists, INRAE, France. Dr. Savary visits Pantnagar on an annual basis to guide and teach the students.

The training programme had an exhaustive schedule and it introduced the participants with the basic concepts of system science and mechanistic simulation models. Detailed discussions were held on the



significance, uses and limitations of mechanistic simulation models. The application of simulation models in different contexts was also discussed with special focus towards plant disease epidemiology. Each session of the training programme had lots of hands-on exercises and work assignments. This helped the participants to have a rich learning experience.

Overall, the training programme was extremely informative and played a critical role in enhancing the research skills of the participants. The training programme was well received by the participants which was reflected by their active participation and appreciation for the experts. The Training programme concluded with distribution of Certificate of Participation to all those who successfully completed the three days training programmes.

Dr. L. Willocquet from INRAE, France delivered guest lecture for college students

Addressed the issue of climate and plant disease epidemics

Deeksha Dube
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Ayushi Bankoti
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Climate change has always been a key source of concern because of its impact on food productivity and growth. Researchers have attempted a number of steps to address this issue. Regarding the same, The Department of Agrometeorology, of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar hosted a guest lecture by Dr. Laetitia Willocquet, Scientist, INRAE, France on April 5, 2022. The guest lecture was delivered by Dr. Willocquet on the topic *Analysis of the Effect of Climate on Plant Disease Epidemics and Agricultural Losses*. Looking into the disastrous impact of climate change on food productivity and growth and the ongoing intense attempts of researchers across the world to generate some solutions, the guest lecture was thus organized to generate awareness among the college students. The guest lecture had the presence of faculty members of Department of Agrometeorology including Dr. Ajeet Singh Nain, Professor and Director Research; Dr. R.K. Singh, Professor and Head; Dr. Ravi Kiran, Associate Professor; and Dr. Rajeev Rajan, Assistant Professor.

The lecture began with an introduction to statistical and process-based approach for examining the impact of climate on disease. Dr. Willocquet then talked about the significance of the SEIR Model in defining the interaction between the host and the pathogen. Many new points were raised in discussions, such as the necessity of STELLA software, highlighting improvements in the current pandemic losses. Synthesizing available data on epidemiological processes and treating the problem with various simulation models has become vital with the advancing technology, highlighted the expert. She also emphasized on the point that creating such frameworks can aid in bridging the gap between appropriate inputs and outcomes. She went on to give more examples, including rice pest and wheat pest models. During the lecture, new modules for an online course on epidemics throughout successive seasons, as well as epidemics caused by main and secondary illnesses, were also discussed.



Concluding the session participants raised intriguing questions regarding strategic planning for preventing crop losses. Dr. Willocquet made the last remark, and the audience praised her broad expertise and engaging style of deliberation.

Soil scientists of the College addressed the farmers at Jeolikote

Event held under AICRP-MSPE; MLA Nainital graced the occasion

Priyanka Nath
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Shalini Bhojak
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



The All India Coordinated Research Project on Micro and Secondary Nutrients and Pollutant Elements in Soils and Plants (AICRP-MSPE) running in the Department of Soil Science of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar organized a farmers' talk at Jeolikote in Nainital district. The talk was organized under the 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari' campaign which is a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. The event was graced by the presence of Smt. Sarita Arya, Member of Legislative Assembly from Nainital. She was welcomed by Dr. S.P. Pachauri, PI, AICRP-MSPE, Pantnagar. While inaugurating the event, Smt. Arya appreciated the efforts of Pantnagar scientists in reaching out to farmers with emerging technologies and new seed varieties. She also emphasized that farmers must be promoted to produce the local crops of Uttarakhand and Pantnagar must take the lead in this promotional campaign.

The different scientists of AICRPP-MSPE, Pantnagar also addressed the farmers. Dr. Pachauri interacted and talked with a large gathering of local farmers about the importance of micronutrients, different symptoms of plant diseases and their management for effective farm management. Dr. A.K. Tyagi, Co-PI, AICRP-MSPE, Pantnagar also



delivered a thought provoking talk addressing the issue of biofortification, nutrient grooming and crop diversification. A relevant booklet entitled *उत्तराखण्ड में सूक्ष्म एवं गौण-पोषक तत्वों का स्तर और संतुलितता* prepared by the AICRP-MSPE team was also distributed among the farmers.

The event was attended by more than 115 farmers along with the presence of Shri Mahendra Singh Negi, President Kisan Morcha, Nainital. Closing the event, Dr. Anand Pathak, Senior Research Fellow, AICRP-MSPE, Pantnagar presented the vote of thanks to all the farmers and other stakeholders.

Students of Department of Agricultural Communication won the prestigious CEMCA Video Challenge Award

Gaurav Kabdwal
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Sparsh Jain
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



The 9th Community Radio Video Making Challenge (CRVC) was conducted by the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the theme Climate Action: Climatic Change for Sustainable Development. Two teams from Department of Agricultural Communication participated in the video challenge and both were awarded in this national contest which is organized with the primary goal of raising public awareness of community radio. The teams were given the task of creating a short film with a message and only two entries could be submitted by an institute.

The teams of Pantnagar included students of M.Sc. Agricultural Communication and Extension. The team comprising Shivani Yadav, Ishita Mishra, Minakshi Tomar, Priyanka Khurana and Aviral Bisht created a video titled 'Mumkin Hai' and received the third prize, while the other team comprising Janvi Kochar, Ashmita Chauhan, Tripti Kholia, Varun Raj, Asit Subhrajit, Ayush Dhoundiyal and Lalit Singh received the fourth place for their video titled 'Jaadu Ka Pitara'. The students of Department of Agricultural Communication continued with the tradition of winning the CEMCA video challenge as in the past years also, the students of the department have received recognition in this prestigious video challenge. It is the dedication of Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar and Professor, Department of Agricultural Communication who has been constantly nurturing students since last many years in this skill of video production and inspiring the students of his department to participate in this video challenge. The Editorial Team congratulate the winners and hopes that many such laurels will keep coming.



Students receiving the award for the video titled *Mumkin Hai*



Students receiving the award for the video titled *Jaadu ka Pitara*

Emeritus Professor of the College Dr. B.B. Singh delivers his first lecture in Dr. B.B. Singh Mini Auditorium

Nisha Rana
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Jyoti
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar organized a guest lecture of Dr. B.B. Singh, Emeritus Professor, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar and Visiting Scientist at University of Texas, USA. The guest lecture was organized on April 30, 2022 in collaboration with the World Bank funded project IDP-NAHEP which is currently running in the University. The guest lecture was a special one as it was organized in Dr. B.B. Singh Mini Auditorium and it was the first occasion when Dr. B.B. Singh himself would be delivering his first lecture in the auditorium named after him. Being the alumnus of the first batch i.e. 1960 batch of B.Sc. Agriculture and Animal Husbandary of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar, Dr. Singh has been closely associated with the college since last six decades. He has made immense contributions to the college and the University - intellectually, financially and administration wise. For the renovation of Mini Auditorium of the college, he contributed wholeheartedly and as a token of gratitude, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean,

College of Agriculture, Pantnagar and other administrative units of the college decided to dedicate the auditorium in his name.

During the guest lecture, Dr. Singh addressed the students and faculty members on the topic Origin of Universe, Evolution of Life and Emergence of Humans, Agriculture, Science and Technology. He spoke about the big bang theory, the genesis of atoms, the development of galaxies and solar systems, the evolution of life on Earth, the origin and domestication of important crops and animals, as well as next generation agriculture. He explained how the agricultural world is changing, and now there is a need to move from Green Revolution to Gene Revolution for the cause of agriculture.

The guest lecture concluded with the remarks of faculty members of the college who took the lead in organizing the guest lectures. These included Dr. Salil Tewari, Professor and Head, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding and Dr. J.P. Jaiswal, Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding. The jam-packed auditorium was a testimony of the love that college fraternity has for Dr. B.B. Singh as a person and as a scientist. Dean Kashyap was also present in the guest lecture.



Dr. B.B. Singh
Emeritus Professor
College of Agriculture, Pantnagar

Another step towards Pantvarsity going global More meetings held with Foreign Embassies for promoting International School of Agriculture

Priyanshu Dixit
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Leepakshi Deopa
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



The International School of Agriculture which is a constituent unit of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has been revived and sincere efforts are being put to promote and publicize it. Dr. R.M. Srivastava, Professor, Department of Entomology who is leading the activities of International School of Agriculture visited the Embassies of Nepal, Nigeria and Guinea in New Delhi during April 21-22, 2022. The meetings were scheduled to interact with the officials of these countries regarding the Diploma Course in Hi-Tech Agriculture which is launched by the International School of Agriculture. Launched in 2010, the International School of Agriculture is a novel concept. Currently being coordinated by Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, the International School of Agriculture aims to establish global connections and enhance foreign relations of India.

During Dr. R.M. Srivastava's second visit to the embassy of Nepal, the main point of consideration was formulation of proposed courses as per need of native farmers. The training being offered to the



Dr. R.M. Srivastava and Mr. Bhupesh Kabdwal with the embassy official of Guinea

respective participants should be perfectly relevant to the agro-climatic conditions of the respective countries. Dr. Srivastava also visited the Embassies of Nigeria and Guinea, where after an engaging and fruitful discussion the ambassadors of the countries promised to work upon the dissemination of the program. The prospects of International School of Agriculture and the challenges such as funding and networking concerns and were also discussed with the Horticulture Commissioner of India at Krishi Bhawan. The discussions were fruitful and the proceedings seem promising.

Farmers from Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar district trained as Master Trainers by college scientists

Tanishqa Lodhi
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Jiya Pathak
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



A three days Training of Master Trainers was organized by College of Agriculture, Pantnagar in collaboration with Partners in Prosperity (PnP), a Delhi based NGO working for the casue of skill development of farmers. PnP and College of Agriculture, Pantnagar have signed an MoU to work collectively for training the farmers of Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar district. These trainings will lead to skill development of farmers in emerging areas of agricultural practice, which will ultimately improve their livelihood prospects as well as their income will be enhanced.

The Training of Master Trainers took place from April 25-27, 2022 and 25 farmers from four blocks of Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts participated. The three-day agenda was jam-packed with presentations and hands-on experience via practical sessions. The training design was a mix of theory and practical classes. Initially, the theory portion was discussed by the respective scientist and later the farmers were given hands-on experience in the fields, working units and labs. The aspects covered in the training included nursery production and management, preparation, application and marketing of vermicompost, seed production technology, value addition crops (catch crops), pest and disease management, mushroom cultivation techniques and processing,



preservation and value addition in mushroom. The farmers also had an exposure visit to Garden Section, Vermicomposting Unit and Mushroom Research and Training Centre.

Shri Sanjay Kumar, a farmer from Betalghat sharing his training experience said that the training exceeded all our expectations and we feel extremely fortunate to have got an opportunity to learn from Pantnagar scientists. Dr. V.K. Rao, Professor, Horticulture; Dr. Birendra Prasad, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding; Dr. R.M. Shrivastava, Professor, Entomology; Dr. K.P.S. Kushwaha, Professor, Plant Pathology; and Dr. V.C. Dhyani, Associate Professor, Agronomy were the college scientists who trained the farmers, while Dr. B.N. Shahi, Associate Professor, Animal Genetics and Breeding of College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences also shared his valuable insights with the farmers.

54th University Athletic Meet organized: College of Agriculture outshines Subhash Bhawan and CB-I hostels emerge as champions

Vartika Gupta
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Tanvi Gupta
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



After a gap of two years induced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University Athletic Meet was finally organized by G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. This was the 54th edition of the athletic meet and was held from April 8-10, 2022. Both in terms of organization and participation, the athletic meet witnessed extreme enthusiasm and excitement.

The athletic meet gave chance to students to test their skills and compete with each other in a variety of events. A total of 60 different categories of sports were played during the athletic meet and the students took keen interest in all the events and participated with great zeal. With participation of more than 600 students from across the University and 143 students from College of Agriculture, the athletic meet was indeed a unique show of team skills and sportsmanship. The College of Agriculture had the highest medal tally with 41 medals. The sports events ranged from individual participation to group as well as hostel level participation. The



march past which is the opening sports event of the athletic meet is a hostel level event in which students and hostel wardens put utmost efforts and practice.

The students of the college also performed well in the various sports events of the athletic meet. Hence, with their immense hardwork and dedication, the two hostels of agriculture college students emerged as champions of the university athletic meet, namely Subhash Bhawan and Chitranjan Bhawan - I. Overall, the athletic meet was an inspiring and invigorating occasion for the college students.

Winners of Athletic Meet appreciated by Dean Kashyap, celebratory get-together organized

Paras Bhatt
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Simran Mourya
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



The 54th University Athletic Meet was recently organized by Physical Education Division of Dean Student Welfare, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. The students of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar performed excellently in the athletic meet and several of them grabbed the winning medals. To celebrate the effort and victory of college students, a celebratory get-together was hosted by Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. The get-together had the presence of all victorious students of the college along with the hostel wardens of agriculture college students and Dr. Brijesh Singh, Dean Student Welfare, Pantnagar University. Dr.

Rashmi Panwar (Warden, Sarojini Bhawan), Dr. S.K. Maurya (Warden, Chitranjan Bhawan - 1), Dr. Anju Pal (Warden, Subhash Bhawan) and Dr. Vineeta Rathore (Warden, Gandhi Bhawan) were present.

On this celebratory occasion, all the hostel wardens addressed the students and congratulated them for their intense endeavours. They also assured the students to provide support and structures in hostel to further their sporting skills. Each victorious student also shared his/her experience including their journey to receiving the winning medal which involved long practice hours, focus and determination. Interacting with the winners, DSW Dr. Singh said that he feels proud that Pantnagar students have a commitment to excel both in academics and co-curriculars such as sports, as for the holistic growth of students it is imperative that students involve themselves actively into one or another co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Dean Kashyap also encouraged the students for their continued efforts into sports. He further said that the victory of his students is his personal victory and he aspires to see each college of the student excelling in his/her own way. The celebration concluded with a cheerful capture of the camera.



Games, Learning and Reward: Quiz Organized by Agricultural Communication Society

Priyanka Karki
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year

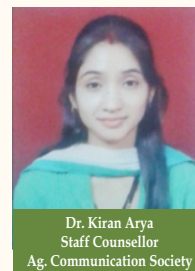


Yash Pal
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Motivating a student to comprehend can be a tough task if we force him/her to learn but the same process can become easy if learning involves fun, joy and rewardful tasks. A similar commendable step is being taken by the Agricultural Communication Society of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar by organising a quiz every second Saturday. This quiz is prepared by second year PhD students of Department of Agricultural Communication for all other Masters and Doctoral students of the department. The quiz takes place in the Educational Technology Cell which is also situated in Department of

Agricultural Communication. On April 23, 2022 the quiz competition was organized on the topic Fundamentals of Agricultural Extension and Communication. The format of the quiz encompasses diverse formats like multiple choice questions, fill ups, identification tests etc. The quiz consists of questions based on the paper pattern of national level examinations like NET, JRF and other competitive examinations. The participating students are divided into different groups and the question paper is displayed on the smartboard in the form of a presentation.



This step taken by Agricultural Communication Society is helping the students in increasing their motivation towards studies, increasing their participation in the classroom, increasing their self-esteem and improving their academic performance. Also, such initiative lead towards strengthening the academic curriculum.



Department of Agricultural Economics conducted quiz competition for PG students

Priyanka Nath
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Shalini Bhojak
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



The Department of Agricultural Economics of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar organized a quiz competition for the postgraduate students of the department. The quiz was held in the Committee Room of the department on April 28, 2022. The Staff Counsellor This event was held under the guidance of the staff counsellor Dr. Shweta Chaudhary who is also serving as Assistant Professor in the same department, while few PhD students of the took the lead in conducting the quiz namely Shefali Shrivastava, Chavan Sanket Dhondou and Neha Joshi. The quiz was organized with an objective of strengthening the academic performance of the students and instilling an

innovation based outlook in them. Also, a quiz based approach is useful in stimulating the learning interest of the students in new subject matter. The quiz was held in two phases. In the first phase, participating students had to undertake a written assessment while in the second phase, the faculty members of the department quizzed the students orally. Dr. M. L. Sharma, Professor and Head of Department; Dr. Anil Kumar, Professor; and Dr. Shweta Chaudhary, Assistant Professor nurtured the students in the second phase.



A total of 15 Masters and Doctoral students of the department participated in the quiz competition. Mr. Amit Singh Chauhan secured the first position, Mr. Shekhar Dangi secured the second position, Ms. Anjali Kanyal secured the third position and consolation prize was awarded to Mr. Bhumit Sah and Ms. Arpita Sharma. All the participants and the coordinators were provided certificates for their valuable time and efforts for making this learning endeavour an enriching one.

Cherishing togetherness, making memories, celebrating the new journey Freshers organized for Masters and PhD students of the college

Priyanka Karki
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



Yash Pal
B.Sc. Agriculture, IInd year



The College of Agriculture is currently running 12 Masters and 12 PhD programmes through 11 departments of the college. More than 245 Masters research scholars and more than 225 PhD research scholars are enrolled in different programmes. These research scholars are the true assets of the college and the college relishes the presence of newcomers each year. A few glimpses of the freshers celebration event of Department of Plant Pathology, Entomology, Horticulture and Agricultural Economics are shared with you all to cherish.



Department of Entomology



Department of Agricultural Economics



Department of Horticulture



Department of Plant Pathology



Generating a cohesive learning environment: Dean Kashyap interacting with the fresher students



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

<http://www.youtube.com/c/CollegeofAgriculturePantnagar>