



Dean addresses the college students online

Motivates students to stand strong to defeat the adversity through extra effort

VC Dr. Tej Partap gave exemplary moral and administrative support to take pragmatic decisions so that students should not suffer : Dr. S. K. Kashyap

During this pandemic of COVID-19 there were many questions in the minds of students related to academic, online classes and examination related issues. The Dean, College of Agriculture Dr. S. K. Kashyap conducted a web session 'A DISCUSSION WITH DEAN'. He addressed his college students and said that the college took initiative for the semester which is barred, and decided not to put the student's future at stake or in questions. Hence, the first step was to resume the semester at any cost for which online platform was the only option, and the various department heads spearheaded this initiative.

The Dean also stated that the world was never prepared for such a pandemic but human beings have always evolved ways and means to confront any such critical situation. Similarly, the University was also not ready for such an online system but as the time demanded, the college decided to move towards online classes. The faculty members of the college with their full effort led towards various online platforms, and even the students cooperated to the best possible extent. College also came up with solution of conducting first and second hourly exams online in the month of May and June respectively, while the schedule of lab finals and finals would be decided soon. The Dean also considered the problem of final year students' degree completion by assuring them that their degree will be completed on time and they will not be the sufferer as it is the prime commitment.

The Dean also deliberated upon the persistent support of the Vice-Chancellor and the efforts done by the college through various committees such as Agriculture Society, College Core Action Group, College Academic Committee etc. which came into action to cope up with this situation.



Contributed by:
Gautam Harbola, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year



The Heritage Corridor housed the offices of the initial team of University of Illinois, US who came to India to setup the first agricultural University of the country at Pantnagar in 1960.



The peace and tranquility of this magical land is enshrined in the immenseness of the flora around, and this fully bloomed Gulmohar tree indeed reminds us of the magical land Pantnagar.

"Without food, man can live at most but a few weeks; without it, all other components of social justice are meaningless."

- Norman E. Borlaug

The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar gears up for excellence

The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has rejuvenated and optimized its functioning along side the leadership of the new Dean, Dr. S.K. Kashyap. The existing College Core Action Group has been restructured involving dedicated eight faculty members who would act with a major focus on enhancing the quality of education, research output,

and generating innovation-based ecosystem. The College Core Action Group will facilitate and support the other constituted committees of the college, namely College Academic Committee (CAC), College Infrastructural Development Committee (CIDC), College Placement Committee (CPC) and College Documentation and Showcase Committee (CDSC).

College Core Action Group Members

Chairman

Dr. J.P. Jaiswal, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding

Core Members

- Dr. N.K. Singh, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding
- Dr. A.K. Tewari, Professor, Plant Pathology
- Dr. Navneet Pareek, Professor, Soil Science

Convener

Dr. S.K. Sharma, Professor, Food Science and Technology

- Dr. A.K. Singh, Professor, Horticulture
- Dr. R.M. Srivastava, Professor, Entomology
- Dr. Amit Bhatnagar, Senior Research Officer, Agronomy

College Academic Committee (CAC)

Mandate: To improve overall academic environment in the college.

- Leading the intellectual and visionary activities of the college through innovative activities by aligning the pool of experts of the college so that the college emerges as the seat of renowned teachers, researchers, planners, and policy makers of the nation.
- Organizing talks/lectures of distinguished persons and experts from academic fraternity throughout the world so that new thoughts and ideas percolate in the college from houses of wisdom.
- Organizing regular formal and informal get-togethers with the faculty and staff members of the college to generate inter-departmental cohesion and collaboration leading to multi-disciplinary projects and action groups.

College Infrastructural Development Committee (CIDC)

Mandate: To improve infrastructure at various levels for facilitating teaching and research activities.

- Acting as a nodal body to upkeep the ambience and infrastructure of the college for excellent teaching, lab work, research and farmers' reception.
- Strengthening the classroom and laboratory facilities for UG and PG students through timely and innovative interventions.
- Creating healthy ambience in the college premises by extraordinary interventions of mechanization, logistics, plantations.

College Placement Committee (CPC)

Mandate: To improve placement of passing out students of graduation, masters and Ph.D. from the college.

- Strengthening of Placement Cell through creating functional contacts with prospective employers of our students.
- Maintaining the records pertaining to achievements of pass-out students of the college including their present job, higher education, entrepreneurial ventures, etc.
- Organizing regular training programmes for improving employability skills.
- Generating and updating a database of prospective employers including public and private organizations, startups, NGOs, and other relevant national and international organizations.
- Strengthening networks with college and University alumni associations/bodies/cell.
- Designing a dynamic website of college placement cell.

College Documentation and Showcase Committee (CDSC)

Mandate: To enhance the visibility of student and faculty achievements.

- Placing a permanent board mentioning honours and awards earned by the students and list of students selected in ARS services and as assistant professor in SAUs/Central Universities.
- Showcasing of latest achievements of the students and faculty through various offline and online mediums on a regular basis.
- Reshaping of college agricultural museum.

CAC Members

Coordinator

Dr. R.P. Singh, Professor, Plant Pathology

Core Members

- Dr. M.A. Ansari, Professor, Agricultural Communication
- Dr. V.C. Dhyani, Associate Professor, Agronomy
- Dr. Sweta Rai, Assistant Professor, Food Science and Technology

CIDC Members

Coordinator

Dr. Chandra Dev, Associate Professor, Agriculture Economics

Core Members

- Dr. Satish Chand, Senior Research Officer, Horticulture
- Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Assistant Professor, Agrometeorology
- Dr. Shweta Uniyal, Assistant Professor, Horticulture

CPC Members

Coordinator

Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Senior Research Officer, Agronomy

Core Members

- Dr. Bijendra Kumar, Senior Research Officer, Plant Pathology
- Dr. Arvind Kumar Tyagi, Assistant Professor, Soil Science
- Dr. Anil Kumar, Junior Research Officer, Food Science and Technology
- Dr. Usha Pant, Junior Research Officer, Genetics and Plant Breeding

CDSC Members

Coordinator

Dr. Sumit Chaturvedi, Associate Professor, Agronomy

Core Members

- Dr. Amardeep, Associate Professor, Agricultural Communication
- Dr. Amit Kesarwani, Assistant Professor, Agronomy
- Dr. Kiran Rana, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Communication
- Dr. Sabbu Sangeeta, Assistant Professor, Food Science and Technology
- Dr. Shilpi Rawat, Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology
- Dr. Shweta Arora, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics

COLLEGE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE ORGANIZES SERIES OF ONLINE LECTURES

AGRICULTURE SOCIETY SUPPORTS AS THE CO-HOST

Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Iowa State University, USA discusses about international career opportunities

In this competitive era, we cannot achieve the best until we are acknowledged with what best we can have. To make students aware about best possible international higher education and employment opportunities, the College Academic Committee of College of Agriculture invited Dr. Rameshwar S. Kanwar, Pantnagar alumnus and Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Iowa State University, USA on May 25, 2020 to deliver an online lecture on *International Opportunities for Agriculture Graduates*. Dr. Kanwar, a veteran expert has spent more than forty years of his career learning the meaning of sustainable communities by working on national and international projects funded by World Bank, GEF, USAID, FAO, UNDP, and local governments. He has also received several international awards such as John Deere Gold Medal, Gamma Sigma Delta International Award of Merit, International Service Award of Iowa State University, etc.



While addressing the students, Dr. Kanwar said that students must learn to think critically and globally on sustainable development challenges as the future is in the hands of students. He emphasized on the need for internationally trained professionals across the world. He then briefed about the prospects of foreign assignments, higher education, projects and employment in such an aligning way that the participants could

easily comprehend about futuristic international opportunities. He further elaborated on the higher educational opportunities in USA, Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. Specifying each, he stated that majority of MS/PhD students reaching to these countries, receive some form of assistantship to manage their stay. He also informed about the existing scholarship programmes in different countries. Apart from higher studies, he even emphasized upon international employment opportunities for agriculture graduates across the world.

He detailed upon the career of agriculture students in IT companies, international NGOs and international organisations like World Bank, UN, UNDP, UNEP, FAO. He even mentioned about the possibility of international entrepreneurship and shared some exemplary cases of Indian entrepreneurs.

The talk was indeed exciting with attendance of hundreds of students from undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes of the University. Many students from other universities across the country also participated and shared their positive feedback.



Contributed by:
Anureet Kaur Sandhu, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Dean CBSH addresses students about nanotechnology on College Academic Committee platform

Nanotechnology is the design, fabrication and utilisation of materials and device through the control of matter at nanometer length scale. These were the basics stated by Dr. Sandeep Arora, Dean, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities, Pantnagar in an online lecture organized by College Academic Committee College of Agriculture. He addressed students from all across the country on June 4, 2020 and deliberated upon Nanotechnological Interventions in Modern Agriculture.



While talking to the students, Dr. Arora detailed that nanotechnological interventions are possible in versatile and interdisciplinary fields like agriculture, physics, chemistry, biology, mechanical engineering, information technology etc. He explained that nanotechnology is an ancient science and people are using it for ages however, in scientific domain the exploration has begun recently. Giving an example, he told that *Sawarna Bhasma* which is known to provide strength, immunity, growth and vigour since time immemorial contains gold as nano-sized ingredient. Similarly, plants, animals, insects etc. contain millions of nanoparticles inside their body which help them to endure several diseases. Talking of the distinction of nanoscale, Dr. Arora informed that due to small size, gravitational forces become negligible and the electromagnetic forces become dominant. Hence, smaller size leads to faster diffusion rates. In context of

agriculture, he suggested that nanotechnology will infuse technologies, concepts and principles to evolve products that will precisely deliver outputs in production systems which would ensure food and nutritional security as well as environmental sustainability. Moreover, other concerns like breaking the yield barrier, development of efficient, reliable and quick diagnostic techniques, efficient management of pests and disease can also be managed with a nanotechnological intervention. Also, Dr. Arora pointed out that nano fertilizers/pesticides are an emerging alternative, wherein nano encapsulation technique is followed and the release occurs only in the targeted environment. He suggested that with the use of nanotechnology numerous agricultural problems can be solved with great precision.

The lecture concluded with an interactive question answer session where the participant inquired about various implications of nanotechnology. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Omvati Verma, Staff Counsellor, Agriculture Society who also encouraged the college students to participate in upcoming lectures and generate scientific insights. (Video available on the official youtube channel of the college, link given in the last page)



Contributed by:
Chetan Joshi, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Eminent plant breeder Dr. J. P. Jaiswal delivers a lecture on Procedure for Release of New Variety

There is no denial in the fact that agriculture science has enormous potential to increase the farm yield of small farmers and plant breeding is the branch of agriculture science which is considered as the most effective routes of improving global health through better nutrition. The College Academic Committee organized an online lecture of award winning plant breeder, Dr. J. P. Jaiswal, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding, GBPUAT, Pantnagar, and Chairman, College Core Action Group. The online lecture was held on June 8, 2020 and it aimed to enlighten the budding agriculture scholars and scientists about the detailed procedure of releasing a new plant/crop variety.

Initiating the session, Dr. Jaiswal highlighted the contributions of legendary agricultural scientists who saved the nation from starvation through their high yielding crop varieties. Continuing further, he talked about the challenges of plant breeding discipline, breeding method for varietal development, and step by step process of varietal release. Thereafter, he sequentially detailed about various breeding methods including classical breeding method in self-pollinated crops and cross pollinated crops, mass selection, pure line selection, recurrent selection (single recurrent method and reciprocal recurrent method), pedigree method, single



seed descent method (also known as modified pedigree method) and backcross method. Apart from discussing the breeding methods, he even talked about their merits and demerits which often have a substantial connection with variety development and release process. He then shared the schematic representation of different breeding strategies and their achievements in self collinated crop. He even briefly touched upon the use of synthetic cultivar and mutation breeding. Having an experience of releasing several varieties, he then took an extensive question answer session with the participants from all across the country where he also described about the challenges associated with the varietal release process.

The online lecture was attended by almost 150 research scholars and scientists from different agricultural universities. Since for many it was a first time opportunity to understand the systematic process of varietal release, the talk delivered by Dr. Jaiswal was heartily appreciated. (Video available on the official youtube channel of the college, link given in the last page)



Contributed by:
Anureet Kaur Sandhu, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Contemporary implications of seminal Mendel's Laws explained by prominent maize breeder Dr. N.K. Singh

Some scientific contributions leave an everlasting impact on humankind. Same were the scientific contributions of Gregor Johann Mendel, popularly known as Father of Genetics and widely known for his path breaking Mendel's laws on heredity. To understand Mendel's laws and their implications in greater depth, an online lecture was organized by College Academic Committee of College of Agriculture. The lecture was delivered by popular maize breeder Dr. N. K. Singh, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding, GBPUAT, Pantnagar on June 6, 2020.

In his enriching talk, Dr. Singh gave a holistic perspective about the life, academic journey, and scientific pursuit of Gregor J. Mendel. Through his comprehensive description, the participants could understand and appreciate the love, the struggle, the perseverance that goes behind a scientist and the scientific discoveries. In the initial phase of pea experiments, Mendel had to face several rejections and his findings were not supported by the scientific community. However, he continued with the technique of artificial fertilization which led to the variation in colours, which ultimately became his motivation for further experiments. Dr. Singh also gave an interesting fact that the white or purple flower colour of pea was not used by Mendel contrary to what is often reported in most textbooks on genetics. Also, Mendel used to select easily observable characteristics like shape of seed, colour of seed, height of plants etc. to perform his experiments. He performed



cross pollination between seven contrasting pair and reciprocal crosses to give a clear understanding of his work. He observed that the quantitative characters like size of leaves etc. are always intermediate in offspring while those seven qualitative characters resemble closely to the either of the parents. These breakthrough findings were eventually accepted and later the Mendel's Laws were established. Astonishingly, the term genetics and gene came into existence almost two decades after Mendel passed away, and he never used these terms in any of his written works. Also, the terms heredity and hybridization also have a single appearance in the scientific papers of Mendel. Dr. Singh concludingly stated that with such limited resources, Mendel could give remarkable achievements. Hence, it is important for us to understand that scientific contributions are supported by resources, but not limited by resources.

The inspiring and insightful talk of Dr. N. K. Singh was applauded by all participants. They appreciated the heartfelt connect with which Dr. Singh delivered his words and were encouraged to adopt the same spirit and passion for science which Mendel did. (Video available on the official youtube channel of the college, link given in the last page)



Contributed by:
Vishwas Bandhari, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

College of Agriculture classrooms renovated and developed as digital classrooms

The undergraduate classrooms of the college have been transformed into digital classrooms. An interactive digital screen and whiteboard with internet connectivity has been mounted in the classrooms along with other teaching equipment and aids. The other basic furnishing including flooring mats, curtains, dustbins and doormats have also been installed. Each classroom has been equipped with a quotation board have a life changing quote hanging within the classroom. This entire new furnished digital classroom will bring substantial change in the teaching-learning ecosystem of the college. The interactive digital screen and whiteboard will provide an opportunity to run video conferencing in the classroom through which experts from any corner of the world will be available in the class any moment. It will also facilitate the teachers to play a video or a multimedia presentation in the classroom and the teachers may connect with any online learning resource during the class. The classrooms have also been connected with the Virtual Laboratory located at University Centre-NAHEP Building from where updating of software and resource facilitation will be done.

Speaking about facilities served, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean Agriculture accentuated the need for these digital classrooms for projection facility. "Our undergraduate classrooms were deprived of such facilities earlier. This new education imperative would serve as a platform for video play, video conferencing which is essential in some courses for better understanding. This also provides opportunity for teachers to demonstrate various



presentations, images, aided by online material for more interesting, comprehensive and indepth teaching-learning", he added. Moreover, this digital system will also provide a spectacular opportunity for students to understand farmer's perspective by watching their interviews or connecting them live within the classroom frame.

Similar digital classrooms have been established in other colleges of the University. This entire classroom renovation and digitalization has been supported and funded by the Institutional Development Plan (IDP) of National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), running in the University.



Contributed by:
Pooja Kaira, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

COLLEGE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE ORGANIZES SERIES OF ONLINE LECTURES (contd.)

CEO Ishved Biotech suggests opportunities in agribusiness sector in post COVID-19 era

The world currently is battling with an unprecedented pandemic, but the preparations have already begun for the world post pandemic, which is equally important. The Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Ishved Biotech, one of the largest plant tissue culture organization was invited for an online lecture by the College Academic Committee of College of Agriculture on June 10, 2020. Mr. Sanjay Woyal addressed the college students regarding plethora of opportunities arising in the agribusiness sector.

Beginning with the concept of opportunity recognition, Mr. Woyal suggested that the entire world is looking at Indian agriculture industry with great expectations. Thus, agriculture students must look for entrepreneurial ideas as the agribusiness sector will see great expansion. He further recommended that the concept of farm fresh will see a significant rise, because suddenly people have become more health conscious and consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables has increased. Also, due to varying climatic conditions, many fruits and vegetables can be grown and made available to the customers from farm directly. Further, the market for export is not only in United States or Europe but also in the Middle East. Dr. Woyal then stated two crucial areas where entrepreneurial ventures can create a difference. These included



supply chain management and agricultural consultancy. In the first case, the requirements of fresh delivery, home delivery, door to door delivery, transportation and storage systems, are required to

be met and hence with the help of technology, these can be successfully accomplished. While, in case of consultancy, experts are needed who can work directly with farmers, business managers, suppliers and guide them regarding export of quality product, packaging and marketing, pre and post harvest management, and adoption of agricultural technologies. Some other emerging areas as suggested by Mr. Woyal included food processing, organic farming, cold storage chains, field mechanization, robotics and agricultural automation. While, closing his talk he gave a wise piece of advice to all by saying that generally we all engage into our professions for earning a livelihood, yet we all must not forget the bigger picture of helping the society or giving it back in whatever way possible as the society has given a lot to us. (Video available on the official youtube channel of the college, link given in the last page)



Contributed by:
Vishwas Bandhari, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Exemplary contribution of Pantnagar scientists amidst COVID-19 lockdown

14 new crop varieties released by SVRC

The contribution of Pantnagar University in ushering green revolution is well known. Time and again, the diligent scientists have been contributing to sustain food and nutrition security of the country. Recently, the State Varietal Release Committee of Uttarakhand released 14 new varieties on May 25, 2020 developed by scientists of the college. The released varieties included two of maize (DH291-Pant Shankar Makka 5 and DH296-Pant Shankar Makka 6), three of wheat (UP2903, UP2938, UP2944), three of gram (Pant Gram 6, Pant Gram 8, Pant Gram 9), one of pigeon pea (Pant Arhar 7), four of fodder sorghum (Pant Chari 12, Pant Chari 13, Pant Chari 14), and one of oats (Pant Chara Jai 4). The team of scientists from the department of genetics and plant breeding who developed the varieties included Dr. J.P. Jaiswal, Dr. Birendra Prasad, Dr. D.C. Baskheti, Dr. Kamendra Singh, Dr. N.K. Singh, Dr. P.K. Pandey, Dr. R.K. Panwar, Dr. S.K. Verma, Dr. S.S. Verma, Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. Anju Arora, and Dr. Swati.

Each of the 14 developed varieties have their own specific merits. The varieties of maize consist 73% starch, and thus they are highly suitable for starch processing. Also, the main benefit of these varieties is that the entire plant remains green even after maturity of the cob. Further, in context of wheat varieties, UP2903 and UP2938 are early sowing varieties while UP2944 is late sowing variety. These three varieties have high resistance against yellow rust and contain high content of zinc and iron. The gram varieties have also been reported as having high resistance against wilt and medium resistance against pod borer with grain yield of almost 18-



22 quintals/hectare. Additionally, Pant Gram 8 has an ideal plant type which means infestation of disease and insects will be extremely low in this variety. The pigeon pea variety is an early maturing variety having a growing period of 140-142 days and high resistance against wilt, phytophthora and insects like pod borer. Lastly, the variety of oats is a high yielding variety with grain yield of 18 quintals/hectare and forage yield of 400-500 quintals/hectare. The varietal release is a cumulative effort of scientists, farm workers, and other supporting units of the college. It is aspired that the college would continue to contribute similarly for the cause of agriculture and humankind. (Video available on the official youtube channel of the college, link given in the last page)



Contributed by:
Gautam Harbola, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Accolades for AICRP on Sorghum running in Pantnagar

Declared as best performing AICRP of 2017-20

The College of Agriculture takes pride in the spectacular achievements of its scientists throughout the years. Among the several achievements, the consistent release of new and enhanced crop varieties has affirmed the place of the college and the university as one of the seminal institute in the country. Another feather to the cap of achievement was added in Annual Group Meeting on AICRP Sorghum and Small Millets on May 28-29, 2020 at Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad where Pantnagar AICRP on Sorghum was declared as the Best Performing AICRP Centre for Overall Performance during the period 2017-2020. The scientific contribution of the Pantnagar AICRP centre has been remarkable with recent release of four new varieties, namely Pant Chari 12 - PC 23 X (SDSL 92101 X UPFS23), Pant Chari 13 - PC 23 X (SDSL 92101 X UPFS23), Pant Chari 14 (UPFS 37 X UPMC 6), and Pant Chari 15 (IS 3267 X UPMC 512). Since the beginning of this AICRP, it has made outstanding contribution in context of development of high yielding single cut and multicut forage sorghum varieties, hybrid varieties, and catering to the needs of green and dry fodder. The AICRP has also received recognition for producing germplasm variety.

The current team of AICRP on Sorghum comprises of Dr. Yogendra Singh, Professor, Plant Pathology and AICRP

Coordinator, Dr. P. K. Pandey, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Dr. Kranti Kumar, Assistant Professor, Agronomy, Dr. D. K. Shukal, Junior Research Officer, Agronomy, Dr. Shivji Singh, Sorghum Breeder and Dr. Yesh Pal, Sorghum Breeder. The earlier coordinator of this AICRP, Dr. P. K. Shrotria led several initiatives, hence his role has been of paramount importance in taking this centre towards the apex of excellence. On this momentous feat, Dr. Yogendra Singh applauded the team spirit and hard work of all members and supporting staff of the AICRP. Talking about the priority areas of the AICRP, Dr. P. K. Pandey reflected that grain yield is considered to be the utmost priority and thus with each release the seed production capacity also increases. Adding to it, Dr. Kranti Kumar said that growing two varieties i.e. single cut and multicut is difficult due to their diverse nature. Another challenge is to endure the heavy rainfalls. Nevertheless, the new released varieties have been able to deal with these shortcomings and also a hybrid variety has been produced which gives high yield even under adverse conditions. (Video available on the official youtube channel of the college, link given in the last page)



Contributed by:
Chetan Joshi, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Initiatives to connect with College Alumni for student welfare and college development

AAAP executives meet with Dean Agriculture and CCAG online

The College of Agriculture took initiative to connect with executive members of Agri Alumni Association of Pantnagar (AAAP) through virtual mode under chairmanship of Dean Agriculture Dr. S.K. Kashyap. The executive members of AAAP including Mr. N.K. Arora (1972 Batch), President AAAP, Mr. Harendra Singh (1978 Batch) Vice President AAAP, Mr. Virendra Goswami (1996 Batch), General Secretary, Mr. Sanjay Naithani, Mr. Aleen Mukherjee and Mr. Chirag Upadhyay participated in the discussion. Dr. S. K. Kashyap, Dean Agriculture made a presentation on the developments at Pantnagar and the achievements of College of Agriculture in near past. He expressed that the alumni strength of the college has so far played a seminal role in building up the future propositions of the college in academic, research, student placement, industry collaboration, infrastructural development and all other aligning aspects. He talked about the significant role alumni groups may play in favour of their esteemed alma mater. Speaking on the occasion President, AAAP Mr. N.K. Arora expressed his utmost willingness to support

the college, faculty members and students at every possible juncture. He said that agriculture students may come for internships, exposure visits and projects to the leading agro industrial firms where AAAP could easily facilitate their engagement with the industry. Coordinating the meeting, Mr. Virendra Goswami expressed his happiness for the very proactive and pragmatic initiative from the college side to align and link with the alumni group and said that a common agenda can be developed in the interest of the college and the students to work together for the progress of our alma mater, College of Agriculture. In continuity to the first meeting held with the alumni group, a series of expert talks of our illustrious alumni have been decided in the coming month. The college is looking forward for such initiatives as it will definitely enhance the caliber as well as the employability traits of college graduates.



Contributed by:
Pooja Kaira, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Outline of the upcoming talks finalized with the alumni of the college

The role of alumni associations in shaping the alma mater
Mr. N. K. Arora, President AAAP

Status of Indian seed industry: Opportunities for agriculture graduates
Mr. Harendra Singh, Managing Director, Rijk Zwaan Seeds

The role of coated/speciality fertilisers
Mr. Sanjay Naithani, Chief Agronomist, Israel Chemicals

Role of banks/NBFCs in strengthening farmer income
Mr. Harish Rawat, Director, Standard Chartered Bank

Role of agri derivatives market
Mr. Aleen Mukherjee, Executive Vice President, NCDEX

College Placement Committee formed to improve career prospects of college students

Employability skill training to be regularly conducted

The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar reconstituted the College Placement Committee (CPC) under the guidance of the Dean Dr. S.K. Kashyap. This newly constituted committee intends to bring in internship, placement, and other industry exposure related opportunities for the college students. Dr. Rajeew Shukla, Chairman, College Placement Committee, and Dr. Navneet Pareek, Facilitator, College Placement Committee are making all possible efforts to improve the career prospects of students especially with respect to industry placements and internships.

In its initial phase of working, the CPC will be sharing a notice with all college students wherein students will be asked to submit their resume. An internal and initial scrutiny will be done by the CPC, and the selected resumes will then be forwarded to the recruiting organizations who will then carry out their own screening process. The selected graduates will then be called for an interview, and maybe in current situation of COVID-19 the interviews might occur online. Other than managing the placement

process, the CPC will also be organizing regular industry interactions, employability skills workshops, and technical trainings. This will help the students to stay abreast in all aspects of hard and soft skills. Also, the CPC would be creating a detailed student database with requisite information in order to place the students in suitable career options.

The working of the CPC is to be regulated by a dedicated team of faculty members and student volunteers. Student volunteers will play a critical role in being ambassadors of Pantnagar while connecting and networking with business organizations. The volunteers need to have basic computer skills, fluent communication skills and coordination skills. Interested students can submit their resumes to the CPC when asked for. With the motto of aiding students and placing them in good positions in business organizations, the CPC aspires to see significant growth and difference.



Contributed by:
Abha Belwal, B.Sc Agriculture, IInd Year

Lab manuals getting prepared for all undergraduate courses of the college

The College of Agriculture, Pantnagar took an initiative of preparing laboratory (lab) manuals for all undergraduate courses that are being taught in the college. This initiative was proposed by the Dean of the college, who then discussed it with all departmental heads. This was taken in enthusiastic spirit by the departmental heads, and different teams were prepared comprising faculty members of the college. This herculean task initiated right from the time when the closure of academic institutes was announced from March 15, 2020 onwards. Since classes were officially called off during this time, the faculty members took the situational mileage and started preparing the lab manuals in a rigorous manner. Each lab manual consists of the theoretical aspect of a given topic, the experimental details with step by step procedure, related figures and graphs, and a worksheet to fill in the experimental data and findings. This comprehensive lab manual will help the college students to critically understand and

comprehend all the vital details related with a given topic and its associated experiment. Moreover, students will no longer be required to spend time in the writing part, rather more time could be devoted in the lab towards understanding the experimental procedures and its scientificity. So far, 15 lab manuals have been finalized for publication. This enormous work is getting systematically executed with the support of various faculty members, team coordinators, and departmental heads who are conducting regular meetings for effective work distribution and efficient implementation. Also, before finalizing the lab manual, each of it is getting reviewed by senior faculty members of the respective department. Definitely, this lab manual publication will be a great addition to the academic repository of the college.



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Official Youtube Channel of the College

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