



Newsletter

Issue 15, August 2021

Dr. B.B. Singh Award for Outstanding Research conferred

Dr. J.P. Jaiswal and Dr. N.K. Singh were the recipients

Atul Gaur
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Saurabh Goswami
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

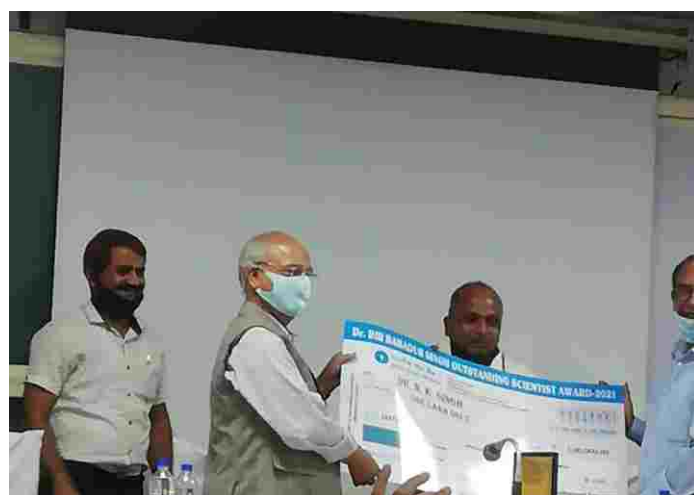


The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar feels immense pride in sharing that two of the prominent scientists of the college received the prestigious Dr. B.B. Singh Award for Outstanding Research for both 2019 and 2021. Dr. J.P. Jaiswal and Dr. N.K. Singh received this honour and both of them are serving as Professor in the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding of the college. The award ceremony was held on July 10, 2021 and was coordinated by Directorate of Experiment Station of the University. The ceremony was extremely special as Dr. B.B. Singh himself presented the award. Dr. Singh is an alumnus of the first batch of GBPUAT, Pantnagar and is currently serving as a Visiting Scientist at Texas A&M University, USA.

The recipients of the honour Dr. Jaiswal and Dr. Singh have been doing exemplary research and are credited with the

development of several crop varieties and publication of research papers in renowned national and international journals. The area of specialization of Dr. Jaiswal is in the area of wheat and barley improvement, genetic resource management, molecular breeding for quality improvement and climate resilience, while Dr. Singh is a senior maize breeder and specialized in the area of maize improvement, molecular markers and genetic engineering. This award is given once in every two years and it includes a citation and a cash prize of rupees one lakh.

On this occasion, Dr. Tej Partap, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, GBPUAT, Pantnagar congratulated both the scientists for their brilliant achievement and stated that this award will surely act as a marking stone for all the researchers and scientists and it will further motivate them to work with more zeal. Dr. B.B. Singh also gave his remarks and appreciated the researchers for their incessant efforts. He stated that both the scientists have done remarkable work and should continue with their pursuit of excellence. Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture and Dr. A.S. Nain, Director Research, GBPUAT, Pantnagar were also present during the award ceremony. They appreciated the scientists for bringing this laurel to the college.



"The ecological principle in agriculture is to connect the genius of the place to fit the farming to the farm."

- Wendell Berry

Inspiring legends: Dr. Y.L. Nene and Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay

Donating their awards, honours, and other memoirs to the college

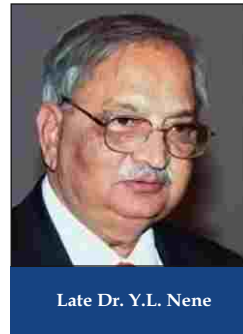
Palak Chaturvedi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



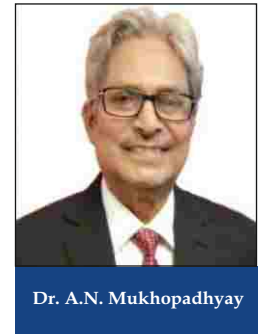
Risabh
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Rajnish Pandey
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Late Dr. Y.L. Nene



Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay

The College of Agriculture and Pantnagar University has evolved because of the tremendous efforts of several individuals. The two legendary persons among those are Dr. Y.L. Nene and Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay. Both of them were the initial faculty members of the college and are credited with generating the work culture of the college besides being inspiring mentors for the students. Recently, the family of Dr. Nene and Dr. Mukhopadhyay himself donated all their awards, honours, and other precious memoirs to the college. It includes their lifetime achievement awards, important certificates and mementoes,

undergraduation, postgraduation, and doctoral degrees, letters received from eminent scientists, photographs with eminent world personalities, etc. This invaluable collection will be displayed at significant places within the college and in the University campus. These will serve as artefacts of inspiration for the faculty members and students of the college to reach greater heights of excellence. It is a matter of great honor for the college and the University to have received this collection as a gift marking the love, dedication and gratitude of these two personalities towards Pantnagar.

Adieu to the Batch of 2017: The sweet ending to the new beginning

Aishna Srivastava
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Ria Mehra
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Pantnagar University is famous for 3S i.e. seeds, students and senior-junior relationships. One of the most critical factor which makes Pantnagar campus and Pantnagar life vibrant is this senior-junior bond which though begins in Pantnagar but continues for lifetime. On the completion of four years of journey of B.Sc. Agriculture of Batch 2017, here are some heartfelt feelings, some best wishes and some laudable gestures from their loving juniors.



The unity among the batch 2017 was laudable. Also their great soft skills and hierarchical management was really appreciable.

- Volga Pant, B.Sc. Agriculture IIIrd Year

The optimistic approach and encouraging behavior of batch'17 was the best thing one could ever find.

- Pragya Gargya, B.Sc. Agriculture Ist Year



Our seniors are a source of inspiration for us. Be it personal guidance and motivation or developing new skills, they have always helped us.

- Manansh Pokhariyal, B.Sc. Agriculture IIIrd Year

Due to the pandemic, we got the first time opportunity to personally meet our seniors during Adanya 2021. Their zeal to do every task no matter big or small and that too with perfection and maximum efficiency reflected their true leadership qualities.

- Gauri Bisht, B.Sc. Agriculture IInd Year



Beginning of Pantnagar journey was quite hectic but the way seniors mentored us on how to cope up with such schedule and how I can give my best in academics is just beyond words.

- Gautam Harbola, B.Sc. Agriculture IIIrd Year

Seniors have always helped us in whatever ways possible. From academics to emotional support, they have always been with us.

- Paritosh Kumar, B.Sc. Agriculture IInd Year



It is not easy to digest that next year, we will be the seniormost batch of the UG programme. I wish that they were still there to guide us. It won't be the same in the hostels without them, but wherever they are, they will help pave the path for us, just the way they did it on campus.

- Abha Belwal, B.Sc. Agriculture IIIrd Year

Firstly, I would like to congratulate them for their graduation. As you enter your new life, we juniors wish you loads of success, with a cupful of happiness, mountains of achievements and good wishes to live your dream each and every moment.

- Ankit Sarkar, B.Sc. Agriculture Ist Year



BOFA Retirement Programme held, farewell given to illustrious faculty members

Mallika Tripathi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Ravi Kumar Jha
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

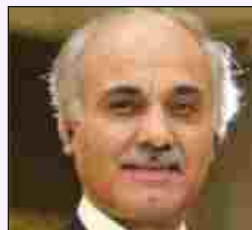


The Board of Faculty of Agriculture (BOFA) hosted a Retirement Programme on June 30, 2021, to bid a warm farewell to the retiring faculty members of the College of Agriculture. This year nine faculty members from different departments have successfully retired from the college. The Board of Faculty of Agriculture comprises of the faculty members of the College of Agriculture as well as one representative from each college of the University. BOFA administers formulation of agendas for the betterment of college, reviewing the progress and achievements, monitoring the academics of the college, and also felicitating the meritorious faculty members.

Every year BOFA organizes a Retirement Programme on 30th June. All the retiring members are honoured by memento and a shawl and their contributions are cited as a token of respect,

affection, and gratitude. This year it was organized in online mode which witnessed the gracious presence of Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Chairman BOFA and Dean, College of Agriculture, and all the faculty members of the College of Agriculture. Dr. K.S. Shekhar, Professor, Department of Agronomy; Dr. N.K. Mishra, Professor, Department of Horticulture; Dr. P.C. Srivastava, Professor, Department of Soil Science; Dr. S.N. Tiwari, Professor, Department of Entomology; Dr. Sobaran Singh, Professor, Department of Soil Science; Dr. Kamendra Singh, Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding; Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology; Dr. Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, Professor, Department of Soil Science; and Dr. C.S. Chopra, Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology were paid warm farewell for completion of their illustrious tenure at Pantnagar. Farewell address was presented as gratitude for the dedicated services that they have rendered to this institute.

All nine faculty members have served the college and the University in various capacities and their contribution in the development of college has been extremely significant and is irreplaceable. The College Editorial Team wishes them all the best in all their future endeavours.



Dr. J. Kumar
Former Dean
College of Agriculture



Dr. S.N. Tiwari
Professor
Dept. of Entomology



Dr. C.S. Chopra
Professor
Dept. Food Science & Technology



Dr. K.S. Shekhar
Professor
Dept. of Agronomy



Dr. N.K. Mishra
Professor
Dept. of Horticulture



Dr. P.C. Srivastava
Professor
Dept. of Soil Science



Dr. Sobaran Singh
Professor
Dept. of Soil Science



Dr. Kamendra Singh
Professor
Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding



Dr. Gopal Krishna Dwivedi
Professor
Dept. of Soil Science

Four online certificate courses relaunched by the college

Prabhat Singh
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



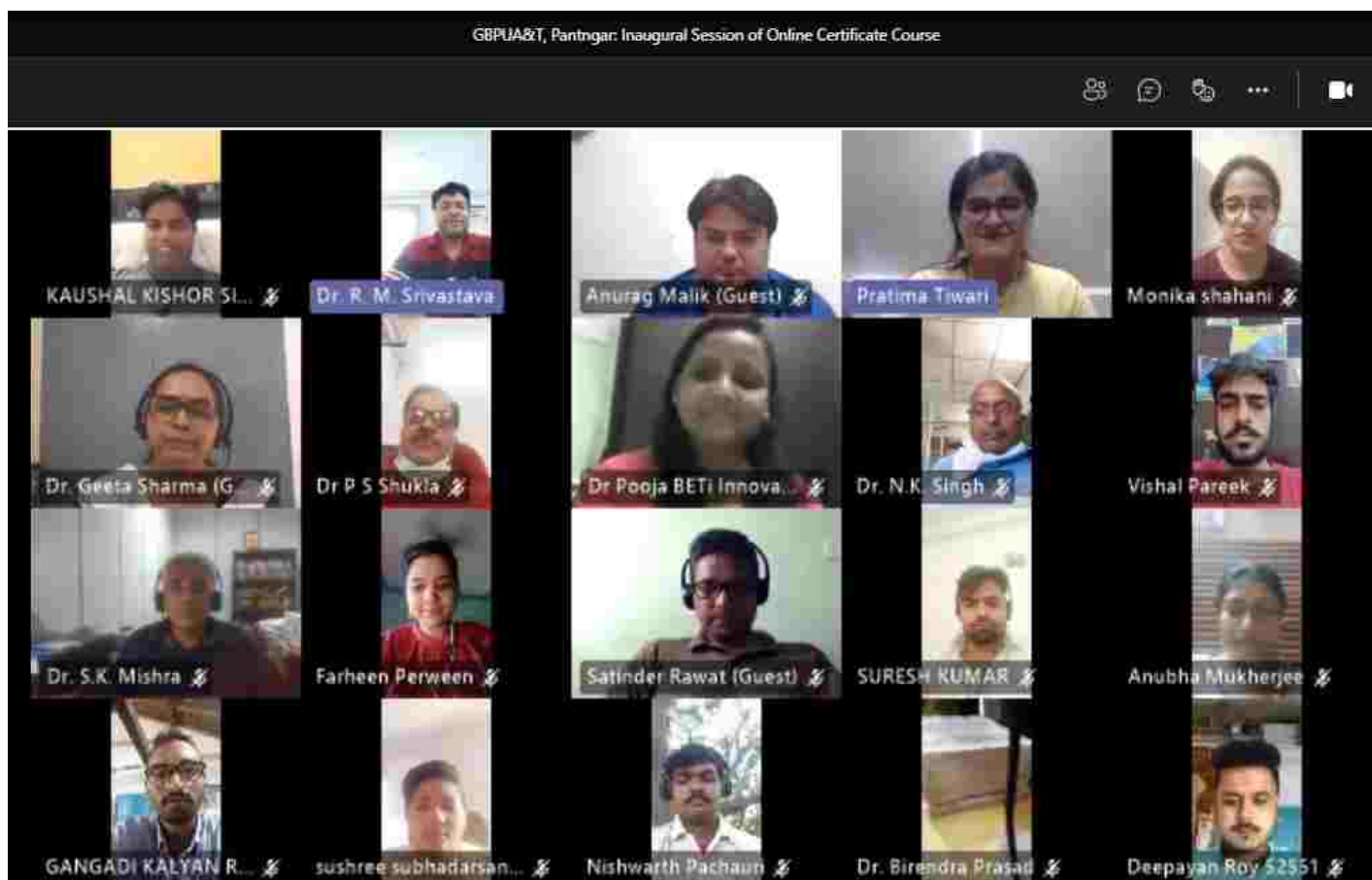
Stuti Lavania
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The novel initiative of the three months online certificate courses of Pantnagar University is gradually gaining prominence. The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar is the leader in terms of contributing maximum courses in these certificate courses. Till date total 13 courses have been launched by the University out of which 10 are coordinated by College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. These are Protected Cultivation of Horticultural Crops, Sericulture, Mass Production of Bio-Control Agents, Beekeeping, Nursery Production and Management, Mushroom Cultivation, Indian Monsoon, Weather Forecasting and Agromet Advisory Services, Seed Production Technology, Processing of Fruits, Vegetables and Spices, and Integrated Farming System. After successful completion of first batch of these three month online certificate courses, the college has relaunched four of these courses namely Seed Production Technology, Mushroom Cultivation, Indian Monsoon, Weather Forecasting and Agromet Advisory Services, and Processing of Fruits, Vegetables and Spices. The course on Seed Production Technology includes quality seed production of important crops and other aspects of seed technology such as seed testing,

certification, processing, storage, IPR and legal issues. The Mushroom Cultivation course covers farm design of mushroom cultivation, importance, status, cultivation of different types of mushrooms, processing, storage, value addition, disease and insect pest management and other relevant aspects. The topics concerned with technical aspects of weather predictions and its related practical applications along with agromet advisory services under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa are taught under the Indian Monsoon, Weather Forecasting and Agromet Advisory Services courses. To learn smart and systemic ways of processing and preserving fruits, vegetables and spices for different products like jam, jelly, juice, pickles etc. and to know more about emerging food processing technologies, the course on Processing of Fruits, Vegetables and Spices has been developed.

The specialty of these certificate courses is that they have no age and qualification bar and are open for all the interested learners of agriculture. Secondly, the learners will get an opportunity to have one to one interaction with illustrious scientists, practitioners and guest experts. In addition to it, the participants will have access to recorded lectures, reading and supplementary material along with weekly evaluations via quizzes on the portal generated solely for this purpose. In previous series 150+ individuals from different backgrounds were nurtured and this time also the university is committed to achieve another milestone with zeal of enthusiasm. For further course details, please visit www.gbpuatdigital.in. The courses are being run on this portal itself.



College Core Action Group taking the lead in creating the Self Study Report for ICAR accreditation

Mukul Giri Goswami
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Mallika Tripathi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The Indian Council of Agricultural Research plans undertakes, aids, promotes, and coordinates higher Agricultural Education in India. Through the process of granting Accreditation to Agricultural Universities and Colleges, ICAR assures an acceptable institutional quality and intends to improve and sustain the quality and relevance of education. For the renewal of accreditation, a Self Study Report of each college of the university has to be prepared. The College Core Action Group of the College of Agriculture has undertaken the responsibility to prepare the self-study report of the College. Dr. Navneet Pareek, Professor, Department of Soil Science, Dr. Ravi Mohan Srivastava, Professor, Department of Entomology, and Dr. V.P. Singh, Professor, Department of Horticulture are leading this responsibility.

A Self Study Report plays an important role in the

accreditation process. This Self Study Report (SSR) will accurately reflect the efforts and progress of the College of Agriculture in meeting its mission and goals in the past five years. Detailed information which is to be filled as per the format and proforma given by ICAR are being compiled by the committee. Some of the criteria are faculty strength, faculty profile, credentials of the faculty, technical and supporting staff, student intake and attrition, details on classrooms and laboratories, the conduct of practical and hands-on training, physical facilities, etc.

Accreditation by ICAR to agricultural universities assures that the Agricultural University or an Agricultural College meets the minimum norms and the prescribed standards. Dr. R.M. Srivastava added that financial assistance provided to colleges and university is also linked with the accreditation status of an institution and hence it becomes extremely crucial. On being asked about the purpose of the Self Study Report, Dr. Navneet Pareek told that preparing this report is the first and the most important part of the accreditation process. It helps the college in assessing its performance and subsequently improving its functioning. The College Core Action Group is strategically working to collect and compile the information and the Self Study Report of the College will be prepared soon.

Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay Gold Medal instituted for final year students of the college

Rashi Chahal
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Rubal Vimal Kumar
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The College of Agriculture has always encouraged students to excel in all their pursuits. This encouragement was further strengthened by the initiative of Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay, a renowned plant

pathologist, one of the initial faculty members of the University and Former Dean, College of Agriculture. Dr. Mukhopadhyay has donated Rs. Ten Lakhs for instituting the Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay Gold Medal. This Gold Medal will be given to final year students of B.Sc. Agriculture who have excellent academic record as well as excellent extra-curricular achievements with special focus on literary achievements. This great proposal by Dr. Mukhopadhyay will inspire the students to climb new heights of prosperity and come up with flying colours. The college is grateful for this kind gesture of his and expresses deepest gratitude to him.

Brief Profile of Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay

Prof. Amar Nath Mukhopadhyay is a prominent plant pathologist and the Former Dean of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. He initiated his career from Pantnagar University and since then there has been no looking back for him. He is the recipient of prestigious awards and honours like Prof. Narasimhan Academy Award, Prof. M.S. Pavgi Award, Fellow of the Indian Phytopathological Society and Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He was the Editor-in-chief of Indian Journal of Mycology and Plant Pathology (1984-86); Member of the working group on Emerging Plant Diseases constituted by WHO and Federation of American Scientists (1993); President of Indian Society of Mycology and Plant Pathology (1986-87); President of the Indian Phytopathological Society (1996) and President of Agricultural Section of the Indian Science Congress (1996). Besides having more than 130 research publications in both national as well as international research journals, he himself has authorship of eight books. He served as a successful teacher and along with it, he was also the Vice-Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.



Updates on administrative responsibilities taken by college faculty members

New faces, new energy and future full of possibilities

- The recent appointment of an eminent professor of the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Dr. P.S. Shukla as the Vice-Chancellor of North East Hill University, Shillong has brought immense happiness in the College of Agriculture. His contributions in the field of agriculture have been recognized nationally and internationally through various awards. Among the many recognitions, he is the recipient of Scientist of The Year award for 2011 and 2015. Apart from being an excellent professor and researcher, he has also been a member of various institutes in the country like ISST, Pune and IARI, New Delhi. Pantnagar family conveys him warm regards for his achievement and wishes for a wonderful journey ahead.

-Asad Rehman and Rajnish Pandey

- Eminent vegetable scientist and visionary professor Dr. D.K. Singh has taken charge of Head of Department, Vegetable Science on July 9, 2021. He has previously served as Director, Uttarakhand Council of Biotechnology, Govt. of Uttarakhand, with teaching and research experience of over 27 years. He has authored numerous scientific publications and is the recipient of various awards including Shiksha Ratan Award (2007), ICAR Dr. Rajendra Prasad Puraskar (2007-08), Scientist of the Year Award (2011), Faculty Excellence Award from Pantnagar University (2014), Uttarakhand Ratan Award (2015), International Excellence Award 2021, Australia and many more. He envisions to integrate and strengthen the teaching, research and extension system of the department. He further plans to make the department a centre of excellence in generating and propagating the knowledge in vegetable sciences for sustainable development of horticulture (vegetable) and allied fields as well as for the welfare of farming community.

- Riya Goswami and Samesha

- Dr. M.A. Ansari, Professor, Agricultural Communication has been nominated as the Coordinator of College Academic Committee (CAC). The other team members of CAC are Dr. J.P. Jaiswal, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Dr. R.P. Singh, Professor, Plant Pathology, Dr. V.C. Dhyani, Associate Professor, Agronomy and Dr. Sweta Rai, Assistant Professor, Food Science and Technology. On taking up the new responsibility, Dr. Ansari reflected that the committee will make all efforts to promote excellence in college academics by organizing number of diversified activities for elevating the skills and talents of students so that they can excel in various domains of agriculture.

- Diksha Mathpal and Himani Panwar

- The College Placement Cell has been effortlessly working towards the holistic growth of the students and providing them the best suitable professional opportunities, under the

dynamic leadership of Dr. Bijendra Kumar, Coordinator, College Placement Cell (S.R.O., Department of Plant Pathology), and Dr. Shweta Chaudhary, Co-Coordinator, College Placement Cell (Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics). Looking towards constructive changes, the roles of responsibility are passed on to new representatives. Dr. Omvati Verma, S.R.O., Department of Agronomy, has been elected as the Coordinator of the College Placement Cell. Dr. Shweta Chaudhary continues as the Co-Coordinator. The new leaders are vibrant and have conviction in their vision of taking the Placement Cell to new heights.

- Nitin and Sagar Bhatt

- The Agriculture Society of College of Agriculture is one of the most critical components of the college providing students an avenue for their personality development and skill enhancement. The society has been reconstituted recently with the successful tenure completion of Dr. Omvati Verma, Senior Research Officer, Agronomy and Dr. S.K. Maurya, Junior Research Officer, Vegetable Science as Staff Counsellor and Co-Staff Counsellor of the society respectively. Now, Dr. V.C. Dhyani, Associate Professor, Agronomy has been declared as the Staff Counsellor and Dr. Rashmi Panwar, Assistant Professor, Horticulture as the Co-Staff Counsellor. Both the faculty members being proficient alumni of the college, shared their enlightening vision about the society. Dr. Dhyani said that my vision about the society will be to continue the good work my predecessors were doing and to encourage innovation. While Dr. Panwar stated that through the efforts of the society, a push of motivation will be provided to all the students who have talent and skills but have fear to showcase them in front of everyone.

- Kirtika Tiwari and Riya Bisht

- The College Documentation and Showcasing Committee (CDSC) recently designated a Liaison Officer for each department of the college. These are Dr. Arpita Sharma, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Communication; Dr. Vineeta Rathore, Assistant Professor, Agronomy; Dr. Shweta Uniyal, Assistant Professor, Horticulture; Dr. Birendra Prasad, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding; Dr. Deepshikha, Senior Research Officer, Plant Pathology, Dr. Manisha Rani, Assistant Professor, Soil Science; Dr. Poonam Srivastava, Associate Professor, Entomology; Dr. S.K. Maurya, Assistant Professor, Vegetable Science; Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Assistant Professor, Agrometeorology; Dr. Ruchi Rani Gangwar, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics; and Dr. Sweta Rai, Assistant Professor, Food Science and Technology. Currently, the CDSC and this new team will be led by Dr. Sumit Chaturvedi, Associate Professor, Agronomy.

- Asad Rehman and Mukul Parihar

Alumni Connect

Reminiscing the pages of Pantnagar diaries with Dr. Rajul Edoliya

Shruti Pandey
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Smrutirekha Pati
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



An indomitable personality with the ideology that persistence always pays when coupled with never say die attitude, Dr. Rajul Edoliya is an acclaimed alumnus of Batch 1983 of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. Starting his career with a US based company (American Cyanamid), he has been commended for launching India's first Sulfonyl urea herbicide of Soybean. With over 30 years of experience in sales and marketing, R&D and product stewardship, he is now the Vice-President (Crop Protection Chemicals) at Coromandel International Ltd. In an interview with the College Editorial Board, Dr. Edoliya has shared some of his cherished memories and valuable insights.



Q Remembrance of the college times always brings nostalgia. What are some specific memories from Pantnagar that you still cherish?

➤ I experienced the transformation from trimester to semester system and was from the last batch with a 3-year degree of B.Sc. Ag and AH. The Practical Crop Production, a six credit course, was a lifetime experience. Running between the classes for soy milk, playing dumb charades with friends, participating in various cultural activities in Kisan Mela, are really unforgettable. I led the Audio Club and organised Rock Yatra '88, which was a grand success. Visit to Chhoti and Badi market, and even sometimes to Haldwani, Rudrapur and Nainital are some of the fun filled memories.

Q What has been the source of motivation for you so far?

➤ Learning new things, coming up with creative ideas, analysing complex data to draw clear and simple conclusions,



Dr. Rajul Edoliya received the Excellence Award from DuPont Inc. in USA

leading a team to success, completing a difficult project and seeing it through the end, and mentoring others gives me the needed motivation. Meeting deadlines on-time gives me a sense of accomplishment.

Q What are some of the limitations of present day agriculture?

➤ Globally, India has a strong hold over the production of various agricultural products. However, productivity gap exists in India as compared to other developed countries, due to reducing per capita land holding, imbalance nutrient usage, low mechanization and low crop protection chemical consumption is resulting into low crop yields. Therefore, there are mega growth opportunities for bridging this productivity gap.

Q What are the various employment opportunities for an agriculture graduate in Business and Marketing sector?

➤ There are enormous opportunities in agri-input industry (seeds, fertilizers, specialty nutrients, crop protection chemicals, biopesticides) for agriculture graduates along with sales, marketing and R&D. Students besides their routine curriculum should collect information on the agriculture industry, their products, crops, pests, stewardship, regulations. Most of this information is available on the internet. Students can also collect information from alumni and placement cell.

Q What are some of the important market-based topics that must be included in the academic curriculum which can be favorable for the students?

➤ Product Stewardship is one of important topics that must become a part of the curriculum. It is about responsible use of crop protection chemicals which is the most highly regulated business globally. Registration and regulatory affairs can also be included, as it is not taught in any university and students learn about it during their job itself.

Q What is your message for the college students?

➤ Agriculture in India has to go a long way and I would like to tell the students that you have chosen the right profession for your career. You all can make a difference. Unlike other industries, agriculture, no matter what, will never come under recession because it is about food and our survival. We can live without computers and phones but not without agriculture.



Ms. Niharika Arora

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Official Youtube Channel of the College

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