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From the VC's Desk



Soil is a key entity of life on earth as truly depicted in the Vedas "upon handful of soil our survival depends" which depicts the importance of soil since ages. The United Nations with a vision to improve the soil health status of the planet earth has declared December 5th as "World Soil Day" in the year 2014 and from then on all the countries are celebrating the day by enlightening the people on importance of soil quality and the need for its conservation. Our thrust to attain self sufficiency in food grains has led to over exploitation of soil resources putting our health under question. ISRO

reported that 36.7% of total arable and non-arable land in our country is suffering from degradation due to various associated reasons like removal of natural vegetation leading to soil erosion, intensive cultivation, excess use of chemical fertilizers, meager usage of organic manures combined with burning of crop residues affecting the physical, chemical and biological entities of the soil. Soil health fatigue in the country is not only reducing the nutrient and water use efficiency leading to stagnation in productivity but also creating a net annual deficit of 10 m tones of nutrients added and extracted from soil.

A strategic management of soil health through reclamation of its physical, chemical and biological entities is very much essential to combat the problem of soil degradation. Adoption of conservation agriculture, integrated farming systems to enhance the soil quality, reclamation of problematic soils, soil test based INM, crop diversification and use of various organic amendments along with biofertilizers like rhizobia, blue green algae, PSB etc to enrich the soil with biological entities are few recommendations in the direction of sustainable intensification of agriculture.

The GoI interventions to enrich the soil health that are worth mentioning include introduction of neem coated urea, distribution of soil health cards to each farmer through Soil Health Mission (SHM) to promote balanced and integrated nutrient management, promotion of organic farming through launch of *Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana* (PKVY) and national guidelines for proper recycling of crop residues. PJTSAU in its mission to safeguard the soil health status in the state has compiled and published soil fertility status maps for all the districts in the state for the first time in the country which would serve as a ready reckoner in integrated nutrient management for farmers in the state. Let us hope our mission to restore planetary health for healthy living of generations to come is achieved.

Dr. V. Praveen Rao
Vice Chancellor

New Initiatives

AgHub Foundation - PJTSAU's Mission to Promote Agritech Start-ups in Agriculture

PJTSAU's mission to catalyse innovative Agritech start-ups came true with the launch of Agritech Innovation Pilots (AIPs) on 5th December 2020 in the presence of Sri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary, ITE & C Department, Govt. of Telangana and Dr. V. Praveen Rao, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU, and other dignitaries. The main focus is to promote, facilitate and pilot Agritech start-ups in Agriculture & allied sectors through piloting, mentoring, networking and funding. Through AIP, the AgHub would facilitate hands on access to offer traction in B-G (Business to Govt. of Telangana), B-B (Business to Business) and B-C (Business to Customers) or B-F (Business to Farmer / FPOs) interface. This programme was initiated with 12 start-ups with different themes mainly focusing on crops Rice, Cotton, Chilli, Maize, Groundnut, Pigeonpea and Chickpea. AgHub is primarily driven by ideation, grants and incubation of Agritech startups. It is trying to use technology to make better

decisions for the farmers in terms of understanding soil mix, water requirement and inputs besides getting better prices and bringing efficiency in the process. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor reiterated the importance of Agristart-ups in doubling farmers income and in making agriculture remunerative and profitable.

An MoU was signed with 12 Agri pilot projects namely Thanos, X-machines, Transity, Marut Drones, E fresh, Satyukt, Krishi Tantra, Soil Sens, Amvicube, Trace X, Super GRT and Whrill with an objective to design and deploy solutions in the areas of plant protection, irrigation management, weed management, supply chain management, nutrient management and post-harvest traceability for implementation in selected districts of the state in collaboration with KVK's & Research stations of PJTSAU.



Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and University officials with representatives of Agri start-up units



University Officials interacting with the participant online

Telangana Farmers to Sign up on Social media for Agro advisories

The University has once again moved ahead in adopting IoT in transfer of technology to the farmers of the state by launch of social media platforms of PJTSAU i.e Facebook, Twitter and YouTube promo by Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice chancellor on 23rd December, 2020 with an intention to address the seasonal crop problems with real time agro advisories. With this the scientific fraternity of the varsity will be available to the farmers of the state to provide need based agro advisories at their door steps. The Electronic wing of the Extension division will facilitate to update the information on these platforms.



Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor launching the social media platforms of PJTSAU

PJTSAU Seed Lab Notified as State Seed Laboratory

Agriculture & Co-operation Department, Government of Telangana has notified the "Seed Testing Laboratory, Department of Seed Science & Technology, Seed Research & Technology Centre, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad", as the State Seed Laboratory vide G.O. Ms. No. 42 of APC and Secretary to Govt., dated: 01-10-2020. The lab will now carry out seed quality analysis of seeds of notified kind and varieties and service seed samples.





Germination and Moisture analysis at Notified State Seed Testing laboratory, SRTC

Farm Mechanization Initiatives in Research Plots

PJTSAU in its endeavor to make agriculture a profitable enterprise initiated farm mechanization in the college farm at Rajendranagar campus where PG and Ph.D research is carried out extensively. Farm machinery like brush cutter, battery operated sprayer, 15Hp tractor mounted rotavator, 45 Hp tractor mounted shrub master, 15 Hp mounted mobile jet sprayer, rice transplanter and combine harvestor etc., were made available for bund

cleaning, paddy transplanting & harvesting, spraying, intercultivation operations in the field which has not only reduced the cost of cultivation drastically but also were found to be time saving, fast, safe, drudgery free and efficient. Several PG and Ph.D students availed these facilities during *rabi* 2020-21 for maintaining their field bunds, bird scaring, harvesting of paddy experimental plots and shredding of cotton stubbles



Shredding of cotton stubbles by shredder



Harvesting of paddy research plots with combine harvester

AINVPM Documents Flora and Fauna in the State

AINVPM division of PJTSAU was allotted a project to document the biodiversity in the proposed urban parks in six districts of the state and in compensatory areas of Kaleshwaram lift irrigation projects during January 2020 with an outlay budget of 103.85 and 71.04 lakhs respectively. During the field surveys in 54 urban parks during February 2020 to January 2021, 547 plant species were identified of which 476 spp. belonged to Magnoliophyta family dominated mostly by herbs, while 213 spp of fauna constituting 18 spp of mammals, 122 spp

of aves, 21 spp of Herpetofauna and 52 spp of insects. A total of 68 carbon stock estimation quadrants and 61 Line transects were laid for faunal inventory.

In kaleshwaram compensatory areas surveyed during February 2020 to January 2021, a total of 331 flora spp were identified mostly dominated by herbs (137 spp.) followed by trees (68 spp.), shrubs (49 spp.), climbers (43 spp.), grasses (31 spp.) and palms (3 spp). The fauna constituted 203 animals consisting of 21 spp. of mammals,

104 spp.of aves, 17 spp. of herpetofauna and 61 spp. of invertebrates. A total of 44 carbon stock estimation



quadrants of 0.1 ha each and 42 Line transects were laid for faunal inventory.



Faunal Diversity in proposed Urban Parks and Kaleshwaram CA



Ventilago denticulata 16.988020-N 78.56009-E; Kurmidds



Lavandula bipinnata 17.150499-N 78.172969-E; Mamidipally



Thelepogon elegans 17.371055-N, 78.185549-E; Medipally



Helicteres isora 17.670021-N, 78.552240-E; Yadaram-Ravalkole



Tweminalia bellirica 17.715256-N, 78.634286-E; Narsampally



Sanpindus emarginatus 17.201913-N, 78.808243-E; Dandumailaram

Floral Diversity of Urban Conservation Blocks

AI4AI Project Initiatives during Vanakalam 2020

In response to a collaborative agreement of PJTSAU with IT&C Ministry (Government of Telangana), World Economic Forum and Department of Agriculture (Government of Telangana) for Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture Innovation (AI4AI) Project in the state, initiatives took shape by inviting proposals from various startups and technology innovators in agri-chain. Among the 87 proposals received, two start-ups (Satsure and Cropin) were selected for pilot studies during rainy season 2020 to design and deploy solutions implementable in identified districts of the state which would be further used to develop a plethora of use cases to then carry out across the country.

The Startups initiated activities in four districts and four crops, selected based on the agro-climatic conditions, natural resources and mandate of Government of Telangana. The deliverables of the project for rainy season

include tillage estimates, sowing prediction, sowing estimates, crop health estimates (for important biotic and abiotc stresses affecting the crop), harvest prediction, harvest estimates in cotton crop at Nagarkurnool district and rice at Nizamabad and Karimnagar districts by Satsure and sowing estimates, crop health monitoring, harvest prediction and harvest estimates in chilli at Khammam and Soybean at Nizamabad districts by Cropin. Agricultural Research Station, Karimnagar, DAATTC, Karimnagar; RS&RRS, Rudrur, KVK, Palem and DAATTC, Nizamabad were actively involved in validation of the data products provided by the startups and also in providing ground truth for assessment of data accuracy. The project will continue in the ensuing rabi season in crops maize and groundnut at Karimnagar and Nagarkurnool districts respectively by Satsure and in Chickpea and rice at Adilabad and Warangal districts respectively by Cropin.

Promising Technologies

IOT based Bioacoustic gadget and Agri cannon to reduce wild boar and monkey menace in agricultural crops

Bioacoustics (Kethi Rakshak): Wild boar a widely distributed mammal has become a major pest in agriculture with the extent of damage ranging from 70-90% during sowing and 5-50% during seed formation in different crops. Bioacoustics a new technology to ward off the wild boars is developed in India by AINP on Vertebrate Pest Management, PJTS Agricultural University, Hyderabad under ICAR using only natural sounds of predators, distress and alarm calls of target and closely related species of target animals. These calls are broadcasted in a field by using an electronic platform with sound drives, which conveys the message 'this area is dangerous' to the target animals in their own language. On hearing the sounds, the target animals start avoiding the area, thus saving the crop from being damaged. The sounds are natural and safe on humans, birds and animals.



Use of Agri-Cannon by farmer at Eluguru Village, Warangal Rural District

The equipment produces fixed volume of 110dB at source covering an area of 10-15 acres when ambient noise level is around 42 dB. At 37 dB of ambient noise, the equipment can cover up to 19 acres. The equipment should be ideally installed when the animal damage is beginning. Bioacoustics is 92% effective in dispersing wild boar from the cropped area. Currently the equipment is installed at 183 locations in the state for testing and proved 70 - 85% effective in controlling wild boar entry into the cropped area. The added benefits in the equipment include randomization of call sequence, GSM & GPRS connectivity, Operation through AC & Solar power, maximum battery life up to 24 hrs per day & minimum 12 hrs per day and Operates using normal and smart mobile phones.

Agri Canon (For scaring Monkeys and Birds): In recent times, monkeys have become a major pest in agricultural production with an extent of damage between 30 – 70 % in field and horticultural crops. To mitigate this problem All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has conducted several studies and developed a cost effective method i.e Agri-Cannon (Monkey scarer gun) a promising technology for scaring monkeys from the crop fields.

Agri-Cannon is a mechanical device made of MS steel with cadmium plating and uses calcium carbide granules, gas lighter and few water drops with carbide and produces huge sound which helps in deterring monkeys from crop fields.

This equipment is demonstrated at several locations in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and other states and proved to be effective.

In the state of Telangana, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Govt. of Telangana has included 50% subsidy scheme under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for supply of Kethi Rakshak and Agri Cannon through PJTSAU University, during the financial year 2019-20, 2020-21 across all districts of Telangana in different crops. The IoT based bioacoustics and Agri cannon were submitted for provisional patent. For manufacturing and upscaling the technology PJTSAU, Hyderabad identified and technically collaborated with M/s Gamyam Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad as a sole manufacturer of these gadgets.



Bioacoustic equipment installed at Dharmaram Village, Medak District

Workshops, Conferences, Meetings, Seminars, Exhibitions

University Extension Team Gear Up for Challenges in Field Extension

PJTSAU for the first time embarked on an initiative to have a look at how digital tools and technologies could be used to help overcome the present challenges the field extension in agriculture is facing in this digital era of communication and documentation with the introduction of the app "Field Trial Management System (FTMS)" which would be successful in giving due recognition to the scientists of KVK's and DAATTC's excelling in the field work.

The application was developed to facilitate data recording and analysis of extension field trials in real time. At a meeting organized by Director of Extension for the application of App to the scientists of KVKs and DAATTC's on 19th October 2020, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor emphasized the importance of FTMS application and expressed the view that FTMS app will help in elevating the scientists professionalism.



FTMS App



KVK Scientist explaining the applications of the App

The 13th Academic Council Meet – Facilitating Agripreneurship Programmes for Students

The 13th Academic Council meeting was held online on 15th December 2020 at University Head Quarters, Rajendranagar under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. The council approved institution of two endowment cash prizes in the name of Prof. E.A Siddiq for best thesis in the fields of Agro-biosciences and NRM & Social sciences. The council further approved to relax academic rules in view of COVID 19, initiate plagiarism check for thesis evaluation at the varsity, introduce Design thinking course for Agripreneurship as a module in AELP and an elective certificate programme for PG students.



The 13th Academic Council Meet held online on 15th December, 2020

Spotlight on Farm Mechanization - Farmers of Nizamabad Trained

Agriculture and Rural Technology Mela was organized at Regional Sugarcane and Rice Research Station,

Rudrur, Nizamabad in collaboration with Department of Agriculture on 30th December, 2020 to popularize technological interventions among the farming community in the district. Field demonstrations on mechanization in paddy and sugarcane were organized along with an

exhibition on latest interventions in agriculture and a farmer scientist interaction. Sri C. Narayana Reddy garu, I.A.S., Hon'ble District Collector & Magistrate, Nizamabad and the chief guest evinced keen interest in the equipment and had hands on experience of transplanter and created trust in the visiting farmers about the efficacy and ease of handling of the equipment.





Demonstration of mechanized transplanting in paddy and sugarcane

Counseling for Admission to Various Courses at PJTSAU

The Counseling for admission into Postgraduate and Doctoral programmes in Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering and Community Science for the academic year 2020-21 was conducted on 2nd and 3rd December 2020 at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar in which 133 and 37 candidates were admitted into various PG and Ph.D programmes respectively. In addition 28 and 11 PG and Ph.D students were allotted to PJTSAU under ICAR quota.

The counseling for undergraduate programmes were held during the months of November and December,

2020 with 64 candidates joining in B.Sc.(Hons) Community Science, 18 into B.Tech (Ag. Engg.), 13 into B.Tech. (Food Technology), while 764 candidates were admitted during combined counseling for admission to B.Sc.(Hons) Agriculture/ B.Sc.(Hort.) / B.V.Sc. in PJTSAU, SKLTSHU and PVNRTVU.

The counseling for admission into diploma courses for the academic year 2020-21 was completed on 21st November 2020 and a total of 235 candidates were admitted into various diploma programmes.





Dr. S. Sudheer Kumar, Registrar handing over the admit card for UG and PG admission to a student

UK-India Agri Innovation Programme

UK – India Agri Innovation Programme was initiated with an objective to build partnership between UK and India to deliver a tangible impact on climate resilience, plant productivity and reduction in agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions wherein agricultural policy makers, researchers and incubators from three states i.e Maharashtra, Telangana and Tamilnadu will have an opportunity to visit leading institutes in UK and interact with them. PJTSAU represented by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Director of Research and Managing Director, AgHUB, PJTSAU participated in the inaugural and important theme

sessions in UK – India Agri Innovation Programme during 1st to 4th December 2020. The sessions included Climate Resilient Crops, Soil health and water management, Sensors and Remote Sensing and Digital agriculture, Horticulture, Agro- meteorology, Farm Mechanization, Geo-informatics, Nano technologies, Integrated Farming Systems, Processing and Value Addition, Market Resilience and Value Chains. The university has also nominated 18 multidisciplinary faculty comprising of Agronomy, Soil Science and Agril. Economics to participate, interact and build research partnerships in the above virtual meet.

Launching of Drone Validation Project in Cotton at Warangal

PJTSAU working in line with the state government's strategy with special focus on IoT based agriculture has launched a programme on "Evaluation and standardization of plant protection solutions in cotton using drones" at Krishna Nagar, Sangem mandal of Warangal Rural on 6th October

2020. Smt. Usha Dayal, District Agricultural Officer, Warangal (Urban & Rural), Dr. R. Jagadeeshwar, Director of Research, Dr. P. Jagan Mohan Rao, Associate Director of Research, RARS, Warangal, and team of scientists from PJTSAU involved in drone validation participated in the programme.





Dr. R. Jagadeeshwar, Director of Research observing the performance of Drone along with RARS, Warangal team

Faculty Participation in International Conferences

- Dr. T. V. Hymavathi, Professor and University Head, Department of Foods and Nutrition, attended an International Technical Webinar on Sustainable Food Value Chains for Nutrition organized by the FAO eLearning Academy, Agreenium (Institute agronomique, vétérinaire et forestier de France) and UN-ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) on 16th September, 2020.
- Dr. K. B. Suneetha Devi, Professor, Dept. of Agronomy, Agricultural College, Jagtial presented two research papers entitled "Optimization of water requirement of quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa* wild.) in drip and surface method of irrigation using FAO aquacrop

mode" and "Productivity and water use efficiency of *Bt* cotton as influenced by different land configurations and integrated nutrient management practices" and Dr. A. Srijan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Agricultural College, Warangal presented a research paper entitled "Morphological and molecular approaches in identification of fertility restorers among aerobic lines of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.)" at the international virtual seminar and annual meetings titled "Translating visionary science into practice organized by American Society of Agronomy & CSSA & SSS of America at Madison, Wisconsin, USA from 9th to 13th November 2020.

Collaborations

Telangana Sona Finds its Way to the Middle East

Telangana Sona, a low glycemic index rice variety of PJTSAU ultimately marketed as diabetic rice using PJTSAU brand as per the MoU signed on 3rd November 2020. The MoU will facilitate marketing and sale of Telangana Sona Rice (RNR 15408) to the consumers through network of marketing facility of BEFACH 4X Private Limited. The MoU was signed between Mr. Rajesh Saraf, Director of BEFACH 4X Pvt Ltd and Dr. S. Sudheer Kumar, Registrar, PJTSAU in the presence of Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Dr. R. Jagadeeshwar, Director of Research, PJTSAU.



PJTSAU signs MoU with BEFACH 4X Pvt Ltd

PJTSAU and SBI Partnership Promises Commodity Market Intelligence to the Farmers of the State

PJTSAU and State Bank of India (SBI), Hyderabad Circle signed MoU to collaboratively work to develop commodity market outlook for selected commodities at state level on 18th December 2020. This collaboration will enable to provide price forecasts before sowing and during harvest of important crops, commodity market research reports, information about high price markets to producers and information on commodity intelligence to all stakeholders including policy makers. Sri Krishan Sharma, General Manager (FI&MM), SBI, Hyderabad, Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU and all the University officers participated in the programme.



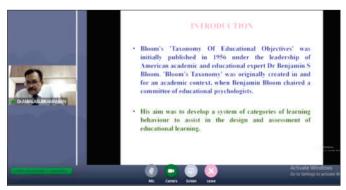
Sri Krishan Sharma, General Manager (FI&MM), SBI signs MoU with PJTSAU

Capacity Building

Webinar on Blooms Taxonomy to Deliver Quality Education

The motto of promoting higher forms of thinking in education was fulfilled by the webinar on "Blooms Taxonomy of Educational Objectives and its Relevance to the Present Context" held on 19th November, 2020 by the Department of Agricultural Extension, College of Agriculture, Rajendrangar. Dr. M. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Professor and Head, and Coordinator of the Webinar gave brief illustration on the need for organizing the Webinar.

The guest speaker Dr. N. Balasubramanian, Former Professor and Head, Department of Education, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu explained Blooms Taxonomy of Educational Objectives, its relevance to the present context, the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains of learning with emphasis on the relevance of the Blooms taxonomy in the contemporary scenario of draft National Education Policy-2019. Dr. V. Anitha, Dean of Post Graduate Studies, PJTSAU in her remarks emphasized the need for proper understanding of educational objectives and diverse levels of thinking of the students to promote



Dr.N.Balasubramanian, Guest Speaker delivering the Webinar

quality delivery of the content. Dr. I. Sreenivasa Rao, Professor and University Head (Agril. Extension), PJTSAU emphasized the need for comprehending the Blooms taxonomy and revised Blooms taxonomy for quality education. Forty five participants including faculty, extension scientists, research scholars and students of the University were part of the Webinar.

Distinguished Visitors

Gujarat Team Visits PJTSAU for Possible Collaboration

An Official team from Gujarat led by Mr. Anju Sharma, Principal Secretary (Education) visited PJTSAU on 24th December, 2020 to ponder on the teaching, research and extension activities. Dr. V. Praveen Rao, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor briefed the activities at the varsity and informed that a comprehensive study on the food consumption patterns, district wise soil fertility maps, land, cropping patterns, yield and production in the state was carried out. The team visited the Rice Research Centre and witnessed the demo of drones. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor informed that PJTSAU in collaboration with IT Dept., Govt. of Telangana has initiated work on use of drones in areas of pesticide spraying, fertiliser application on mandate crops. M. Nagarajan, Director of Higher Education, Dr. Himanshu Pandya, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University

along with their team interacted with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Director of Research, PJTSAU and invited PJTSAU to work collaboratively.

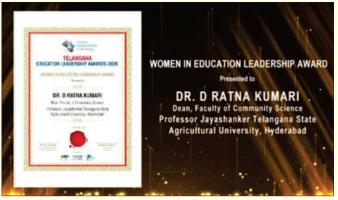


The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor explaining research activities of PJTSAU to the visitors from Gujarat

Awards & Honours

 The AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, Rajendranagar centre was bestowed with Best Centre award under the on-station main centre category in the sixth biennial workshop organized, virtually by ICAR – Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram from 15th to 18th December 2020. The award was given to the centre for their best performance out of 25 centres at national level for the period 2018-2020.





• Dr. D. Ratna Kumari, Dean, Faculty of Community Science and Associate Dean, College of Community Science received the 'Women in Education Leadership Award' presented by the Asian Confederation of Businesses with World Education Congress as its Strategic Partner and Stars of the Industry Group as a research partner on 20th November, 2020 in a virtual programme.



 Dr. V. Anitha, Dean of PG studies was selected as Fellow of Telangana Academy of Sciences 2019, which was communicated in November 2020 on online mode in view of the COVID pandemic.

 Dr. G. Sridevi, Principal Scientist and Head, AINP on Pesticide Residues was conferred with Outstanding Agricultural Scientist Award-2020 for her contribution to Agricultural Entomology and Higher Education by Dr. B. Vasanthraj David Foundation, Chennai in the 2nd Conference on "Recent Scientific Advances in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences" on 5th December, 2020 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.



• Ms. N. Jemimah, Scientist, AINP on Pesticide Residues got best poster presentation award in a Webinar on Entomology 2020: Beyond COVID 19 held on 11th and 12th December, 2020 for her poster on "Persistence and dissipation studies of chlorantraniliprole in cauliflower".

Celebrations



Mahila Kisan Diwas at KVK, Adilabad



World Food Day celebrations at KVK, Adilabad



Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations at Agricultural Polytechnic, Kampasagar



Release of Soil maps on occasion of World Soil day in adopted village of Agricultural college, Jagtial





Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations at Agricultural College, Palem





Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Vardhanti at Agricultural College, Sircilla and Jagtial



The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor with awardees on the occasion of Agricultural Education Day organized by College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar

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