



Striving for a greener tomorrow...

PJTSAU

News



In this issue

| | |
|--|----|
| From the VC's Desk | 1 |
| Workshops, Conferences, Meetings, Seminars, Exhibitions | |
| Drones find Multiple Applications in Agriculture says DDG (Agri. Engg. & NRM) | 2 |
| Workshop for Formulating a Clientele Focussed Annual Training Calendar of EEI | 2 |
| DDG (Hort.) delivers the Dr. L. Venkataratnam Memorial Lecture on "Horticulture – Perspectives and Prospects for Food and Nutritional Security in India" | 2 |
| AGRIVISION 2020 | 3 |
| Collaborations | |
| PJTSAU and Madras Institute of Technology Join Together to unlock UAV's Potential in Agriculture | 4 |
| PJTSAU inks MoU with ITMU, Gwalior for collaborative Research and Teaching Programmes | 4 |
| Capacity Building | |
| Training on Agro meteorology to Upscale use of Agro Advisories by Farmers | 5 |
| CAFT Programme on Food and Nutritional Security | 5 |
| Skill Training on Geo-informatics to Students of TISS | 5 |
| Advanced Technologies for Young Farmers - Rural Youth Agriculture Training Programme | 6 |
| Agri Media Skills for Extension Professionals for Better Dissemination of Technologies to Farmers | 6 |
| Skilling Mahbubnagar Farmers in Redgram Seed Production- SRTC initiative | 7 |
| RARS, Warangal Trains Cotton Growers for sustained Yields | 7 |
| Capacity Building and Input Distribution Programmes to beneficiaries Under ICAR SCSP | 7 |
| Equipping Farmers for Increased Productivity – PJTSAU Extension Activities in the State | 8 |
| Highlights of Union Budget-2020 – A Farmer Friendly Budget | 8 |
| Distinguished Visitors | |
| Hon'ble Governor of Telangana Envisages Agriculture as a Noble Profession | 9 |
| New APC & Secretary (Agriculture and Cooperation) pays visit to PJTSAU | 10 |
| Faculty and Students of Cornell University visit NDPIIC as part of exchange programme | 10 |
| Exploring Nano Technology for Development of Smart Fertilizers | 11 |
| Designing of Gyan Kisan App – Furthering the Technology to Farmers | 11 |
| Vice Chancellor's Participation | 11 |
| Awards & Honours | 12 |
| PJTSAU braces itself against COVID 19 - Academic, Research and Extension activities near normal | 12 |
| Institutional Activities- Show of Reverence And Responsibility | |
| National Girl Child Day | 14 |
| National Voters Day | 14 |
| Republic Day | 14 |
| Mahatma Gandhi Vardhanti | 14 |
| Soil Health Card Day | 14 |
| World Women's Day | 15 |
| Celebrations | |
| College Day Celebrations | 15 |
| Cups and Trumpets | 15 |

From the VC's Desk



March 2020 would be forever etched in our memories for the unprecedented changes it ushered in due to the outbreak of the pandemic corona virus disease COVID 19 affecting more than 200 countries across the world impacting all walks of our life. It is turning out to be more than just a health crisis pushing every country into devastating and far reaching social and economic crisis. It is in such panic driven situations, we have to act proactively and adopt all the safety measures put in place to contain the spread of the virus while exploring disruptive technologies to tide over the crisis in various sectors.

The Indian Government also announced a lock down of three weeks starting from 22nd March to combat the spread of the virus, however agriculture and allied activities were exempted from lock down to ensure food security for the masses. The University and State Dept. of Agriculture through their extension functionaries have been vigorously spreading the message to farmers on safety measures like social distancing, wearing face mask, maintaining personal hygiene by washing hands with soap and sanitization of farm implements and machinery at the time of field operations during harvest season for containment of virus spread. The farmers are weighed down by the labour shortage, lack of transport facilities and minimum or no access to markets leading to huge losses, the horticulture farmers in particular, owing to the perishable nature of their produce. These gridlocks in the sector have led to fall in price of agri products sometimes even less than the MSP thus leaving farmers in distress forcing them to leave their produce unharvested in the field itself. The Government of Telangana became the first State in the country to announce total procurement of major food grains and pulses at farmgate at MSP, directly depositing the amount in the farmer's registered bank accounts within a stipulated time. The Agricultural Extension Officers are the COVID soldiers aiding the farmers at this time risking their health and they deserve a salute.

PJTSAU also implemented the lockdown instantaneously in all its constituent centres. A COVID response team was constituted at the University and measures were taken to shut down the hostels, ensure safe return of the students to their home towns across the country, preparation of some centres as quarantine centres as per the guidelines of the State Government and sanitization of all the offices. Online teaching methods and platforms are being explored to keep up the academic calendar. Plans are in place to harvest and process all the crops in seed production and experimental plots with minimal human resource, practicing all safety measures advised for COVID 19, ensuring that season long efforts by the scientists were not lost while saving precious seed for the ensuing season. Agricultural advisories and COVID safety measures are being sent out through digital and electronic media to support the farming community in this hour of crisis. Let us all stand together - There will be light at the end of the Tunnel – Sooner or Later!!


Dr. V. Praveen Rao
Vice Chancellor

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Workshops, Conferences, Meetings, Seminars, Exhibitions

Drones find Multiple Applications in Agriculture says DDG (Agri. Engg. & NRM)

Technologies like drones should reach the farmers to make farming remunerative and attractive for youth said Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General (Agri. Engineering & Natural Resources Management), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at a workshop on "Drone based Applications in Agriculture" organized by PJTSAU on 9th January 2020 at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar. Explaining the multiple applications of drones in agriculture and as Chairman of National Committee constituted to study drone technologies in agriculture recommended placing drones at custom hiring centres for utilization in agriculture. Dr. M. K. Surappa, Vice Chancellor, Anna University emphasized on the use of advanced technologies like drones, nano and bio-technology to enhance the crop yield and agricultural productivity. Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice chancellor, PJTSAU highlighted the need of advanced technologies due to increased cropping intensity in Telangana with rise in irrigation potential and mooted for a skill training centre at PJTSAU in accordance with DGCA regulations. A

Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Anna University, Chennai for the mutual cooperation in drone technology in agricultural operations on the occasion. Scientists from Agricultural University, ICAR institutes, IIT Hyderabad, IIIT Hyderabad, NABARD, Deans and Directors of the University and drone manufacturing companies participated in the workshop.



Demo of Drone to dignitaries at University sports complex

Workshop for Formulating a Clientele Focussed Annual Training Calendar of EEI

The training areas in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries, Sericulture and Forestry were



Participants of the workshop with Director of Extension, PJTSAU

presented by the participants of clientele states in a two day regional workshop on "Training Need Assessment of Client States" held at EEI, Hyderabad on 21st and 22nd January, 2020. The workshop was organized to finalize the Annual Training Calendar of EEI for the year 2020-21 by assessing the training needs of development sectors of different States through brain storming and group discussion. As part of the workshop Dr. B. D. Tripathi, Former Director (HRD), MANAGE and Dr. S. Venku Reddy, President & Executive Director, PRDIS, Hyderabad delivered talks on "Strengthening of SAMETIs: Issues and Challenges" and "Capacity Building for Extension Professionals in Present Scenario" respectively. Twenty three delegates from Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep pertaining to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries, Sericulture, Forestry and faculty of Extension, PJTSAU participated in the programme.

DDG (Hort.) delivers the Dr. L. Venkataratnam Memorial Lecture on "Horticulture – Perspectives and Prospects for Food and Nutritional Security in India"

Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, DDG (Horticultural Science), ICAR, New Delhi delivered the first Dr. L Venkataratnam memorial lecture on "Horticulture – Perspectives and Prospects for Food and Nutritional Security in India" jointly organized by Agri-Horticultural Society, Hyderabad and PJTSAU on 24th January, 2020 at University Auditorium,

Rajendranagar. He said India is the second largest producer of horticulture crops with an annual growth rate of 2.7 % which would be sufficient to meet the food requirements of the country by 2050 with this sustained growth rate. He further emphasized that the losses incurred through pest damage and post harvest losses if curbed would enable us to

surpass the targets and stressed the need for better cold storage and food processing facilities to add value to the horti - produce. Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU in his address informed that the State was well ahead in micro irrigation in horticulture crops and moving ahead by adoption of technologies like high density planting in mango. Sri Anil V. Epur briefed the activities of Agri- Horticultural Society, Hyderabad, while Dr. K.V. Raman, Professor, Cornell University fondly reminiscenced his father's role and interest in shaping horticulture in Andhra Pradesh. Five hundred students and staff from PJTSAU, SKLTSU and members of Agri-Horticultural society participated in the programme.



Dr. Anand Kumar Singh, DDG (Horti. Science), ICAR felicitated by the hosts

A Synergy of Agri Research and Industry for Enhanced Productivity in Agriculture- AGRIVISION 2020

A second edition of AGRITECH SOUTH 2020 a biennial exhibition and an annual conference AGRIVISION was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry in collaboration with PJTSAU and Govt. of Telangana from 22nd to 24th February at PJTSAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.

Sri M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Hon'ble Vice President of India inaugurated the conference and urged that scientists and farmers should work hand in hand to make agriculture a profitable enterprise in the country. He reiterated the need of value addition of agri produce through collaboration of producers and agro-industry for a sustainable rural

Chancellor, PJTSAU, D. Raju, Chairman, CII Telangana, Dr. Peter Carberry, DG, ICRISAT, G.V. Subba Reddy, Convenor - CII Telangana, Anil Kumar V. Epur, Chairman, Agricultural panel Agritech South graced the inaugural session.

Specific sessions on Agro-technology and innovations were organized under various themes - Intelligent Agriculture: Harnessing the Power of AI and digital technologies; Robotics & Automation: Enabling Agriculture through Robotics & farm Machinery; Combating Climate Change : Cutting edge Tools and Technologies for Soil and Water management; Advances in Animal based Agriculture:



Dignitaries at PJTSAU stall in AGRITECH 2020

livelihood. He further added agriculture sector needs attention as it is livelihood of 58% of the population in the country contributing to 15% of the country's GDP. He further urged to develop varieties resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses to attain yield stability and adopt latest technologies from seed to post harvest and marketing to increase productivity and profitability of farmers. Sri Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Telangana in his address highlighted the farmer friendly measures adopted by the government to make agriculture profitable for the farmers. He further added that Rs 12000 crores were given to 57 lakh farmers in the state as input grant under Rythubandhu scheme. Md. Mahamood Ali, the Hon'ble Home Minister, Telangana, Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice



Sri M. Venkaiah Naidu addressing the participants at AGRIVISION 2020

Role of Livestock in sustainable agriculture; Advances in Horticulture: Current Trends and Emerging Challenges; Food Processing & Post-Harvest management: Their role in improving food and nutrition security; Organic Farming & Hydroponics: The way forward; Farmer Producer Organization: Role of FPOs in improving Market linkages and Success Stories and Experiences from Innovative Farmers.

AGRITECH SOUTH 2020 an exhibition on Agricultural technologies and innovations was organized with a motto to bring producers and agro industry on a single platform. The exhibition comprised of an array of diversified sectors displaying research findings, agri inputs, value added products, agro industries, hydroponics, farmer producer



Felicitation to progressive farmer at AGRIVISION 2020

organizations, financial institutes etc. Sri Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Chairman, Telangana Rythu Bandhu Samithi visited the exhibition along with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU and applauded CII and PJTSAU for organizing the



Sri Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Chairman, Telangana Rythu Bandhu Samithi at PJTSAU stall

event. AGRIVISION 2020 and AGRITECH SOUTH 2020 saw a foot fall of twelve hundred to fifteen hundred farmers from various districts of Telangana on each day.

Collaborations

PJTSAU and Madras Institute of Technology Join Together to unlock UAV's Potential in Agriculture

PJTSAU and Madras Institute of Technology, a constituent institute of Anna University, Tamil Nadu would work collaboratively to deliver advanced technologies of UAV's to the farming community in Telangana state as per the memorandum of understanding exchanged on 9th January 2020. This collaboration will enable both the institutes to take up collaborative research programmes in UAV's and its applications in addition to short term training programmes to students and faculty on use of UAV's and its applications in agriculture. Dr. M.K. Surappa, the Hon'ble Vice chancellor, Anna University, Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU and all the University officers participated on the occasion.



PJTSAU inks MoU with MIT

PJTSAU inks MoU with ITMU, Gwalior for collaborative Research and Teaching Programmes

PJTSAU and Institute of Technology and Management University (ITMU), Gwalior would collaboratively work for providing opportunity to student community and facilitate advancement of knowledge on basis of reciprocity as per



Prof. Kamal Kant Dwivedi, VC, ITMU signs MoU with PJTSAU

the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 29th January, 2020. This agreement will facilitate collaborative research projects in areas of Biotechnology, Environmental Science, Plant Sciences and Natural Resource Management, PG and Ph.D student exchange programmes for purpose of education and research and extending invitation to each other's faculty for exchange of knowledge in areas of research and teaching. MoU was signed by Prof. Kamal Kant Dwivedi, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, ITM University and Dr. S. Sudheer Kumar, Registrar, PJTSAU in presence of Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Kamal Kant Dwivedi appreciated the efforts of PJTSAU for achieving the best rank among Agricultural Universities in the country in a short span of time. All University Officers participated in the MoU ceremony.

Capacity Building

Training on Agro meteorology to Upscale use of Agro Advisories by Farmers

To sensitize the farmers on importance of weather and agro advisory services, a training programme on “Importance of weather in agriculture and Agromet advisory services” was conducted by Agro climate Research Centre, PJTSAU to farmers at KVK, Palem and DAATTC, Vikarabad on 6th January and 8th February, 2020 respectively. Dr. G. Sreenivas, Principal Scientist and Head, ACRC, Hyderabad explained the history of agromet advisory and updated its current status followed by its importance and impact on farming community in the country. Dr. K. Indudhar Reddy enlisted the practical utility of agromet advisory in their field crops and further explained the quantum of economic benefit that can be gained through adoption of these agromet advices. Dr. M. Jaganmohan Reddy, Programme coordinator, KVK, Palem, Dr. N. Praveen, Coordinator, DAATTC, Vikarabad along with their team of scientists graced the occasion at their

respective centres. Fifty one farmers at KVK, Palem and 56 farmers at DAATTC, Vikarabad actively participated in the training programme and enquired on the relevance of Agro advisory services in their respective crops.



Dr. G. Sreenivas, Principal Scientist & Head, ACRC addressing the farmers at DAATTC, Vikarabad

CAFT Programme on Food and Nutritional Security

Centre for Advanced Faculty Training in Community Science successfully conducted 21 days training programme on “Achieving food and nutritional security through nutrition sensitive agriculture in the context of changing climate” during 22nd January to 11th February, 2020 at Post Graduate and Research Centre, PJTSAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad with a vision to empower the trainees on nutrition sensitive agriculture. The training programme comprising of 49 lectures delivered by 11 resource persons from national and international institutes in Hyderabad, 10 exposure visits and 4 practical activities were successfully organized by Dr. T. V. Hymavathi and Dr. K. Aparna, Department of Foods and Nutrition.

Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor in his address in the valedictory session envisaged on the importance of networking, partnerships and team work for

better research outcomes and awarded certificates to the trainees. Dr. Sushma Kaushik, ICAR – CAFT Observer, Hissar, Haryana, Dr. D. Ratna Kumari, CAFT Director graced the valedictory session. Thirteen participants from 7 different States in the country participated in the programme.



The Hon'ble Vice chancellor interacting with participants of CAFT training

Skill Training on Geo-informatics to Students of TISS

Twenty two students of M.A (Natural Resource Governance) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad gained knowledge on RS and GIS tools at a training programme organized by PJTSAU at RS & GIS Laboratory, Water Technology Centre, Hyderabad from 29th January to 1st February, 2020.

Participants were imparted theoretical knowledge through sessions on basics of GPS and its applications in geo spatial analysis, basics of remote sensing, different earth observation satellites / platforms and different sensors, digital image processing techniques, introduction to GIS,



Dr.N.S.R Prasad, NIRD delivering a talk at the training programme

components, data structures, errors, application of remote sensing in agriculture, while practical knowledge on collecting GPS data using relevant apps in mobile phones, utility of app 'Epicollect5' for online registration of project works Digital image process techniques use of Google Earth data for geo spatial analysis were also imparted. Following the technical sessions the students gained confidence in handling their projects successfully using GPS, RS and GIS tools.

Advanced Technologies for Young Farmers - Rural Youth Agriculture Training Programme

With a view to enlighten the farmers on latest advances in agriculture and attract them towards farming a six day Rural Youth Agriculture (RYA) training programme was organized by ARS, Tornala collaborating with Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD), Hyderabad with the financial support of Aurobindho Pharma Foundation from 24th to 29th February, 2020. The training program in its endeavour to impart knowledge in Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal husbandry and Agribusiness organized classroom sessions, experiential learning programmes at ARS, Tornala farms on sprinkler/rain gun and drip irrigation and farm ponds, organic farming and seed production and five exposure visits viz. Ibrahimpur (Farm pond, rain guage and recharge shaft); Salendri (recharge shaft and successful cropping pattern) villages in Siddipet district, Center of Excellence (Flowers and Vegetables), Jeedimetla, AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery, AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems and AINP on Vertebrate Pest Management schemes at PJTSAU. Twenty one resource persons from PJTSAU, Agro industries, State fisheries and Ground Water Department, NGOs and progressive farmer(s) shared their knowledge. Ms. Hemalatha Vijayaraghavan, Director, CSFD highlighted the role of youth in food security of the nation and

Dr. M. Uma Devi, Director, WTC, Dr. T.L. Neelima, Scientist (Agronomy), WTC and Programme co-ordinator, Mr. Karthik, Computer operator, RS and GIS lab, WTC, Dr. N.S.R. Prasad, Associate Professor, NIRD, Dr. P. D. Srikanth, Principal Scientist, NAARM, Dr. J. Swaraj, Scientist, EPTRI, Dr. Bhavani Penjarla Yadav, Scientist and Mr. Ismail, Technical Officer, ICRISAT delivered lectures on various topics.

urged to encourage participation of youth in Agriculture. Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor in the valedictory session advocated the farmers to adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) based on cost-risk-returns analysis, use quality seeds of short duration varieties, adopt soil test based fertilizer recommendations, legume as intercrop, micro-irrigation methods, ICT etc. Twenty two young farmers were trained on advanced technologies in agriculture, for they will be the torchbearers of agriculture in the country.



Experiential learning on farm ponds to the trainees

Agri Media Skills for Extension Professionals for Better Dissemination of Technologies to Farmers

An ICAR sponsored training programme entitled "Agri-media Skills for Extension Professionals" was organized by Department of Agri. Extension, College of Agriculture, PJTSAU, Rajendranagar during 20th to 29th January 2020 to empower the extension professionals in Agri-media skills to be effective change agents in a digital age. Resource persons from

Osmania University, Central University, Govt. Printing press, MANAGE, NAARM, EFLU, ASCI, C-DAC, Western Sydney University, Australia and Microsoft, USA delivered talks on New farm Journalist- roles and responsibilities, Use of new social media in agriculture, Digital knowledge Agribusiness ecosystem - Rethinking agriculture in digitally connected world, Developing blogs, portals and apps, Digital Transformational approaches for agriculture useful for effective dissemination of farm information. Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice chancellor in his valedictory address urged the participants to effectively adopt these Agri-media skills in day to day work for the benefit of farmers in the country. The Hon'ble members of Board of Management, PJTSAU and University officers graced the valedictory session and awarded certificates to the 15 trainees from Telangana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamilnadu.



Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor awarding certificate to trainee

Skilling Mahbubnagar Farmers in Redgram Seed Production– SRTC initiative

With a motto to impart technical knowhow in redgram seed production, a field day and training programme were organized on 13th January and 8th March, 2020 respectively under the project entitled “Promotion of improved crop varieties in pulses/oilseeds through large scale seed production” funded by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (KISAN) and Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) by Seed Research and Technology Centre, PJTSAU at Munigonipally Village, Deverkadira Mandal, Mahbubnagar Dist. As part of the programme, seed production of redgram variety TDRG 4 (Hanuma) was recommended for wilt sick plots. The beneficiaries under the programme were able to raise a good crop under the able guidance of SRTC team and hence a field day was organized to disseminate the technology which was also appreciated by Sri Vijay Kumar, Coordinator, *Rythu Bandhu Samithi* and farmers. Later on the occasion of women's day, the women farmers – the real workers at field level were trained in post harvest management of seed with special emphasis on seed processing, storage and seed testing by delivering lectures and exposure visits to

processing plant and seed testing laboratory. Dr. T. Pradeep, Director (Seeds) in his address emphasized the need for seed production in farmers field and urged the trained group of farmers to upscale the technology on commercial basis. Dr. Avil Kumar, Associate Director of Research, STZ, Dr. Durga Rani, Principal Scientist (Oil Seeds), Dr. C. V. Sameer Kumar, Principal Scientist (Millets) and Scientists of SRTC participated in the programme.



Demonstration of seed testing procedures to women farmers

RARS, Warangal Trains Cotton Growers for sustained Yields

PJTSAU in collaboration with Cotton Development Board, GOI, Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur and Department of Agriculture organised a one day training programme under National Food Security Mission: Commercial crops-Cotton at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Warangal on 12th March, 2020 to Officials of Department of Agriculture and progressive farmers. The trainees were informed about the latest trends in cotton production technology, sanitation of ginning mills, high

density planting system in cotton, organic cotton, pest and diseases, comprehensive management of pink boll worm and wilt, micronutrient deficiencies, by scientists of RARS, Warangal. Dr. P. Jagan Mohan Rao, Associate Director of Research, RARS, Warangal, Smt. Gaikwad, Member, Cotton Development Board, CICR, Nagpur, Smt. Usha Dayal, DAO, Warangal (R & U), representative from Office of Commissioner of Agriculture, Telangana actively participated in the programme.

Capacity Building and Input Distribution Programmes to Beneficiaries Under ICAR SCSP

An ICAR Scheduled caste sub plan scheme launched by GOI with an objective of economic development of scheduled castes was successfully implemented at the constituent institutes of PJTSAU by organizing 14 capacity building, 3 exposure visits and input distribution programmes at its campuses which has benefitted around 550 farmers and 50

post graduate students. Training programmes were organized on farm mechanization, seed production, digital applications and latest interventions in agriculture and allied sciences to upscale the technical know how of the farmers which can help them in implementing in their farming for a sustained livelihood.



Input distribution to farmers at Agricultural college, Jagtial



Exposure visit of farmers to Centre of Excellence by College of Agri. Eng., Sangareddy



Hands on training on Paddy seed production at Agricultural college, Aswaraopet



Farmers provided by inputs under ICAR SCSP at RARS, Jagtial

Equipping Farmers for Increased Productivity – PJTSAU Extension Activities in the State

PJTSAU in its endeavour to reach the farmers of the state offered several training programmes and field days in various districts on advanced technologies and crop management practices. Training programme on “Management of Fall army worm in Maize and Vegetable crops cultivation” was organized on 17th January, 2020 at RARS, Warangal, “Energy efficiency and demand side management in agriculture sector” at KVK Palem on 19th February, 2020 and KVK, Adilabad on 7th March, 2020, Skill training programmes on Honey Bee rearing and Value addition of Millets were organized at KVK, Malyal from 7th to 9th January, 2020, “Agriculture Extension Service Provider” and “Quality Seed grower” at RARS, Jagtial from 18th February to 13th March, 2020, “Sericulturist” and Quality seed Grower were organized at KVK, Palem from 12th February to 7th March, 2020.

Field days were organized by various centres of PJTSAU viz. on Groundnut cultivation on 21st January, 2020 at Nallavelli village, Nagarkurnool *mandal* & district; Rabi Sunflower on 12th February, 2020 at Ibrahimpur village, Siddipet rural *mandal*, Siddipet district; Mustard Cultivation on 18th February, 2020 at Kusthapur village of Mallapur *mandal*, Jagtial district; Groundnut Mechanisation on 22nd February, 2020 at Uppununtala village, Achampet *mandal*, Nagarkurnool district; Safflower cultivation in non-traditional areas on 27th February at Tejapur, Neridigonda *mandal* of Adilabad district; Cultivation of Turmeric with raised bed method on 27th February, 2020 at KVK, Malyal; Rabi Greengram (MGG 347) on 29th February, 2020 at Tallapusalapalli, Mahabubabad.



Training programme on Honey bee rearing organized at KVK, Malyal



Field demonstration of IPM in Redgram organized by KVK, Palem

Highlights of Union Budget-2020 – A Farmer Friendly Budget

- The Government of India allocated INR 1.6 lakh crores for Agriculture, Irrigation & allied activities which is 30% higher than the revised estimates for 2019-20 and is 5% of the central government's budget.
- The allocations include Rs 75,000 crores towards PM-KISAN scheme, Rs 71,309 crores towards fertiliser subsidy, Rs 67,762 crores towards interest subsidy for

short term credit to farmers and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Rs 8363 crores towards Agricultural research and education. Hence the government with an aim to reform the sector has introduced several schemes and the current Union budget presented a 16 point action plan to improve the agriculture sector and achieve the PM's target of doubling farmers Income by 2022.

- The government in its endeavour to provide financial assistance to farmers has increased Agriculture credit target from INR 12 lakh crores to INR 15 lakh crores and PM-KISAN beneficiaries were also covered under the KCC scheme through which approx. 14 crore farmers were benefitted.
- Financing e-Negotiable warehousing receipts (e-NWR) by integration with e- National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) were also made. Further provisions like expansion of NABARD Re-finance Scheme and comprehensive measures to improve situation in 100 water-stressed districts were also proposed by the government.
- To increase the marketability of agri-products the government proposed new schemes like *Kisan Rail* – A national cold supply chain for perishables by express and freight trains with refrigerated coaches under Public private partnership by Indian railways
- **Krishi Udaan** in national and international routes to boost exports and support areas like north eastern states and tribal areas for realization of better value for farm products. A mention of one product for one district for better marketing and exports, so that horticulture will gain momentum at district level was also made.
- To encourage use of renewable sources in agriculture sector *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan* (PM KUSUM) was expanded to 20 lakh farmers for setting up stand alone solar pumps and 15 lakh farmers to get solarised grid connected pump sets. Assistance to farmers with fallow or barren land to set up solar power generation units with a provision to sell surplus power if any to solar grid was also proposed.
- Provision for better storage facilities was made in this budget through viability gap funding to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) for construction of warehouses at block/taluq level in line with Warehouse Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) norms, provide holding capacity to farmers at village level thereby reducing cost towards logistics through **Village Storage Scheme** run by SHG's through which women in villages regain the status of *Dhanya Lakshmi* and mapping & geo-tagging of potential agri-warehousing, cold storage, refer van facilities by NABARD.
- Government also focused on Zero – budget natural farming with provisions for further expansion of Integrated farming systems in rain-fed areas. Proposals to strengthen online national organic product marketing portal *Jaivik Kheti* for better marketing of organic products was also made.
- Proposal of doubling milk processing capacity to 108 million tons by 2025, increase in artificial insemination upto 70%, complete eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease, Brucellosis in cattle and Peste Des Petits ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goat by 2025 and linking of MNREGS to develop fodder farms were made for agri allied sectors. Further increasing the fish production upto 200 lakh tons by 2022-23, involvement of rural youth in fishery through 3477 *Sagarmitras* and 500 fish producing organizations and promotion of algae, sea weed and cage culture were also proposed.
- In addition government shall encourage state governments that implement three model laws to ease marketing of agricultural produce. The other provisions like **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana** for poverty alleviation of 0.5 crore households mobilized with 58 lakh SHGs, INR 4000 crores for *The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)* which implements the 'Per Drop More Crop' component to increase water efficiency through micro-irrigation and other interventions shall be continued.

Distinguished Visitors

Hon'ble Governor of Telangana Envisages Agriculture as a Noble Profession

Dr. TAMILISAI Soundararajan, the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of the University visited PJTSAU on 13th February, 2020 to understand first hand about the education, research and extension programmes at the University. After offering floral tribute to Prof. Jayashankar, she visited Rice Research Centre, ARI, Rajendranagar and interacted with the scientists. The technologies viz. mat nursery based mechanized transplanting in rice, drum seeder technology, direct seeding in rice, the varietal display were observed keenly by the the Hon'ble Governor. Later

she visited the University Knowledge Management Centre, Millets Processing and Incubation Centre, Natural Dyes Processing and Incubation Centre and Experiential Learning Units at Horticulture Garden. Finally she visited the Exhibition showcasing the University varieties and innovative technologies arranged on the occasion of her visit at the University Auditorium.

The Vice Chancellor briefly put forth the University activities and its accomplishments through a video presentation and explained the efforts put-forth by the

University in serving the farming community in the State of Telangana. The Hon'ble Governor while interacting with the students portrayed agriculture as the most noble profession in the world and students graduating in agriculture should be proud as they are the feeders of people. She urged the students to be ready to face any challenges with confidence



The Hon'ble Governor enquiring about rice varieties released by PJTSAU

and proactively improve their abilities as and when needed. On this occasion, CD's on package of practices in Redgram, drip and sprinkler irrigation and book on Varieties developed at PJTSAU were released by the Hon'ble Governor. Members of Board of Management, University Officers, faculty and students enthusiastically participated in the interactions.



PJTSAU technologies explained to the Hon'ble Governor

New APC & Secretary (Agriculture and Cooperation) pays visit to PJTSAU

Dr. B. Janardhan Reddy, APC & Secretary (Agriculture and Cooperation), Govt. of Telangana after taking charge paid a visit to PJTSAU for the first time on 14th February 2020 to apprise himself about the education, research and extension programmes carried out in the University. During his visit he visited Rice Research Centre, Millets Processing and Incubation Centre, Natural Dyes Processing and Incubation Centre, an exhibition showcasing the University Technologies and varieties at University auditorium and interacted with the scientists and applauded the Vice Chancellor for the achievements of the varsity. The ADR's of respective zones presented the cropping pattern, research and extension activities in their respective zones. Later Dr. B. Janardhan Reddy interacted with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University Officers and Principal Scientists (crops) with regard to the needs of the State and need to

work closely with the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Telangana.



Dr. B. Janardhan Reddy, APC & Secretary (Agr. and Co-op.), Govt. of Telangana interacting with scientists of PJTSAU

Faculty and Students of Cornell University visit NDPIC as part of exchange programme

Ms. Denise Nicole Green, Assistant Professor and Ms. Frances Holmes Kozen, Senior Lecturer, Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design and Ms. Erica Mehan Johns,



Demonstrating the technology of natural fibers to team of faculty and students from Cornell University

Librarian along with 13 students from College of Human Ecology, Cornell University, The University of British Columbia, Ithaca in affiliation with Cornell Sathguru Foundation for Development (CSFD) visited the Natural Dye Processing & Incubation Centre (NDPIC), PJTSAU, on 16th January 2020 as a part of their educational tour. Participants learned about natural fiber extraction process and end usage of the extracted fibers; composite materials; natural dye printing sources and thickening agents; functional finishes of fabric against microorganisms and mosquitoes and extension activities of the component for livelihood of rural women. The faculty further explained diversified usage of bast fibers like Banana, Ramie, Mesta, Corn & Sisal and the development process of Eco Paints and Eco Holi powders. The work at the centre was appreciated by the faculty and students of Cornell University.

Exploring Nano Technology for Development of Smart Fertilizers

Research on use of nano technology for development of fertilizers was the key message given by Dr. Sarma C. Mallubhotla, Consultant for Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Security, Ottawa, Canada while delivering a talk on “Development of smart fertilizers through nanotechnology opportunities and Challenges” on 28th February, 2020 at College of Agriculture, PJTSAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. He emphasized on conserving energy resources and thereby cut down the cost of production to the farmers through smart fertilizers developed by nanotechnology. He said fertilizer companies should prioritize research in nanotechnologies for development of smart fertilizers. University officers, Members, Board of Management, faculty and students attended the session. He along with Dr. B. Yerram Raju, Advisor, Govt. of Telangana had discussions with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor on opportunities for

collaborative research with PJTSAU in area of micronutrients in crops such as cotton, sorghum, groundnut and rice.



Dr. Sarma C. Mallubhotla delivering talk on Smart fertilizers

Designing of Gyan Kisan App – Furthering the Technology to Farmers



Gyan kisan app team interacting with farmers at DAATTC, Karimnagar

The development of the *Gyan Kisan* App for offering technology innovations to farmer is moving at a good pace. Prof. Dr. Athula Ginige from Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia thus visited PJTSAU to discuss the new dimensions to be incorporated in the app. He also briefed the work done so far along with two of our scientists who were deputed for 3 months to WSU. He urged the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor to give his valuable suggestions for taking this App forward. Prof. Dr. Athula Ginige along with Director of Extension, Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Coordinator, Electronic Wing and team from River bridge Ventures interacted with 100 farmers utilising Gyan Kisan mobile app selected by DAATTC, Karimnagar and KVK, Wyra to get a feed back on functioning of the App so as to further formulate the action plan.

Vice Chancellor's Participation

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor participated in several events, a few important ones are

- 5th National Youth Convention on “Next Generation Agri Innovation: Challenges and Opportunities for sustainable employment generation in Agri and allied sectors” at IGKV, Raipur organized by IGKV and ICAR during 20th and 21st January, 2020.
- Steering Committee Meeting of AGRIVISION 2020 at CII, Begumpet, Hyderabad on 21st January, 2020.
- 14th NICRA Expert Committee Meeting on 24th January, 2020 at CRIDA, Hyderabad.
- As a panelist in the Panel Discussion on “Balance Natural Resource Management with Digital Support” at Digital Ag India Conference 2020 held at Hotel Park Hayatt, Begumpet, Hyderabad on 4th February, 2020.
- National Seminar on “Technological Innovations in Oilseed Crops for Enhanced Productivity, Profitability and Nutritional Security” (NOS 2020) at IIOR, Hyderabad from 7th to 8th February 2020 and delivered a keynote lecture on “Enhancing water productivity in oilseeds based production systems” on 7th February 2020.
- Chaired the session on “Success Stories and Experiences of Innovative Farmers” at the AGRIVISION 2020 conference on Agri-technology and Innovation on 23rd February, 2020 at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar. PJTSAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.

Awards & Honours

- The PJTSAU was conferred All India Agricultural Students Association's (AIASA) "Institution of Excellence Award" for outstanding contributions in the development of infrastructure, research output and extension services in Agriculture and allied sciences for the benefit of agriculture fraternity in the country during the 5th National Youth Convention on "Next Generation Agri Innovation: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Employment Generation in Agri and allied sectors" at IGKV, Raipur jointly organized by IGKV and ICAR on 20th and 21st January 2020.
- Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU was selected for the 7th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award constituted by Retired ICAR Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL) for the period 2017-19 recognizing his contributions in the fields of agricultural research, teaching, extension and administration. The award will be presented in June 2020.
- Dr. K. Srinivas Kumar, Associate Dean, CAE, Kandi, Sangareddy received ISAE - National Fellow recognition at 54th Annual Convention and International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence based future technologies in Agriculture' held at Pune on 7th to 9th January, 2020.
- Twenty three teaching staff of PJTSAU has been admitted as Fellow of Indian Society of Oilseeds Research for their outstanding contribution in the field of Oilseeds Research and Development in India at National Seminar on "Technological Innovations in Oilseed Crops for Enhanced Productivity, Profitability and Nutritional Security" (NOS 2020) at IIOR, Hyderabad from 7th to 8th February 2020.
- Dr. M. A. Aariff Khan, Programme Coordinator & Head, T. Himabindu, SMS (Horticulture), Dr. T. Bharath, SMS (Crop Production) and S. Pallavi, SMS (Extension) received Best Performance Awards and Appreciation Certificates from Sri V. Chandrashekhara, District Collector, Nalgonda for their outstanding contribution for the welfare of farming community of Nalgonda District on the occasion of Republic day.
- Dr. B. Satish Chandra, Scientist (Plant Breeding), Regional Agricultural Research Station, Warangal received the Certificate of Appreciation for the services rendered to the farming community at Warangal Urban district during 2019 from Sri Prashanth Jeevan Patil, District Collector, Warangal on the occasion of Republic day.
- Dr. S. Srinivasa Rao, Scientist (Agro.) received 'National Integration Award' from Healthcare International Organization, Hyderabad on the occasion of Republic day for agricultural services in Khammam district in a programme held at Sundaraiyah bhavan, Hyderabad.
- K. Laxmi Prasanna, B.Sc (Ag) student of Agricultural College, Jagtial secured two bronze medals in Wako India open international kick boxing tournament held at Taalkator stadium, New Delhi from 9th to 13th February.



The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor receiving the "Institution of Excellence Award"



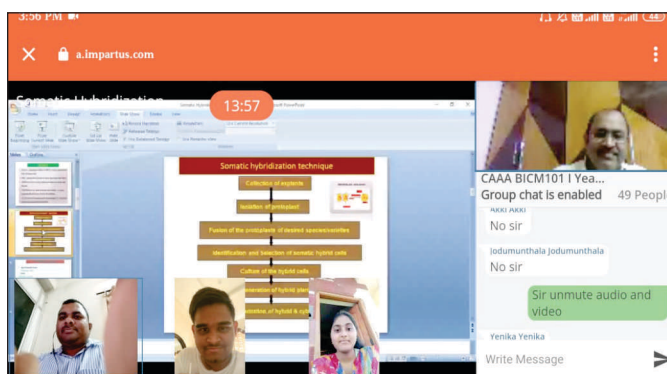
Ms. K Laxmi Prasanna with Hon'ble Vice Chancellor after securing two bronze medals in Wako India open international kick boxing tournament.

PJTSAU braces itself against COVID 19 - Academic, Research and Extension activities near normal

As the entire world grappled with the onslaught of COVID 19, PJTSAU implemented lockdown in the University from 23rd March, 2020 in accordance with the instructions of Govt. of Telangana to curb the spread of the pandemic. A COVID Response team consisting of all the University

Officers, ADRs and ADs under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor drew up an action plan to implement several measures to ensure minimal disruption to academic, research and extension activities of the University. All the examinations including some pending

ones were completed by 19th March, 2020. All the students were sent home ensuring that they reached their destinations safely. Teaching shifted to the online platform at short notice and instructional material as ready reference and assignments were delivered through Whats App groups with immediate effect. Teachers put in extra effort to deliver digital classes and seminars of students were conducted through Zoom conferencing and TCS ION Apps. NSS volunteers of the varsity organized awareness programmes about the measures to be adopted to fight against COVID – 19 in their constituent colleges before lock down and from home by uploading several messages and videos in the you-tube for advising the farmers and general public.



Digital classes for students



Students of Agricultural college, Palem creating awareness on COVID 19 through you tube

The research activities and seed production at the research stations were continued with essential staff , following social distancing, wearing essential PPE and providing sanitizers to the farm labour. The information on research progress was monitored regularly through messages, telephone calls, whatsapp and emails.

Timely weather and crop advisories were delivered by the extension units through IIDS-AKPS, Whatsapp, Text messages serving the farming community in this crisis period. Further awareness on personal hygiene and social distance were also advised to farmers through M-kisan portal, AKPS and whatsapp groups. KVK Adilabad



Farm operations at RARS Jagtial following social distance

Farmers using Multipurpose flour mill distributed under TSP at their location itself

established 14 multipurpose flour mills (Processing units of Wet and Dry Grinding) at 14 remote tribal hamlets in Adilabad district under TSP which had helped 5000+ tribal household members to process their farm produce at their hamlets itself during this lock down period.

All the constituent institutes of the varsity were cleaned and sanitized regularly by engaging minimum



Sanitization of classrooms and offices at PJTSAU

required labour. The students and staff downloaded AROGYA SETU app and also advised the farming community to install the AROGYA SETU app. The faculty was encouraged to utilize the forced holiday in productive professional activities such as subscribing to national and international professional societies and journals, writing articles and submitting project proposals. The teaching and non-teaching staff was deputed to duty as and when required for smooth functioning by following all the prescribed guidelines.

Institutional Activities - Show of Reverance and Responsibility

National Girl Child Day

PJTSAU celebrated the "Girl child day" on 24th January, 2020 with the theme "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" to bring attitudinal changes among students in favour of girl child. The various events like talks, poster presentation, singing etc. were organized at all the constituent colleges to depict their deep concerns towards importance of this day. The Associate Deans, NSS officers, faculty and students made the event an enlightening and successful one at their concerned colleges.



A rally organized on the occasion of National Girl Child day at CFST, Rudrur

National Voters Day

PJTSAU celebrated National Voters Day on 25th January, 2020 at its head quarters and all constituent institutes by administering voters day pledge, "As a citizen of India to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language of any inducement" to staff and students. In addition rallies were also organized with placards and slogans highlighting the importance of exercising the vote.



Administering Voter's day pledge at Agricultural College, Warangal

Republic Day

The 71st Republic day celebration was organized at University sports complex on 26th January, 2020. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor after paying floral tributes to freedom fighters hoisted the National Flag. This was

accompanied by the rendition of National Anthem led by the staff and students. The hon'ble Vice chancellor in his address briefed about the sacrifices of the freedom fighters for bringing freedom to the nation and also emphasized on the goals to be achieved by the University with the concerted efforts of the staff. All the constituent institutes of the University celebrated the Republic day with great patriotism.



Salutation to the National flag by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, staff and students

Mahatma Gandhi Vardhanti

In view of 72nd Mahatma Gandhi Vardhanti, the Registrar, PJTSAU paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and along with teaching and non-teaching staff observed two minutes silence on 30th January, 2020 at Administrative building, Rajendranagar. All the constituent institutes took part in 72nd Mahatma Gandhi Vardhanti by observing two minutes silence.



Team PJTSAU paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

Soil Health Card Day

The constituent institutes of PJTSAU organized farmer scientist interaction meeting at their institutes and adopted villages on the occasion of soil health card day celebrations from 17th to 19th February 2020. The scientists created awareness on soil health, and usage of fertilizers based on soil health and preparation of soil fertility maps for the village. They further emphasized on use of bio-fertilizers and advised farmers to adopt integrated nutrient management practices. Soil health cards were distributed to the farmers of the village and explained how to interpret soil test values for fertilizer application to save input cost on fertilizers.



ADR, RARS, Warangal addressing on the occasion of soil health card day celebrations

World Women's Day

World Women's Day celebrations were held at Administrative Office, PJTSAU on 7th March, 2020. Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU speaking on the occasion said PJTSAU is committed to giving equal opportunities for the women employees in all aspects. Smt. Tripurambha, Secretary, Association for Lady Entrepreneurs of India, Hyderabad, the Chief Guest, shared



Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor interacting with women staff of PJTSAU

Celebrations

College Day Celebrations

The fourth college day of Agricultural College, Warangal -Agventure-2020 was celebrated on 13th March, 2020 with great enthusiasm. Dr. P. Hari Krishna, Associate Dean-Research and Consultancy, Faculty Advisor-Centre for Value Education, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Warangal and the chief guest in his address said students should prioritize personal life, professional life, family life, social life and spiritual life. The dignitaries released a digital copy of College Magazine, "DHATHRI-2020" followed by prize



Lighting of lamp by chief guest at Agricultural college, Warangal

distribution to winners of events organized on the occasion of college day.

The third college day of Agricultural College, Palem was celebrated in grandeur on 26th February, 2020. Sri Chintala Venkat Reddy, a Padmashri recipient innovative farmer, Dr. D. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Dean of Student Affairs, and Director of Extension (i/c), graced the occasion. Padmashri Chintala Venkat Reddy the chief guest encouraged the students to develop rational thinking. Dr. D. Vishnuvardhan Reddy advised students to set career goals and strive hard to reach them.



Release of College magazine at Agricultural college, Palem

Cups and Trumpets

Inter Collegiate Sports, Games, Cultural and Literary meet for constituent colleges of the varsity was held from 20th to 24th January, 2020 at Sports complex, Rajendranagar;

Hyderabad. Five hundred forty (540) students comprising boys and girls of the constituent colleges have actively participated in sports, net, Indoor and outdoor games,

cultural and literary events. The overall championship in sports and games for boys and cultural and literary events was bagged by College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar and for girls by Agricultural College, Jagtial. The athletics championship in boys was bagged by G. Ashok Kumar from Agricultural College, Jagtial and in girls by Meher Maniza from College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar.



The winning team with trophy at Inter collegiate sports meet



Students on parade at the opening ceremony of Inter collegiate sports meet



Pigeons were flown by the University officers and the Inter collegiate sports meet was declared open



Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor addressing the participants at Inter zonal sports meet of non-teaching staff



Opening parade of Inter zonal sports meet of non-teaching staff



The dignitaries released the balloons into the sky at inaugural session of Inter zonal sports meet of non teaching staff

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