



College of Agriculture

Newsletter

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New high yielding variety of Urd bean

Pant Urd 12 developed by Pantnagar scientists

Riya Bisht

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Breeding; and Dr. Anju Arora, Associate Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, and the other workers.

The endeavours to develop Pant Urd 12 commenced in the year 2010 with the initial cross of the parent, PU-31 and TU-942. Keeping the superior quality of variety of Pant Urd 12 in local station trial, it was tested in All India Coordinated Research Trial for a period of three years from 2018-2020 at different locations in North India. The testing areas were Ludhiana (PAU), Hisar (HAU), New Delhi (IARI), GBPUAT, Pantnagar, Durgapur (ARS), Gurdaspur (ARS) and Samba for grain yield and reaction to important disease and insect pests. Over a three years period variety Pant Urd 12 yields 1427 kg/ha as against 1200 kg/ha of Uttara, 1193 kg/ha of PU-31 and 1153 kg/ha of KUG-479, and hence shows superiority of 18.92% over the Uttara, 19.61% over PU-31 and 23.76% over KUG-479. The seeds of the variety are

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In a recent meeting of the Annual Group Meet of Kharif Pulses held on May 27-28, 2021, the announcement of the release of new high yielding and disease resistant variety of Urad (*Vigna mungo*) developed by Pantnagar scientists, under the name of Pant Urd 12 was made. The variety is the result of diligent efforts of the breeder scientists and laborious working staff of the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar which primarily includes Dr. R.K. Panwar, Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding; Dr. S.K. Verma, Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant



"Agriculture is a fundamental source of national prosperity."

- J. J. Mapes

Dr. V.V. Sadamate nominated as member of Board of Management of Pantnagar University

Also serving as Member of External Advisory Panel of College of Agriculture

Mukul Singh Parihar
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Arpit Jain
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Eminent Agricultural Extension Specialist, Dr. V.V. Sadamate has been nominated as a member of the Board of Management of the Pantnagar University by the honourable Governor of Uttarakhand, Smt. Baby Rani Maurya. Dr. Sadamate 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, Govt. of India as the Adviser Agriculture. He has been associated with Pantnagar University for a long time. He is also a member of the Advisory Committee of College of Agriculture. He also served as a principal consultant with the FAO India in developing the Country Programme Framework. As an Agricultural Convergence Expert, he was associated with DOLR's World Bank

Watershed Management Project -Neeranchal. He is presently working as an Independent Consultant on Agricultural Extension Reforms, Policy Advocacy, Agricultural Human Resource Development, 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.



Dr. V.V. Sadamate
Former Advisor Agriculture
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It is a boon for Pantnagar University to have such an eminent personality as the member of the board whose experience and exposure will help the University reach newer heights of excellence. His guidance and positive outlook towards future will help escalate the development of our University. On behalf of the college editorial board we wish Dr. Sadamate a successful tenure as member of Board of Management of Pantnagar University.

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Dr. R. K. Panwar
Professor
Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding



Dr. S. K. Verma
Professor
Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding



Dr. Anju Arora
Senior Research Officer
Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding

black in colour, medium in size with 100 seeds weighing 4 gms and manifested maturity period is 75-80 days. As per its description of high yielding and disease resistant variety, the crop shows remarkable resistance against disease like yellow mosaic virus, powdery mildew, cercospora leaf spot, anthracnose, and web blight besides moderate resistance to important insect pests like pod borer, pod bug, stem fly, and aphids.

The rationality behind developing the variety comes from the need to increase farm yield and reducing estimated farm cost of intercultural practices, fertilizers, and pesticides, thus helping the commercial exploitation of the crop. Along the economic aspect, it also upholds the health concerns. According to

World Health Organisation (WHO), the daily requirement of pulses in a person's diet is 60 g/day whereas only 35 g/day is reached so far in the country. Analysing the need for mass production of pulses, scientists are engaged in various breeding programs as such to ensure the present and future needs of the masses. The variety is expected to release to the local farmers and markets in the upcoming year. The release will initiate after the mass seed production of this variety is substantially achieved by the University itself. Therefore, the concerned scientists, working staff, and other stakeholders of the University are quite excited for its release in the local market and are looking forward to farmer and consumer satisfaction.

AICRP on Honey Bee organized online webinar on World Bee Day

Abhijeet Saho
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Paras Arya
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venom are also produced by honey bees. More than being the producers of these hive products; bees play an important role in the pollination of plants while collecting their food from flowers in the form of nectar and pollen.

The webinar also had the esteemed presence of Dr. Tej Partap, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Pantnagar University; Dr. A.S. Nain, Director Research; and Shri B.D. Kandpal, Executive Officer, KVIC, Haldwani. The other important aspects discussed in the webinar included the status of beekeeping in India, modern beekeeping practices, diseases and enemies of honey bees, quality queen production and its management, and life cycle and colony behavior of honey bees. The faculty members of Department of Entomology who were also a part of the webinar were Dr. S.N. Tiwari (Head of Department), Dr J.P. Purwar (Associate Professor), and Dr. Renu Pandey (Assistant Professor). Their golden efforts and insights on honey bees were quite enlightening for the participants.



Emphasizing upon the importance of honey bees in current agriculture, an Online One-Day Beekeeping Webinar on the auspicious occasion of World Bee Day was organized by the Integrated Bee Keeping Development Centre (IBDC) and AICRP on Honey Bee and Pollinators, Department of Entomology of College of Agriculture, GBPUAT, Pantnagar. It was organized in online mode on Microsoft Teams on May 20, 2021. There is no denial in the fact that since centuries bees have acted as selfless creatures for humans and have asked for no debt in return. Such consistent empathy they hold for human, hence the require safekeeping.

The event commenced with a warm welcome speech by Dr. Pramod Mall, Professor, Department of Entomology, followed by a splendid speech by Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. He highlighted the importance of beekeeping in agriculture and mentioned that honey is a highly valued food produced having high medicinal value. In addition to honey, other products like beewax, pollen, royal jelly and bee

Honey Bee Research and Training Centre organized one day National Workshop on World Bee Day

Sagar Bhatt
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Shruti Pandey
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The Honey Bee Research and Training Centre at Pantnagar organized a One Day Online National Workshop on the occasion of World Bee Day, i.e. May 20, 2021. The workshop had more than 250 participants from the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and few participants even joined from Nepal. The workshop was initiated by Dr. M.S. Khan, Professor, Entomology. He shared the significance of World Bee Day, environmental and agricultural importance of bees and other pollinating insects. Dr. Poonam Srivastava, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology and Associate Director, Honey Bee Research and Training Centre highlighted the vital contribution of bees in human life and emphasized that the declining number of bees in the world is an area of concern. All the participants took up the pledge of actively supporting the cause of bee conservation and would spread the information to five more people to make it a campaign.

The workshop witnessed the presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Pantnagar University Dr. Tej Partap, Dean Agriculture Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Director Research Dr. A.S. Nain, Director Extension Dr. A.K. Sharma, Head Entomology Dr. S.N. Tiwari, and several other faculty members of the college. The workshop gave insights to participants on the issues of bee keeping, pollination process, crop production improvement through bees, and associated prospects of employment. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nain informed that the honey processing equipment located at the Honey Bee Research and Training Centre will be soon open for all professional beekeepers. He further assured the participants that Pantnagar University will always march for the benefit of the beekeepers.



Nurturing our uniqueness

Student facilities being improved in PCP area

Diksha Mathpal
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Himani Panwar
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



their one complete year in PCP course and undergo a lot of rigour throughout the year in handling one hectare of land per team. It is no doubt a tremendous and sublime experience for agriculture graduates of Pantnagar which is indelible for them.

Though PCP is one of the distinct features of Pantnagar University, there is no real beauty without slight imperfection. University is continuously working for improvement in every field. Looking into the scarcity of seating space, a beautiful cottage has been designed and developed to accommodate the whole batch. It is a hut shaped cottage with layered seating space of colourful steps where students can sit, interact, eat and even rest when needed. Though PCP has been in the University for six decades, but for the first time seating space has been created with the help of the World Bank funded IDP-NAHEP project running in the University. The concept of this cottage type seating place was initially proposed by Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar. He discussed the idea with Dr. Sunita T. Pandey, the then Officer in Charge of PCP and Dr. V.P. Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy. After finalising the concept and the map, the cottage has been built precisely in very less time. This cottage will help the students to manage the harshness of weather during their PCP work. This provision will be availed by the upcoming generations of agriculture graduates. We are thankful for the courtesy and financial support that IDP-NAHEP extended for this facilitative development.



The Practical Crop Production (PCP) has been one of the unique features of B.Sc. Agriculture programme of Pantnagar. PCP was initiated in Pantnagar in early 60s and has been adopted by other agricultural universities all over the country. The students of B.Sc. Agriculture of Pantnagar invest



Students developing mobile app for agricultural stakeholders: Advancing the skill sets

Riya Goswami
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Shruti Singh
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Ms. Sonam Pandey
Director
ACTECAL Pvt. Ltd



Mr. Gaurav Pant
Consultant
ACTECAL Pvt. Ltd

Technological enhancement in the field of agriculture is the answer to the countless challenges faced by the farmers and the stakeholders. Focused upon this critical aspect, a two week online workshop on *Mobile Application Development for Agriculture World* was organized by College of Agriculture, Pantnagar in collaboration with IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar from May 20 – June 02, 2021. The workshop experts included Mr. Gaurav Pant, Consultant, ACTECAL Pvt. Ltd. and Ms. Sonam Pandey, Director, ACTECAL Pvt. Ltd. and was coordinated by Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Assistant Professor, Department of Agrometeorology, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar and Dr. A.S. Nain, Professor, Department of Agrometeorology, College of Agriculture, Pantnagar and Director Research, Pantnagar University.

The workshop was specifically organized for undergraduate students of the college. The main impetus of the workshop was to skill the students to develop mobile applications even without any prior knowledge of coding. The workshop initiated with fundamentals of coding and concluded with development of simple mobile applications and uploading it on

the play store. This workshop helped the students uncover different aspects such as the importance of app development for statistical data analysis, locating the places with latitudes and longitude apart from GPS, automating irrigation activities based on sensors and also other agricultural activities including dairy, poultry, food and nutrition, and clothing and textiles. Features like decision making function, notifications, SMS, navigation, use of less RAM, smooth functioning of the application were also discussed. The workshop was filled with inputs and discussions from both the experts and the participating students. While reflecting on the experiences of the workshop, the students acknowledged the efforts of the organizing team, and many of them informed that they got out of the impression that app development is only possible for those who are experts of coding. The experts also expressed their gratitude towards the University and the students for passionately taking part in the workshop. The workshop was a successful event with the presence of more than 100 participating students.

Leadership Connect Series: Online guest lecture series initiated by College Placement Committee

Kirtika Tiwari
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Stuti Lavania
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Leadership Connect Series has been initiated by College Placement Committee of College of Agriculture. This online lecture series is aimed towards providing exposure to the students in terms of interaction with illustrious corporate leaders, social leaders, etc. The first lecture of the series was delivered by one of the renowned alumnus of the college, Mr. J.V. Ratnam, Senior Assistant Vice-President, Crop Protection, Coromandel International Ltd. The lecture was held on May 8, 2021. The dual motto of this lecture was to enlighten job seekers about the current job market and to further strengthen the connect between alumni and alma mater. This career oriented webinar focused on three aspects - career/job shift due to COVID-19, virtual interviews, and work culture in Coromandel International.

Mr. Ratnam eloquently spoke on the above mentioned aspects and revealed how a major downfall has been observed in overall job market yet hirings in agriculture and allied sectors have showed relatively better growth. Furthermore, he also mentioned about the virtual internships and projects offered to several interested students at Coromandel International. In addition to it, he explained about the work culture at Coromandel International, the products and services provided by the company and other related information was shared. While mentioning about the qualities that an individual must possess for hiring, he stated that it is not the degree rather the attitude and personality of an individual that decides the chances of getting hired.



Mr. J.V. Ratnam
Senior Assistant Vice-President
Crop Protection
Coromandel International Ltd.

This interactive lecture followed by question and answer session solved the queries raised by the participants. Session had attendance from students and faculty members across India, which is a positive signal towards the importance of this series with many more lectures to come in future.

The new journey of final year students begins

Diksha Pal
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



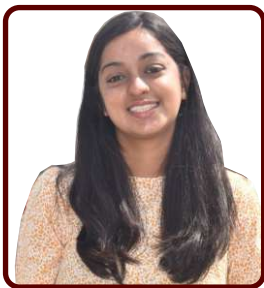
Shagun Goyal
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has always been proud of its students and their laurels. It is time to celebrate again the achievements of the final year graduating students of B.Sc. Agriculture for securing admission into the premium institutes of the country for pursuing their higher education in the domain of management. The details of the students selected into different management institutes is given.

Mr. Sarthak Kothiyal on being asked about his four year journey at Pantnagar, said, "Pantnagar helped me to shape my personality. In these four years, I focused not only on academics

but also on different cultural and organizational activities which boosted my confidence and helped me to achieve one of my dreams. I want to thank my teachers and my seniors for always guiding me. For juniors, I want to say that our University is full of opportunities, the only thing required is your 'initiation' and never hesitate in learning something new." Sharing her experience, Ms. Nishtha Rautela reflected, "My 9-5 college life in Pantnagar taught me time management. I also indulged myself in several societies and activities in the college and believe me or not it taught me a lot about my potential, my strengths and weakness. You should have a clear vision and focus on your skills rather than looking for the obstacles on your way. Consistency, practice, and proper mock analysis is the key to a B-School". The crisp success mantra as deciphered by Mr. Nitin Patni in his own words is, "Dreams come true when there is hard work, determination, persistence, sacrifice, compromise, and passion".



Mrinal Arya
Symbiosis Institute of
International Business, Pune



Niharika Rawat
MANAGE
Hyderabad



Nikita Bisht
VAMNICOM
Pune



Nishtha Rautela
IIM
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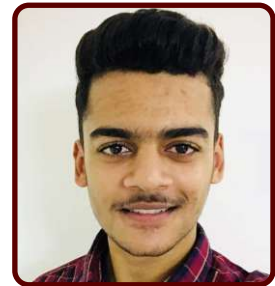
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Journey from obstacles to opportunities via optimism

Interview of hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of GBPUAT, Pantnagar

Aishna Srivastava
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Prabhat Kumar Singh
B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



Dr. Tej Partap
Vice-Chancellor, GBPUAT, Pantnagar

Q Being President of Association of Indian Universities, you have been leading several universities across the nation. What are the challenges and opportunities for Indian Universities in present scenario?

➤ Current circumstances have successfully paved path for much needed technological revolution among students as well as faculty members. It has innovated methods of learning as well as teaching and has led to integration of distance learning with classroom teaching. This technological revolution aligns with National Education Policy 2020 and will function smoothly in such educational ecosystem where mantra of 'learning with freedom' is adopted. No doubt, challenges are huge and Universities need to work on tackling it effectively, those who do not evolve or plan out can face bigger challenges in future.

Q As we are talking about universities across the nation, where do you find agricultural universities in term of quality, contribution and excellence?

➤ Comparing agricultural universities with other universities in terms of quality, excellence and contribution, it is observed that agricultural universities have better coordination, transparency and updated curriculum due to central governing agencies like ICAR, hence their contribution in serving nation is far greater than various other leading institutions. Taking example of Pantnagar, among all 70 agricultural universities of the country, Pantnagar has highest area available for researches and has made great contributions in field of rural development and ensuring food security in the country.

Q Since you have been Vice Chancellor of many universities, and now it has been almost 2.5 years that Pantnagar

University has had the privilege to have a veteran like you as a Vice Chancellor. In your experiences as a Vice-Chancellor of Pantnagar, what role must Pantnagar play in the development of agriculture in future?

➤ Pantnagar is a state university with national character. Researches that are performed here yield quality seeds on which farmers of the nation are dependent. It ranks first in terms of area and plays a pivotal role in food security as very few institutes can afford such high inputs for the production of seeds. Despite serving the broader cause of society, the University is still being criticized with respect to service to hilly farmers. Pantnagar has great human resource as students and numerous alumni across the country and abroad. The orthodox management system is acting like a hurdle. Thus, changing the system, working on weak areas can make Pantnagar even stronger. It should emerge as a place of learning with freedom. A remarkable success has been seen but still a big change has to come.

Q As you are the team leader of World Bank funded project IDP-NAHEP, what important contributions have been made by IDP-NAHEP across the University?

➤ The IDP-NAHEP project has emerged as a boon for the University in not only tackling the pandemic but also providing additional opportunities. It has facilitated training of professors to get acquainted with online system of education, providing platforms to students in terms of language classes, trainings, workshops, labs, extra-curricular activities, and development of e-content of different undergraduate for future use and so on. The IDP-NAHEP project has provided a developmental momentum to the University in almost every juncture and also fueled it from time to time making it embrace technology systematically.

➤ **Q** The whole world is battling with COVID-19 Pandemic. At different points in time, lockdowns are being imposed In India, due to which education is more or less now confined to online mode. No one knows when the normality will come, despite of this online classes are going on. So, what will be your message to all the faculty members and students at this hour of time?

➤ Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the whole world has stopped but the teaching-learning is still going on in virtual mode. Professors, students and even management is trying their best to improve methods of learning till the normality comes up. Till then we have to maintain stability of mind and keep our mind cool. We should never stop working on ourselves and keep finding our way to success. Professors also need to accept the situation and be prepared for the future. This tough time has provided us golden chance to learn so that we can prevent ourselves as well as the whole world from another disaster in future.



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