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From the Vice Chancellor's Desk

Seeding Change: Carbon Farming and Sustainable Practices in Agriculture

Climate change, global warming, and the rise in carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels constitute integral elements within Earth's intricate environmental system. Human activities, such as the combustion of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas), deforestation, and industrial processes, release substantial volumes of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, resulting in both global warming and climate change. The recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) emphasizes the imperative for immediate actions to limit global warming to 1.5°C, requiring a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and an 84% reduction by 2050.



The repercussions of climate change are evident in altered temperature and precipitation patterns, affecting crop growth cycles, disrupting pollination, and intensifying the frequency of extreme weather events, ultimately impacting agricultural productivity. Carbon emissions, particularly in the form of greenhouse gases, significantly affect agriculture, influencing crop production, soil health, and overall food security.

Carbon farming constitutes a suite of agricultural and land-use practices aimed at sequestering CO₂ from the atmosphere into vegetation, soils, and organic matter. The primary objective is to mitigate climate change by capturing and storing carbon, a pivotal greenhouse gas. Earning carbon credits through such farming involves implementing practices that sequester CO₂ or reduce emissions in agriculture. These credits, representing quantifiable reductions or removals of greenhouse gas emissions, can be traded on carbon markets to individuals, businesses, or governments seeking to offset their own emissions. The associated co-benefits, such as improved soil health and biodiversity, contribute to sustainable practices and environmental resilience.

Planting trees and shrubs in agricultural areas aids carbon sequestration in both above ground biomass and soil. Agroforestry systems integrate crop or livestock cultivation with sustainable tree management. During non-growing seasons, planting cover crops protects and enriches the soil, with legumes contributing to soil organic matter and enhanced carbon sequestration. Reduced or no-till farming minimizes soil disturbance, preserving structure and organic matter, sequestering carbon, and reducing CO₂ emissions. Planned grazing systems for livestock enhance carbon sequestration, promoting healthier pastures and soils through rotational grazing. Organic and natural farming avoids synthetic inputs, emphasizing natural ones, fostering healthier soils, increased organic matter, and improved carbon sequestration. Biochar, derived from biomass, enhances soil carbon sequestration and fertility while potentially reducing soil greenhouse gas emissions. Establishing vegetation along water bodies creates buffer zones that filter pollutants, reduce erosion, and sequester carbon in the soil. Precision agriculture practices, optimizing water, fertilizer, and pesticide use, also contribute to reducing the carbon footprint.

During my visit to Western Sydney University, Australia, it became evident that global recognition of the importance of carbon farming practices is growing. The research and adoption of carbon farming practice in agriculture can continued significantly in India's commitment to address climate change and reducing carbon footprint.

(V. P. Chovatia)

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister's interaction with faculty and students undergone international training

Honorable Agriculture Minister of Gujarat State, Shri Raghavjibhai Patel engaged in a productive interaction on October 14, 2023 with the faculties and students of Junagadh Agricultural University who had completed their international trainings under NAHEP-IDP.



In addition, 10 UG students of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, who were pursuing their international training at Hokkaido University, Japan, also joined interaction in virtual mode. This interaction provided a valuable platform for sharing experiences, insights, and knowledge gained from their international exposure, fostering a collaborative environment for the advancement of agricultural practices and education in the region. During the interactions, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR and PI (IDP), JAU; Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Principal & Dean, CAET & Registrar, JAU, Junagadh and other faculty members remained present.



Official Visit to WSU, Australia by Honorable Vice-Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh

Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, paid an official visit to Western Sydney University (WSU), Sydney, Australia, from November 15-17, 2023 under the aegis of NAHEP-IDP. The visit was aimed to explore the new era of collaboration between the two institutions. During his visit, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor sightsaw cutting-edge facilities and laboratories at WSU, raising a vibrant exchange of ideas and insights.

This exciting venture culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between JAU and WSU, symbolizing a commitment to collaborative excellence in education and research. This milestone not only strengthened the bond between institutions but opens doors to endless possibilities for innovation and shared learning. Dr. Chovatia also visited the research units and experimental stations of WSU and Industries in Sydney.



Patents secured by JAU

The research contributions from the scientists at department of PFE, CAET, JAU, Junagadh led to JAU securing two patents for innovative technologies that have the potential to enhance the processing and value-addition prospects of the commodities. The first patent was for "A Grain Treater for Pre-Milling Enzymatic Treatment to Pigeon Pea," while the second one was for "A Process of Enzymatic Pre-Treatment on Varieties of Pigeon Pea."



Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR, and Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Principal and Dean of the college, extended their best wishes to the dedicated scientists for these achievements.

Inauguration of Girls' Hostel and Oilseed Rat Proof Godown

Honorable Agriculture Minister of Gujarat State, Shri Raghavjibhai Patel Inaugurated "Matushree Savitri" Girls' Hostel Building for the Girl students of College of Horticulture, and "Oilseed Rat Proof Godown" at JAU, Junagadh campus on October 14, 2023. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU and other University officers remained present during Inauguration. The Girls' Hostel Building with construction cost of Rs. 650 Lakh is having modern facilities of boarding, lodging and other utilities. The Oilseed Rat Proof Godown is constructed with total cost of Rs. 120 Lakh.



7th Alumni-Entrepreneur Meet 2023 of CAET, JAU, Junagadh

The Alumni Association of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, organized the 7th Alumni-Entrepreneur Meet 2023 during December 02–03, 2023, under NAHEP-IDP. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, presided over the inaugural function with Shri Ravi Mathur, Vice-President of Tirth Agri Tech Pvt. Ltd., Rajkot, as the Chief Guest, and Er. Rameshbhai Khichadia as the Guest of Honour. Dr. R. B. Madariya, Director of Research, JAU; Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Patron, CAETAA, and Principal & Dean, CAET; Dr. H. D. Rank, President, CAETAA; Er. Butalal Bhatiya,

Director, Samarth Group, Bhopal; and Er. Kaushlendra, Executive Director, Kaushlya Foundation were also in attendance, along with the participation of 650 alumni and current students. In his presidential address, Dr. Chovatia appreciated the remarkable contributions of the college and mentioned that the roots of the college ran deep with a vision to revolutionize the agricultural landscape. Panel discussion sessions on enhancing student placements, establishing an Agricultural Engineering Department, and issues related to employment generation in the agricultural engineering sector were conducted in addition to the motivational lecture series for the UG students. Further, successful alumni and entrepreneurs shared insights, interacted with current students, and provided guidance for their career development.



International Training on 'Agriculture in the Future and Future in Agriculture'

A 21-days international training program on 'Agriculture in the Future and Future in Agriculture' was virtually organized by Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, in collaboration with RVSKVV, Gwalior; ICRISAT, Hyderabad; and Agri-Meet Foundation, Gwalior, from November 20 to December 10, 2023.



A total of 405 participants from different universities across the country participated and learned about several cutting-edge techniques. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, along with Dr. R. B. Madariya, Director of Research, JAU, graced the valedictory ceremony virtually and interacted with the participants about the utility of the training in widening their knowledge in the emerging areas of agricultural education.

MoUs Signed by JAU

MoU between JAU and Different Industries & Institutions

A total of 11 MoUs were signed between JAU and different industries and institutions during the 7th Alumni-Entrepreneur Meet 2023 of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, on December 2, 2023. Among the MoUs signed, one exclusively focused on transferring technology related to pre-milling enzymatic treatment for pigeon pea, a patented JAU technology, while all others focused on industry-academia collaborations for training faculty and students alike.



MoU between JAU and GNFC

In a significant step towards spreading valuable agricultural knowledge and supporting sustainable farming, Community Radio Station, Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement, formalized on December 26, 2023, aims to produce and broadcast 180 radio talks dedicated to agriculture. The talks will cover various topics such as the PM-PRANAM scheme, nutrient management, balanced fertilizer use, soil health, and sustainable agriculture. The series of radio talks (180) will be broadcast throughout the year, providing comprehensive coverage of essential agricultural subjects and ensuring ongoing engagement with the farming community.



Workshops/ Trainings organized under NAHEP-IDP

NARES - Blended Learning Platform (BLP)

A three-days workshop on "NARES - Blended Learning Platform (BLP)" was conducted by Information Technology Cell, Junagadh Agricultural University in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi from October 5 -7, 2023. The primary aim of this workshop was to introduce faculty and students to the Blended Learning Platform (BLP) introduced by ICAR under NAHEP Component-2. This unique approach to learning empowers faculty to engage students through the use of visuals and interactive online interactions, resulting in a more engaging and dynamic educational experience. A total of 439 participants, comprising both students and faculty from a diverse range of academic disciplines, enthusiastically took part in the workshop. Also, a 12 master trainers (nominated 2 faculties from each college) were trained for the use of this BLP Platform.



The Growing Role of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture

A two-day workshop on 'The growing role of artificial intelligence in agriculture: Revolutionizing farming practices' was organized by CAET, JAU, Junagadh, in collaboration with IIT, Ropar during December 4-5, 2023 under the aegis of NAHEP-IDP. The inaugural ceremony of the workshop was graced by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU; Dr. Chetan Trivedi, Hon'ble VC, BKNMU, Junagadh; Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR and PI (IDP); Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Principal & Dean and Co-PI (IDP), CAET, JAU, Junagadh and other



university officers of JAU. Eminent speakers from reputed national institutes like; IIT, Ropar; IIT, Delhi; NIT, Delhi and CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh delivered their expert lectures on emerging aspects and applications of AI tools in agriculture and allied sciences. The workshop was attended by 107 faculties and 50 PG scholars from all the colleges of the university. A poster contest on the theme 'Potential use of AI in agriculture' was also held for PG students and the winners were felicitated.

Automation in Protected Cultivation

A two-day workshop on 'Automation in Protected Cultivation' was organized by the College of Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh, during December 6-7, 2023, under NAHEP-IDP benefiting 150 faculty members of JAU.

Renowned experts were roped in from ICAR institutions and SAUs as well as Prof. Clive Kaiser, Associate Professor (Horticulture), Lincoln University, New Zealand, delivered guest lectures. The participants refurbished their knowledge and widened their grasp on the nuances of automation in protected cultivation, along with its crop-wise and location-wise feasibility and advantages in terms of improved yield levels and cost reductions.



Soft Skills and e-Services

Two days' workshop on "Soft Skills and e-Services" was organized by Directorate of Research, JAU in collaboration with Directorate of Students' Welfare and Directorate of IT, JAU Junagadh during December 11-12, 2023 under the aegis of NAHEP-IDP. The inaugural function was chaired by Dr. V.P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh, with the presence of Sh. J. K. Thesia, Chairman and Managing Trustee of Shri Sardar Patel Education Trust, Junagadh.

Lectures were conducted on: Imparting Value Education for Holistic Development; e-Agricultural



Services: The Future for Enhanced Agricultural Productivity; Non-verbal Communication in Classroom; Entrepreneurial Skills for Agri-Startups; e-Services in Agriculture; Use of ICT in Education; Stress Management Blueprint: Workplace and Personal Insights; Some Useful ICT Applications of e-Governance; e-Commerce, and e-Agriculture by different experts. The workshop witnessed the active participation of more than 100 JAU, staff members who benefitted from the training.

Training on 'Shaping Horticulture through Entrepreneurship'

A five-days vocational training on 'Shaping Horticulture through Entrepreneurship' was organized by CoH, JAU, Junagadh, during December 6-10, 2023, for the benefit of UG students from the agricultural and horticultural colleges of the university. The program had overall 100 students in attendance. The inauguration of the training program was presided over by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU. Shri Harshad Mehta, SP, Junagadh Police, graced the occasion as the guest of honour. Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR, and PI (IDP); Dr. D. K. Varu, Principal and Dean, CoH, JAU, Junagadh, and other university officers remained present. The training focused on hands-on training sessions handled by several industrial experts and academicians, and a training manual was also released in the inaugural for the benefit of the participating students.



International Trainings/Visit of Faculties and Students under NAHEP-IDP

Dr. D. K. Varu

Dr. D. K. Varu, the Principal and Dean of the College of Horticulture at JAU, Junagadh, embarked on a visit to Lincoln University in Christchurch, New Zealand, as part of the NAHEP, IDP program from October 22 to November 4, 2023. During his stay, he explored various greenhouse units, research farms, and orchards, gaining insights into the ongoing research experiments, classrooms, facilities, and seminar halls to assess the teaching infrastructure. His itinerary included visits to prominent New Zealand government institutes such as the Biotron-Rhyzotron laboratory, Plant growth chamber laboratory, Agresearch,

Greenhouse units of NOVA trust, Alan Herbarium, Botanical garden in Christchurch, Farms of Assure Quality in Diamond Harbour, and the natural and artificial landscapes at Queenstown, Sumner beach, and Hanmer. Dr. Varu actively participated in a climate resilience conference focused on horticultural crops and addressed University scientists, sharing insights into the academic and research activities at JAU.



Dr. G. V. Prajapati

Dr. G. V. Prajapati, Associate Professor, Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, underwent one-month international training under NAHEP-IDP at Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University (WSU), Sydney, Australia, from September 19 to October 18, 2023 under mentorship of Dr. Nisha Rakesh, Senior Advisor - Research Strategy and Partnerships, WSU. During the training, he acquired valuable insights into a diverse array of experiments on protected cultivation, precision agriculture, agricultural water management, water harvesting and recycling, and climate change facilities. Apart from his training at WSU, Dr. Prajapati also interacted with six other distinguished researchers of other esteemed universities and a drone manufacturing-cum-service provider company based in Sydney. The training also paved the way for exploring potential future academic and research collaborations.



Dr. H. V. Parmar

Dr. H. V. Parmar, Associate Professor, Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, underwent his one-month international training under NAHEP-IDP at Institute

for Natural Resources and Agrobiology (IRNAS), Seville, Spain, from October 27 to November 26, 2023 under the mentorship of Prof. José E. Fernández, Head of the Irrigation and Crop Ecophysiology Group and Director of the host institute. The training was an enriching experience for Dr. Parmar as it expanded his exposure to different equipment, devices, sensors for the plant-based measurements of water stress for irrigation scheduling, deficit irrigation, precision irrigation, digitization in irrigation, automation in irrigation system, fertigation system and data logging system. The scientist also paid visits to experimental farm, and water harvesting sites and consulted with several experts and subject matter specialists.



Dr. Jigar S. Parsana

Dr. Jigar S. Parsana, Asst. Prof., College of Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh, completed his one-month international training program under NAHEP-IDP on 'Cutting-edge techniques in fruit production and pre/post-harvest physiology in potatoes, sweet cherries, and avocados' at Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand, from October 22 to November 21, 2023. Under the mentorship of Dr. Clive Kaiser, Dr. Parsana participated in the department's research and academic activities, besides interacting with the researchers at other labs.



He also visited the orchards maintained at the host university and focused on the rejuvenation techniques that were in practice. Dr. Parsana also undertook several farm visits in the nearby rural areas and understood the scope and potential of horticulture and allied agricultural enterprises.

Hokkaido University, Japan

A total of 10 students of B. Tech (Agril. Engg.) from CAET, JAU, Junagadh, completed their 43-days

international training at Graduate School of Environmental Science, Hokkaido University, Japan, from October 6 to November 14, 2023 under the mentorship of Dr. Ram Avtar, a globally reputed scholar and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Environmental Earth Science, Hokkaido University, Japan, and Director of the Global Land Programme (GLP), Japan Nodal Office. The students were trained in cutting-edge agriculture technologies like; remote sensing and GIS along with their application in modern agriculture, Google Earth Pro and environmental ecosystem services. The students also undertook field trip to Yao farm, Atsuma landslide field, and drone technology centre. Beyond their professional training and exposure, students also took part in several social and cultural activities.



University of Putra, Malaysia

Twelve students from the CoA, Junagadh, and Motabhandariya, and CoH, Junagadh completed international training on 'Skills for Technology Development, Entrepreneurship, and Management in Agriculture' at the University of Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Serdang, Selangor state, Malaysia. The training took place from November 22, 2023, to December 21, 2023, with the students deftly mentored in recent advances in agro-processing and value-addition. The students were also given exposure to the procedures and documentation involved in agro-exports, with the objective of honing their entrepreneurial and managerial skills. During their field visits, as a part of their training, the students gained first-hand exposure to business activities in food companies, spice markets, vegetable yards, and



fruit dehydration plants. Further, the students interacted with local farmers, traders, and entrepreneurs in Malaysia and obtained valuable insights into the existing opportunities in the agri-business sector.

Dignitaries Visit

Shri Raghavjibhai Patel, Minister of Agriculture

Shri Raghavjibhai Patel, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat; Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya, Member of Parliament, Amreli Lok Sabha (Gujarat); Shri Kaushik Vekariya, Deputy Chief whip – Gujarat Legislative Assembly, MLA-Amreli, Kunkavav, Vadiya; Prof. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar, JAU, Junagadh; Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, JAU, Junagadh and Dr. P. J. Prajapati, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Amreli visited Advanced Farmer Training Centre of KVK, Amreli, Liliya Road on November 9, 2023 and discussed budget allocation for its pending work and repairing of the training centre by the authorities.



Mr. Tejaswi Naik, IAS

Mr. Tejaswi Naik (IAS), PS to Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, visited Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh during November 16-18, 2023.



AICRP Monitoring Team Visit

The AICRP Monitoring team visited the Cotton Research Station, JAU, Junagadh on October 16, 2023. The team comprised of Dr. G. T. Behere, Head, Division of Crop Protection, Dr. Shailesh Gawande, Senior Scientist, Dr. Rahul Phuke, Senior

Scientist, ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur, Dr. A. Subramani, Professor, TNAU, Coimbatore and Sh. Basavaraj Huggi, M/s Rama Agri. Genetics (I), Pvt. Ltd. monitored the activities. The team satisfied the progress of AICRP.



Program on 'Decentralized Small Scale Waste Water System'

A one-day program on “Presentation and Interaction on Decentralized Small Scale Waste Water System to Solve Rural Sanitation Problems” was organized on December 12, 2023, at CAET, JAU, Junagadh. Dr. Anis Jantrania, Associate Professor & Extension Specialist, Texas A&M University, USA, delivered an expert talk on the topic and emphasized the importance of waste water utilization for the agriculture sector and the need for sincere research on this pressing issue in the times to come. During the interaction session, Dr. Jantrania also delved into the existing opportunities for students to pursue higher studies abroad. The program had 175 students and faculties of the university in attendance, and it was inaugurated and presided over by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, and graced by Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR, JAU, and Er. Naranbhai Fuletra, CMD, Rainmake Irrigation, Ahmedabad.



Farmers Training under Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva

A one-day farmers training programme under Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS) was organized by Agromet Cell, JAU, Junagadh, on December 29, 2023 in collaboration with KVK, JAU, Khapat. The overarching objective of the training was to enhance

the capacity of farmers to make informed decisions related to agricultural activities based on weather forecasts. Dr. S. J. Sindhi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agronomy, CoA, Junagadh, delivered a lecture on weather forecasts and emphasized the use of modern technology, including mobile applications and SMS services, to access real-time weather information from GKMS, a rural agricultural weather service provider. He also demonstrated how effectively farmers could make use of the forecasting tools to plan and manage their seasonal farm operations. The programme had 100 farm women in attendance along with the presence of university officers and faculties.



Blood Donation Camp & Thalassemia Camp

The Directorate of Students Welfare, JAU, in collaboration with HDFC Bank, Junagadh, organized a Blood Donation Camp and Thalassemia Screening Camp on December 8, 2023. The camp was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. V.P. Chovatia, who lit the lamp to commence the event. Dr. G.K. Gajera, MD Pathology, Gajera Pathology Lab, and President of Jivan Prakash Voluntary Blood Bank, Junagadh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Viren Mansata, Cluster Head of HDFC Bank, was also present during the event. Dr. R.M. Solanki, Director of Students' Welfare, extended a warm welcome to all the esteemed guests. The camp successfully collected a total of 36 units of blood from both staff and students. Additionally, the Red Cross Society, Ahmedabad, collaborated to conduct



thalassemia screening for first-year students of university colleges and polytechnics. Dr. Gajera, in his presentation, shed light on thalassemia, its cure, and the importance of the screening test. More than 600 students actively participated in the camp, undergoing thalassemia screening to contribute to their overall well-being. Thalassemia Camp was also organized at ASPEE CoA, JAU, Khapat- Porbandar on December 8, 2023 and College of Agriculture, JAU, Mota - Bhandariya on December 9, 2023.

JAU Inter Collegiate Sports & Cultural Competition 2023-24

Inter Collegiate Sports & Cultural Competition 2023-24 of JAU was organized on October 08, 2023. The competition was inaugurated by Dr. V.P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh. Inter Polytechnic Sports Competition 2023-24 was also held on November 22, 2023. Polytechnic in Agriculture, Sidsar, and Polytechnic in Horticulture, Junagadh jointly organized sports competitions.



Participation of JAU students in West Zone Kabaddi & Volleyball

A team of 12 students of JAU participated in West Zone- Kabaddi (M) held during November 4-8, 2023 at Devi Ahilya University, Indore (M.P). A team of 12 students of JAU participated in West Zone- Volleyball (M) held during December 14- 18, 2023 at Swami Ramanand Tirth Marathwada Vidyapith, Nanded, Maharashtra

Awareness program on Sexual Harassment at Workplace

A workshop on “Awareness program on Sexual Harassment at Workplace” to commemorate Sexual Harassment at Workplace Prevention Week was

organized on December 22, 2023 at Seminar Hall, CAET, JAU, Junagadh under the aegis of NAHEP, IDP. The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest Mrs. Hina Ben V. Chovatia, President, Krushi Pariwar Mahila Mandal, JAU and preceded by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, and JAU.

The workshop was organized under the guidance of Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Principal and Dean, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, Prof. B. M. Devani, Asstt. Prof., Dept. of PFE, CAET was the organizing secretary.



The female faculty and staff of JAU and girls students of CAET were made aware on sexual harassment at workplace and its different forms, laws and guidelines to protect women from it; self-protection by women against sexual harassment at workplace and awareness on sexual harassment at workplace by key speaker Mr. Jaikishan M. Devani, Additional Public Prosecutor & AGP & Notary, Junagadh; Ms. Vidhi K. Unjiya, PSI, C-Division, Junagadh and Ms. Aruna Koladiya, Counselor, 181 Abhyam Mahila Helpline, respectively. The programme was graced Dr. R.B.Madaria, DR and PI (IDP), Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW and Principal and Deans of various colleges and Polytechnics.

JAU Staff Cricket Tournament

The JAU Staff Cricket Tournament was organized by the Office of DSW, JAU from December 22-24, 2023. Eleven teams from different departments and colleges of JAU enthusiastically participated in the event. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, inaugurated the tournament, emphasizing the significance of organizing such events within the University's busy schedule. He highlighted that such tournaments contribute to fostering teamwork and improving the overall working environment. The team



“Sudama XI” won the championship. The event not only provided a platform for friendly competition but also contributed to enhancing camaraderie and team spirit among the JAU staff members. The success of the tournament underscored the importance of recreational activities in promoting a healthy and collaborative atmosphere within the academic community.

National Integration Camp

A National Integration Camp spanning seven days took place at Nutan Gram Vidyapith in the village of Thava, Ta-Netrang, District Bharuch, from December 16-22, 2023. Nine students from the College of Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh actively participated in this enriching experience. Throughout the camp, the students delved into a diverse range of topics, including doubling farmers' income, the significance of Panch Gavya, natural resource management, rural-to-urban and urban-to-rural migration, and more. Engaging activities and competitions such as group dances, poster competitions, traditional attire showcases, and rangoli competitions were organized, adding a vibrant and participatory dimension to the camp. Exposing students to such multifaceted subjects and encouraging their involvement in various activities contributes significantly to their holistic development.



Participation in ADROIT 2023: National Level Tech Fest

The College of Food Processing Technology and Bio Energy organized a two-days National Tech Fest called ADROIT'23 on October 16-17, 2023 in Anand, to celebrate World Food Day. The event was held at a national level, and more than 500 students from different colleges of the country participated in various events. The college set up the event, which introduced various competitions such as Students-Got-Talent, Feel-N-Find, Mastermind (a food quiz), Future Food Entrepreneurship Challenge, Poster



Presentation, and New Product Development. Total 51 B.Tech (Agril Engg.) students and 41 students from Polytechnic in Agro Processing participated in the event, with Ms Prushti Sardhara giving an outstanding performance. She participated in the Feel-N-Find competition, which had 452 competitors, and she was the runner-up. She was awarded a trophy, 3000/- cash prize, and a certificate by officers of Anand Agricultural University.

Celebration of Days

World Cotton Day

World Cotton Day was celebrated on October 7, 2023 at Cotton Research Station, JAU, Junagadh, by organizing a one-day farmers' training program as well as a rally. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, inaugurated the programme. In his inaugural address, he highlighted the importance of celebrating



World Cotton Day as well as means to increase cotton production and quality. Dr. R. B. Madaria, DR, JAU, emphasized minimizing the use of chemical insecticides and advised farmers to increase production by using the new technologies developed by the Agricultural University. Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, JAU, suggested that cotton growers must be aware of their cultivation practices against climate change. Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar, JAU, highlighted the importance of Biochar products in cotton cultivation in his address. Lectures were delivered on various aspects of cotton cultivation by Dr. M. G. Valu, Research Scientist, Cotton Research Station, JAU, and other scientists of the center. Farmers, representatives of various private companies, and different NGOs remained present in large numbers during the celebrations.



Mahila Kisan Diwas

Mahila Kisan Diwas 2023 was celebrated on October 15, 2023 by various KVKs of JAU under the theme 'Millets: Empowering Women and Providing Nutritional Security'.

KVK, Jamnagar

KVK, Jamnagar celebrated this day by organizing farmwomen training at KVK Campus on nutritional value of Millets and design of low/minimum cost diet. During the training, awareness created on nutritional components of different millets and practical demonstration were also performed by making of Bajra biscuits, Jowar biscuits and ragi cake.



KVK, Pipalia

KVK, Pipalia organized an event at Bholgamda village in Dhoraji with the primary goal of empowering women working in agriculture. Total 52 farm women were participated in the event.



KVK, Targhadia

KVK, Targhadia celebrated a day at Kalasar village of Paddhari taluka. Total 21 farmwomen participated in this program. Smt. Hetal H. Padsumbiya, Scientist (Home Science) gave the information regarding Kitchen Garden, importance of millets, women and child health and nutrition etc.

World Soil Day

The World Soil Day 2023 on the theme "Soil and Water: A Source of Life" was organized by AICRP-

IWM, Department of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering at CAET, JAU, Junagadh, on December 5, 2023. The day was observed in two sessions with the participation of 120 faculties, 20 PG students in Session I, and 100 UG students in Session II.



The expert lecture on "The Potential of AI Applications in Soil and Water Management" was delivered by Dr. H. D. Rank, Prof. & Head, Dept. of SWCE, CAET, JAU, Junagadh. In addition, a poster presentation of the PG students was also held on the 'Applications of AI in Agriculture, especially in soil and water-related issues and solutions.

KVK, Amreli

KVK, Amreli celebrated the day by organizing training cum lecture on "Remediation of saline soils, analysis of soil and water for soil health" at village Chital. Total 54 farmers and 15 farm women were participated in this event.

KVK, Jamnagar

KVK, Jamnagar also organized a Kishan Gosthi in collaboration of NGO, AFPRO, Lalpur on this occasion at Lalpur village of the district Jamnagar. Dr. K. P. Baraiya, SS& Head, KVK, Jamnagar focused on natural farming, soil reclamation, vermi-compost, bio-fertilizer etc. A total of 188 farmers gets benefitted by the event.



KVK, Targhadia

World Soil Day also celebrated by KVK, Targhadia by organizing Kisan Gosthi. Dr. G. V. Marviya, SS & Head, KVK, Targhadia, and his team gave information about soil health card, strategies to improve soil fertility and preserve soil biodiversity to maintain soil carbon status. Total 55 farmers and farm women were participated in the event.

National Farmers Day (Kisan Divas)

National Farmers' Day is observed to honour and acknowledge the contribution of farmers in our lives. The day is also celebrated on December 23, 2023 to mark the birth anniversary Shri Choudhary Charan Singh, the fifth Prime Minister of India.

Agrisnet Studio, JAU, Junagadh

Agrisnet Studio, DEE, JAU hosted a special recording on December 18, where five farmers shared success stories in the presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia. These stories, focusing on sustainable farming, will inspire fellow farmers and be shared on JAU's social media on December 23, 2023. The event also recognizes farmers, awarding certificates for outstanding contributions to agriculture, reflecting the university's dedication to fostering agricultural excellence and acknowledging farmers' vital role in national prosperity.



KVK, Amreli

KVK, Amreli celebrated the day at village Hajiradhar of Lathi taluka of the district. Different lectures on floriculture, horticulture and natural farming were delivered by scientists of KVK, Amreli. Total 85 farmers and 24 farmwomen were participated in the programme.

KVK, Targhadia

KVK, Targhadia celebrated this day at Mesvada village of Rajkot district. Total 397 farmers, farmwomen and other participants were remained present in the event. Scientists of KVK gave information on the history, significance, and theme of National Farmer's Day.

KVK, Pipalia

KVK, Pipalia arranged a seminar on this day at Jamkandorna village to celebrate this event. A total of 60 farmers participated.

Rabi Krishi Mahotsav

The Rabi Krishi Mahotsav was organized during November 24-25, 2023 by the Government of Gujarat in all talukas, featured agricultural exhibitions, seminars, and visits to model farms. Junagadh Agricultural University showcased innovative practices of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Agricultural Engineering across 83 talukas under JAU

Jurisdiction. JAU scientists & KVK experts from different districts delivered lectures on topics like; Importance of Millets for Health Benefits; Efficient Input Use for Cost Reduction through Organic Farming; Ethanol Production from Agricultural Crops; Improved Technologies in Horticulture Crops. Senior Agriculture Scientists coordinated activities as District Nodal Scientists in 10 districts of Saurashtra. A total of 83 events were organized during Rabi Krishi Mahotsav, over 66,000 participants, including 13,000 farm women, engaged in the program, promoting knowledge exchange and agricultural advancements.



Certificate Course on 'Integrated Nutrient Management' for Fertilizer Dealers

Three batches of 15 days training programme of 'Certificate Course on Integrated Nutrient Management' for Fertilizer Dealers were organized by Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh. A total of 242 participant dealers were felicitated with the certificates. Another three number of batches for the same programme were completed by KVK, Amreli, JAU, Junagadh in which 176 dealers were participated and felicitated with the certificates.



Bi-Monthly Training cum workshop Programme

The Bi-Monthly Training cum workshop programme for the personnel of line departments of GoG was organized by Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh on October 25, 2023 under T & V scheme. Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE shared insights about

the significance of the workshop. Mr. S. K. Joshi, JDA, Rajkot and Junagadh, along with DAO and other agricultural authorities from Saurashtra region with more than 40 participants remained present in this workshop. JAU scientists Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, Dr. M. F. Acharya, Dr. K. M. Karetha, Dr. M. K. Chudasma, and Dr. S. V. Lathia discussed various new technologies and development in Agriculture. Dr. B. N. Kalsariya accomplished and coordinated the program, ensuring effective information dissemination and technical guidance for the participants.



Viksit Bharat Sakalp Yatra (VBSY)

Nationwide campaign to raise awareness through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes named “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra” is being planned. This will require concerted efforts and active Jan bhagidari to ensure that the last mile and the most vulnerable are reached effectively. The Yatra launched on November 15, 2023 and onwards up to January 26, 2024. Different KVKs of JAU participated in this and organized various events.



KVK, Amreli

KVK, Amreli celebrated the event in various villages of 11 talukas of Amreli district. In this programme different lectures were organized by KVK, Amreli on different topics like; natural farming, value addition of horticulture crops, millets awareness etc. A total of 1355 farmers participated in the programme.

KVK, Targhadia

KVK, Targhadia also participated in the event and

distribute literature & delivered lectures on soil health, natural farming and importance of millets.

KVK, Nana Kandhasar

To create awareness on different initiatives of the GOI, KVK, Nana Kandhasar participated in the event and emphasized on the advantages of natural farming and soil health and their suitability in rainfed areas of the district. More than 2500 farmers and farm women participated in the programme.

Celebration of International Year of Millets

Millet Mela

To celebrate International Year of Millet, Millet mela were organized at JAU, Junagadh campus and at various KVKs of JAU to create awareness and increase production & consumption of millets.

JAU, Junagadh

Department of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat and Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh Jointly organized the Taluka level Agricultural Fair under celebration of International Millet Year – 2023 at JAU, Junagadh on October, 9, 2023. On this Occasion, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU; Shri Hareshbhai Thummer, President of District Panchayat, Junagadh and Shri Lakhansinh Gadhvi, Sahityakar graced the programme. During the programme, Officers from the Departments of Agriculture and Scientists of JAU, Junagadh remained present. The scientists of JAU provided the valuable information about different Millet crops. The exhibition on information about millet crops, importance of millet in diet and millet products was organized for the people. More than 450 farmers, farm women and stake holders participated in the programme.



KVK, Amreli

Millet mela was organized in 9 Talukas of Amreli district, in which, lectures were delivered by scientists of KVK, Amreli on different topics related to millet awareness, value addition, pest management in millet crop etc. Total 1866 male and 848 female farmers were participated in the millet mela.

KVK, Khapat

KVK, Khapat also organized Mela in which millet

recipe competition and exhibition were organized during the event. Total 1282 farmers and farmwomen remained present during the event.

KVK, Nana Kandhasar

During millet mela, scientists of KVK, Nana Kandhasar guided farmers to establish FPOs to market millet-based products since they were extremely profitable. Total 1895 participants including officials of line departments, KVK staff, farmers and farmwomen were participated during the event.



KVK, Targhadia

Scientists of KVK, Targhadia delivered lecture on importance of millets, scientific cultivation practices of different millets; awareness about natural farming and participated in Millet mela organized by DAO, Rajkot at Bedi, Sarapdad, Sanganva, Jasadan, Vinchhiya, Kotda Sangani etc. under celebration of international year of millet-2023.

Special lecture on 'Millets for Food and Farming'

A special lecture on "Millets for Food and Farming" was organized by the Department of Agronomy, CoA, JAU, Junagadh on December 9, 2023 to commemorate the International Year of Millets-2023. Dr. S. J. Sindhi, Asst. Professor delivered the lecture and explored the importance of millets in crop diversification and their resilience to climate change leading to sustainable agricultural development.



Dr S. G. Savalia, Principal and Dean of the college; Dr. V. D. Tarpara, ADR along with Dr. P. D. Kumavat and Dr. M. F. Acharya, Professor and Heads of the Departments of Agronomy and Entomology respectively participated in the special event and

interacted with the participants on the need to promote the cultivation and consumption of millets on a large scale with public and private interventions.

Activities of Sardar Smriti Kendra

The District Agriculture Officer, Jilla Panchayat – Junagadh, organized a district festival under the NSFM project on December 24, 2023, The event, attended by Shree Raghavjibhai Patel, Minister of Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Gujarat; Dr. V. P. Chovatia, VC, JAU, Junagadh and Dr. N. B. Jaday, DEE, JAU witnessed the release of the book entitled "PAK SANRAKSHN VYAVASTHA" published by Sardar Smruti Kendra, JAU, Junagadh. Additionally, 1333 farmers, farmwomen, and students visited SSK and Krushi Darshnalay, gaining insights into various agricultural activities and the latest technologies in agriculture.



Demonstration of Drone and Farm Equipment

The Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, spearheaded a drone demonstration drive at different villages, facilitated by the KVKs of JAU, through its scheme on "Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization for Implementation of its Components Under Drone Technology Demonstration."



In all, 43 drone demonstrations were successfully held during December 2023, catering to a total area coverage of 53.28 acres and benefiting 1318 farmers. Similarly, the department conducted prototype

feasibility testing of the IISR Deep Furrow Multitasking Sugarcane Cutter-cum-Planter. This demonstration was conducted at two places, viz., the Main Sugarcane Research Station, JAU, Kodinar, on December 15, 2023, and KVK, JAU, Kodinar, on December 27, 2023, benefiting 50 progressive farmers overall.



Workshop on HDPS Cotton under CICR Cotton Project

KVK, Nana Kandhasar organized workshop on HDPS cotton under CICR Cotton project on November 1, 2023.



Scientists of KVK, Nana Kandhasar explained about advantages of cotton cultivation through HDPS under rainfed conditions and created awareness on management practices for pest and diseases in cotton through IPM and chemical methods. Dr. Vivek Shah and Dr. R. Jayakumara, Scientist, CICR briefed about the importance of HDPS and foliar nutrient management practices in cotton to mitigate the impacts of drought stress. Total 100 farmers took part in this training programme.

Krishi Mela

KVK, Pipalia

KVK, Pipalia organized Krishi Mela at Jetpur, Jamkandorna, Gondal, Dhoraji and Upleta to raise awareness among progressive farmers, including farmwomen, about the health and nutritional benefits of millets. In this programme a total of 1155 participants were benefitted.



KVK, Nana Kandhasar

KVK, Nana Kandhasar has organized Krishi Mela at KVK campus on December 4, 2023. Dr. J. N. Vyas senior scientist and head, welcomed the guests and explained about all the extension activities of KVK. Dr. B. C. Bochlya, SMS gave lecture on importance of natural farming and officers from line departments provided information regarding scientific agricultural practices and different government schemes. A total of 150 farmers were participated in the event.

Meri Mitti Mera Desh Amrit Kalash Yatra

A significant event, the "Meri Mitti Mera Desh Amrit Kalash Yatra," was organized at ASPEE College of Agriculture (COA), Junagadh Agricultural University, Khapat-Porbandar on October 18, 2023 in collaboration with the district panchayat. The event aimed to commemorate the richness of Indian soil and its vital role in agriculture, emphasizing the need for conservation and sustainable farming practices. The primary objective of the "Amrit Kalash Yatra" was to raise awareness about the importance of soil conservation, sustainable agricultural practices, and the preservation of traditional farming techniques. It sought to inspire farmers, students, and the community to value and protect the agricultural heritage of India. The event commenced with an inaugural ceremony graced by dignitaries from the district panchayat, agricultural experts, faculty members and enthusiastic participants. The "Amrit Kalash Yatra" featured a procession with decorated carts carrying earthen pots filled with fertile soil from different parts of the region, symbolizing the diversity and richness of the soil.

Awards and Accolades

JAU Scientists received Awards during International Extension Education Congress

Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU) achieved recognition at the International Extension Education Congress in Jaipur during December 18-20, 2023. Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, JAU, Junagadh received the "SEE Fellow Award." Dr. Minaxi Bariya and Dr. J. V. Chovatia earned the "Best Extension Scientist Award" and "Young Scientist Award" respectively.



Congratulations were extended by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon. Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. R. B. Madariya, Director of Research, for their outstanding contributions to teaching, research and extension in the discipline of agricultural extension.

Best Poster Presentation Award

Dr. Jyoti R. Sondarva, Assistant Professor, Department of Seed Science and Technology, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh awarded with 2nd rank in best poster presentation entitled “Effect of seed treatments, packaging materials and storage conditions on seed longevity in onion (*Allium cepa* L.)” in the theme “Emerging trend in seed processing and storage” in “12th National Seed Congress” organized by VNMKV, Parbhani held at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) during December 11-13, 2023.



During the same event, Dr. Khushbu P. Vaghasiya, Ph. D. Student of Department of Seed Science and Technology, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh obtained 3rd rank in best poster presentation entitled “Effect of pre sowing seed treatments on seed yield and quality of soybean (*Glycine max* (L) Merrill)”



Superannuated Faculties/Staff JAU Parivar Wishes All a Happy and Healthy Retired Life Ahead

Sr	Employee Name	Designation
October-2023		
1	Dr. L. L. Jivani	Associate Research Scientist
2	Dr. B. A. Monpara	Associate Research Scientist
3	Shri N. H. Soiliya	Agri. Supervisor
4	Shri V. T. Solanki	Agri. Supervisor
5	Smt. R. Z. Mandaliya	Senior Clerk Demise
November- 2023		
6	Shri D. A. Saradva	Assistant Research Scientist
7	Shri R. B. Patel	Agri. Assistant
8	Shri J. S. Nayka	Senior Clerk
9	Shri N. H. Tank	Gardner
10	Smt. Gitaben H. Sardhara	Lab Boy
December- 2023		
11	Dr. S. G. Savaliya	Professor(P)
12	Shri K. V. Gondaliya	Agri. Assistant
13	Shri S. R. Odedra	Agri. Assistant
14	Shri B. J. Batava	Junior Clerk
15	Shri R. G. Chavda	Chowkidar
16	Shri D. J. Garchar	Gardner
17	Shri C. B. Rathod	Peon



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