



Newsletter

Issue 16, September 2021

Five days capacity building programme organized for Assistant Professors of the college

Ravi Kumar Jha
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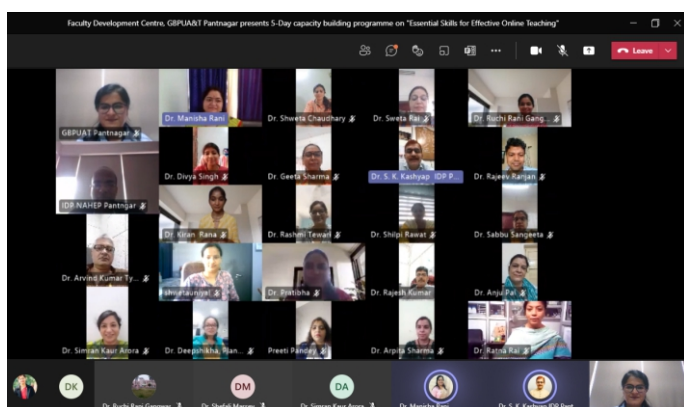


Deeksha Pal
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The Faculty Development Centre (FDC), Pantnagar organized a five days online capacity building training programme for all the Assistant Professors of College of Agriculture. The training programme was held from August 09 - August 13, 2021 on the topic *Essential Skills for Effective Online Teaching*. Pantnagar University has been granted the only Faculty Development Centre of the country by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through NAHEP Component 2 under the guidance of National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad. The main purpose of FDC is to work for the capacity building of faculty members of agricultural universities in particular and other universities of the country in general with respect to strengthening their skills and enhancing their knowledge on aspects related to teaching-learning, pedagogical approaches, instructional technologies, learner psychology, etc. Currently Dr. S.K. Guru, Professor, Plant Physiology is serving as the Coordinator FDC, Pantnagar.

The five days online capacity building training programme for assistant professors of the college was targeted towards improving their hands on skills into using Microsoft Teams online platform. On the first day of the training programme, all the assistant professors listed down the merits and demerits of online teaching, and thereafter identified ways through which the gaps and challenges of online teaching could be fulfilled through Microsoft Teams. They further evaluated their current competency of using Microsoft Teams. Based on the competency levels, the faculty members were divided into three groups. The training programme was thus conducted separately with the three groups for the next three days. Right from basic to most advanced functionalities of Microsoft Teams were thoroughly discussed and practised. Extensive question answer session was also conducted where doubts and queries of each faculty member were cleared. The entire training programme was mentored by Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture with technical guidance of FDC, Pantnagar team. Dr. Tej Partap, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, GBPUAT, Pantnagar; Dr. A. K. Shukla, Registrar, GBPUAT, Pantnagar and Dr. K. P. Raverkar, Dean Post Graduate Studies, GBPUAT, Pantnagar were also present during the training programme. The enthusiastic participation of all the young faculty members made this training programme a successful endeavour.



*"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."
- President Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Pantnagar Janvani completes 10 years of its service

A decade of service for farmer welfare and rural development through community radio

Mukul Parihar
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Sagar Bhatt
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Pantnagar Janvani, the Community Radio Station of Pantnagar completed a decade of its service on August 15, 2021. The radio station was established by the initiative of Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture in 2011 who was then serving as a Professor in Department of Agricultural Communication of College of Agriculture and as Associate Director Communication, Directorate of Communication. Pantnagar Janvani holds the proud privilege of being one of the few community radio stations of the country to be established in an educational institute in general and in an agricultural university in particular. Beginning with a broadcast of two hours in a day, today Pantnagar Janvani has a broadcast duration of 12 hours in a day. For its outstanding services to farmers, local community and other stakeholders, Pantnagar Janvani has received the National Community Radio Award of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting four times, once each in 2014, 2015, 2018 and 2019. On the completion of remarkable ten years of service, an honorary event was organized

on August 17, 2021 in the presence of Dr. Tej Partap (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, GBPUAT, Pantnagar); Dr. S.K. Kashyap (Dean, College of Agriculture); Shri S.K. Bansal (Director Communication); faculty members of Department of Agricultural Communication and the entire team of Pantnagar Janvani Community Radio. Almost 60 partner farmers associated with Pantnagar Janvani were also a part of the event.

The event initiated with the encouraging words of Dr. Partap. He applauded the consistent efforts of Pantnagar Janvani and appreciated the fact that Pantnagar University is the only agricultural university in the country to work so extensively for farmer welfare through community radio. Adding to it, Dr. Kashyap spoke on how community radio is impacting the lives of people in terms of skill development and awareness. Rural residents particularly the farmers get information related to farming, upcoming technologies and government schemes in the agriculture sector alongwith seeking solutions and answers to their farming related challenges. Towards the end, some partner farmers associated with Pantnagar Janvani also shared their experiences on how Pantnagar Janvani impacted their outlook, provided opportunities for learning, enhanced earning options and how happy are they to be contributing in the development of farming community through Pantnagar Janvani activities. The event concluded with the spirit and hope that Pantnagar Janvani will keep on serving the rural communities and farmers in a much more vigorous way.



College faculty members creating e-content through Agri-Diksha portal of ICAR

Riya Bisht
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Stuti Lavania
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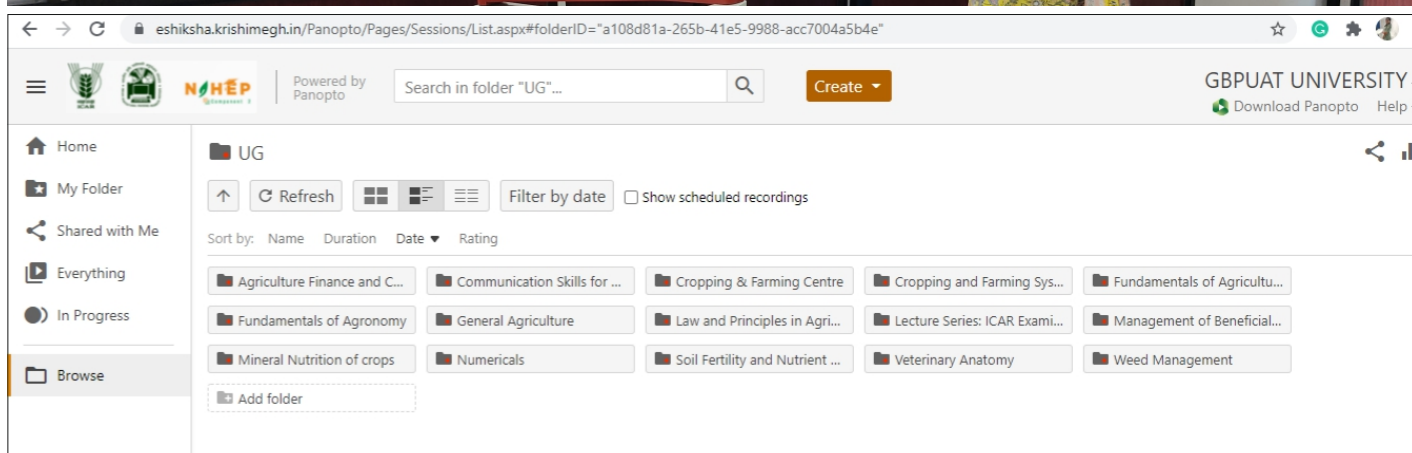
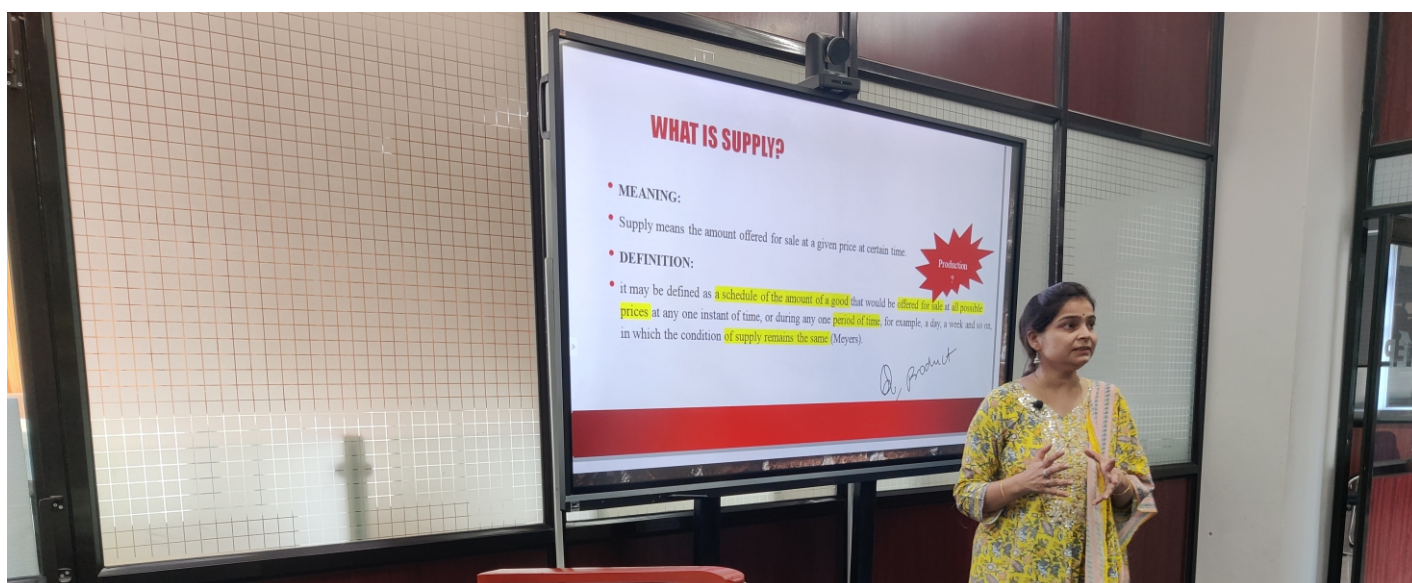


The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi under NAHEP Component 2 has launched the Agri-Diksha Web Education portal. This portal is solely dedicated for creation of video repository of educational content related to agriculture and allied sciences. Currently, 18 agricultural universities of the country have been granted access to this portal for uploading of video content of different courses by the faculty members of these universities. Pantnagar University is also one among them and the faculty members of College of Agriculture are utilizing this unique opportunity in the best possible way.

The faculty members of the college were oriented about the purpose, features and utility of the Agri-Diksha portal and were encouraged by the Dean of the college to actively pursue this opportunity. The video lectures in the Agri-Diskha portal are uploaded with the help of Panopto software. This software aids

the user during recording lectures as well as in webcast. Furthermore, several hardware components like digital podium, two cameras (one AI based camera), digital panel, Android/Windows OS, computer system along with a visualizer have also been made available to the University. For ease of usage and navigation, videos are uploaded in a particular order and are named on the basis of a prescribed format i.e., subject_subject code_facultyname_date. Given the features of the portal, it enables synchronous online learning, it happens in real time and it provides the participants with an experience very close to traditional face-to-face teaching. The link for the portal is www.shiksha.krishimegh.in where videos are uploaded and can be accessed by the learners.

The faculty members currently creating lecture videos are Dr. Amit Bhatnagar, Senior Research Officer, Agronomy; Dr. Poonam Srivastava, Associate Professor, Entomology; Dr. Ruchi Rani Gangwar, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics; Dr. Shweta Chowdhary, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics; Dr. Kiran Rana, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Communication; and Dr. Arpita Sharma, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Communication. Overall 200 plus video lectures have already been successfully uploaded. It is aspired that all faculty members of the college will work in this direction.



Massive lab renovation work to be initiated in the college

Diksha Mathpal
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Saurabh Goswami
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The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has taken the initiative in renovating the laboratories of the college to upgrade to contemporary standards of teaching and research. Laboratories are an integral part of all the degree programmes running in the college, be it B.Sc. Agriculture or B.Tech. Food Technology or any Masters or PhD programme. Different proposals have been generated by the different departments of the college which are in process of approval. These include Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding (renovation of smart class room and electrical renovation of PG labs), Department of Agronomy (renovation of lab no. 106B and construction of shed and renovation of store of wheat physiology laboratory at CRC), Department of Entomology (refurbishing of sericulture laboratory), Department of Horticulture (renovation of bioassay laboratory), Department of Plant Pathology (electric renovation work at mushroom laboratory and crop room at MRTC and polycarbonate green house), Department of Vegetable



Science (renovation of PG lab), and Department of Food Science and Technology (renovation of spice processing hall and office, and renovation of chemistry and microbiology lab). Refurnishing and re-calibrating the labs of the college will surely fasten the pace of learning and will also widen the thinking horizon of the students. Also, the professors and the staff will be able to help students even more effectively with the help of new technologies and improved infrastructure. With all these renovations scheduled, College of Agriculture is surely paving the path of excellence for students.

Laboratories to be equipped with necessary, advanced machinery

Kirtika Tiwari
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

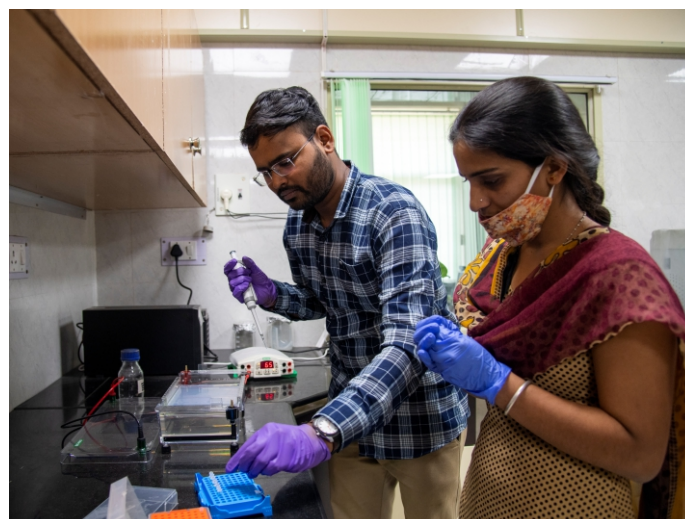


Rashi Chahal
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Laboratories are a significant part of any academic institute. In order to understand concepts, one has to look beyond the books and conventional teaching methods. Hands-on laboratory experiences are critical to the learning process in all areas of study beginning with kindergarten and continuing through post-secondary education. Owing to this, the College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has decided to reform its laboratories by purchasing new lab equipments.

In order to reform the facilities into different laboratories of the college, a meeting was held led by Dean Agriculture Dr. S.K. Kashyap with Heads of Department of the college. The HoDs took the initiative to have required new equipments purchased for their respective departments. In total 30 different lab equipments are in the process of getting purchased for eight different departments, namely Agrometeorology, Agronomy, Entomology, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Soil Science and Vegetable Science. Different



equipments that are being purchased are Infrared Thermometer, Soil Thermometer, Chlorophyll Meter, Oven, Deep Freezer with Stabilizer, Autoclave, Flame Photometer, etc. The HoDs remarked that with the purchase of these equipments, laboratory education will be strengthened. This effort for reforming the laboratory equipments across different departments will be helping and supporting the undergraduate, Masters and Ph.D. students in carrying out their lab and research work in an efficient and effective manner.

College External Advisory Panel Member Dr. V. V. Sadamate visited the college

Arpit Jain
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Rajnish Pandey
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Eminent Agricultural Extension Specialist, Dr. V.V. Sadamate made a visit to the premises of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar on August 26, 2021. Dr. Sadamate is also a member of the Board of Management of Pantnagar University and also a member of External Advisory Panel, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. He has served the Indian extension system in various capacities during his more than three decade stint with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Commission, GOI as the Adviser Agriculture. He is presently working as an Independent Consultant on Agricultural Extension Reforms, Policy Advocacy, Agricultural HRD, piloting extension innovations, etc. He is a member of Expert Committee in NASF, ICAR; and also an Adjunct Faculty in Extension Division of IARI, New Delhi since 2013. He has been associated with Pantnagar University for a long time.

During his visit to the college campus, Dr. Sadamate interacted with the college faculty members. He had an extensive discussion with Dean, College of Agriculture and proposed



various futuristic plans in context of agricultural education, digitalization, faculty training and various other issues for College of Agriculture in particular and University as a whole. He even praised the new developments around the college and the University. He said that the initiatives like digital classrooms, virtual labs, innovation and incubation centre etc. are creditable and admirable. These initiatives will ultimately help in strengthening the overall education and teaching-learning ecosystem of the University.

AAAP Alumni Meet to be held on September 18, 2021

Palak Chaturvedi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Unnati Joshi
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The Agri Alumni Association of Pantnagar is organizing the 14th Annual Alumni Meet at 6:00 pm on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Due to the unprecedented situations prevailing in the country because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the alumni meet will be conducted in online mode. Dr. V.C. Dhyani, Staff Counsellor, Agriculture Society and Dr. Rashmi Tewari, Co-Staff Counsellor, Agriculture Society will be coordinating with the AAAP team for the event. Sponsors of the event include Imperial School of Agri-Business, Cytozyme, Verdesian, Bayer, International Zinc Association, International Agriculture Consulting Group, Rijk Zwaan Seeds, VNR Seeds, Coromandel Agrico, National Seed Corporation, Vigen Seeds and Biotech, and ICL Fertilizers.

AAAP has been conducting annual meets since its inception in 2008 to bring together the alumni of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar and to foster amongst them a sense of alliance. The main aim of this event is to create an opportunity for



the Pantnagar Alumni to connect with each other and with the Alma mater, seek out possibilities for contributing to the college and the University, and ofcourse relive the memories of their golden past in the college. The event will be graced by various alumni from different walks of life who have contributed a lot to society and brought glory to the University and the college. The alumni meet will have various programmes in it, where alumni can regale their experiences in and outside the college. Last year this event was organized on September 13, 2020 and was a veritable success. We hope the same will be replicated this year. Lastly, we would like to urge the alumni to grace the event with their presence which will truly make this event a success. The link for registration is www.aaap2021.com.

College Placement Cell: Mentoring students for envisioning their career goals

Aishna Srivastava
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Ria Mehra
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The College of Agriculture has an active Placement Cell which helps students identify their career goals and provides an edge into the present day competitive job market. It makes efforts to cater to the needs of each and every student in the college. The Placement Cell consistently organizes myriad of workshops and activities ranging from CV building to enhancing soft skills. The purpose of the cell is threefold, to provide internship to the students, to marry up the companies with the right skill sets of students and to provide information related to higher education. The cell works immensely to fetch best profiles for students of each and every department so that there are pool of opportunities for every student to choose from. The vision of the Placement Cell is to act as a link between the corporate sector and the students to bridge the existing gap and ensure an efficacious, efficient and hassle-free process which ensures mutual benefits for students as well as the recruiting



Bhumika Manral
Id. No. 51467
B.Sc. Ag. Batch 2017



Prachi Pandey
Id. No. 51388
B.Sc. Ag. Batch 2017

companies. Dr. Omvati Verma and Dr. Shweta Chaudhary are currently leading and managing the work of College Placement Cell. The placement session 2020-21 witnessed a significant growth in number of companies, number of offers made and variety of profiles, making it a successful year with an average package of 4.6 lakh per annum and record breaking highest CTC of 7.5 lakh per annum. Looking into August placement statistics, Prachi Pandey (Id. No. 51388) and Bhumika Manral (Id. No. 51467) both of B.Sc. Agriculture Batch 2017 got placed as Executive Trainee at NCDEX e-Markets Limited. The Editorial Team wishes them success for their professional endeavours and hopes that all students get on their desired professional path.



Alumni Connect

Paving the path for success: Interview with Dr. Mahesh Kohli, DDO, Udham Singh Nagar and Alumnus of Batch 1997

Atul Gaur
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Smrutirekha Pati
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Setting an example is not the main means of influencing others, it's the only means. Dr. Mahesh Kohli is one of the illustrious alumnus of Batch 1997 of College of Agriculture, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar. Currently serving as the District Developmental Officer, Udham Singh Nagar, he has added many more accolades to his remarkable journey and is an inspiration for the young generation. In an interview with the College Editorial Team members, he has shared some of his cherished memories and valuable insights.

Q How has been your journey from an agriculture graduate to being a District Development Officer?

➤ It has been a marvellous experience. I did my B.Sc., M.Sc. (Horticulture), and PhD from Pantnagar, thus have been fortunate enough to spend a long time in the beautiful campus. In fact, those were the golden years of my life. During my PhD final year, I got selected into PCS and even then, the learnings from Pantnagar helped me in clearing the various rounds. I was commissioned as a BDO and the State-Coordinator and have also received the honour of serving as the Registrar at Kumaun University, Nainital. It has been a remarkable and cognitive journey till now.

Q Remembering those good old college days makes one's heart full of joy and reminiscence. What are some of those memories that you still cherish?

➤ From attending the lectures to running to Stevenson Stadium for volleyball practice, I never missed anything. I was a part of the University Volleyball Team and represented the University twice at the national level. I was also an NCC cadet of the Unit - 1 UK R&V SQN NCC, Pantnagar, which really helped in inculcating discipline within me at a very tender age. There were many inter-hostel competitions that added moments of fun in between the hectic schedule.

Q What has been your source of motivation so far?

➤ It has always been my immense desire to be a part of the civil services and serve the nation and its citizens in the best possible way. This dream kept on fuelling my determination and helped in the accomplishment of my goal. It gives me a deep sense of satisfaction in connecting with the people, creating awareness among them and helping in eradication of their problems.

Q How do you see the University then and now?

➤ Pantnagar has always been a standard of excellence for others in terms of academics and extra-curricular manoeuvres. It has produced enormous examples of brilliance who have proved themselves in their respective fields. With the lapse of time, there have been tremendous infrastructural advancements.

Apart from this, many changes

have been done to the curriculum according to the need of time. Study material has now become easily accessible to the students and many advanced teaching approaches have been adopted to bring out the best in the learners.

Q Some acquisitions from the College that you have till date.

➤ Personality development and communication skills are two of the greatest assets I have received from the college, that still help me in my profession. Discipline and hard work ultimately become a part of you when you join the institution. Along with this, the knowledge of extension education really helps me in getting a better understanding of the problems of the people.

Q What will be your message for the current students of the college?

➤ Students are the torch bearers of the future. Pantnagarians have a history of leaving behind footprints on the sand of time. So, it now becomes your responsibility to carry on the legacy and take this institution to newer heights of excellence.



Dr. Mahesh Kohli
District Development Officer
Udham Singh Nagar





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Official Youtube Channel of the College

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