

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Chapter – X



10.1 Activities of Vice Chancellor

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Junagadh Agricultural University is responsible for overall administration, development, maintaining discipline and appropriate functioning of the University as per the Gujarat Agricultural Universities Act 2004. The Vice Chancellor has to run the administration as per University rules and regulations. He is also responsible for financial activities of the University. He maintains coordination between Teaching, Research and Extension Education activities conducted by the University. A brief summary of the activities carried out by the Vice Chancellor during 2021-22 are as under.

Dr. Vithaldas Parsotambhai Chovatia, Director of Research and Dean, PG Studies, JAU, Junagadh was given the charge of Vice Chancellor of Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh by the Government of Gujarat on October 07, 2019. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar in the year 1981. He completed his Master and Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding & Genetics from Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar in the year 1984 and 2000, respectively. He was recipient of Junior Research fellowship from I.C.A.R. for M. Sc. (Agri.).

As a head of University, he always works on smooth administration and overall development of Education, Research, Extension, Administration of University and coordinating with State and Central Govt. and Other Universities.

Under the able leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, JAU was awarded five out of five star rating by GSIRF Govt. of Gujarat. JAU was among only five Universities of Gujarat and only Agricultural University to get his achievement. Under his abled leadership, JAU was adjudged the top performing university for the second time in a row and was conferred first rank in the Annual Review

Meeting of NAHEP-IDP (AUIPS 3.0). The university scored 7.9 out of 10. JAU happens to be the only Call-1 University consistently being ranked first in all the review meetings under NAHEP. As many as about 200 events have been conducted in this project during the last three years and 34 undergraduate students from various faculties have also been sent till date to many foreign institutions of repute for their fully-sponsored three-month international training under the aegis of NAHEP-IDP. Due to continuous guidance of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor during the lockdown period, JAU continued to impart the teaching through online mode and all the examinations including PG prelim and thesis viva examinations were completed timely. Junagadh Agricultural University have been selected amongst the 18 elite universities by the ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi for setting up the virtual classroom facility under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor inaugurated the facility on April 16, 2021. JAU has recorded highest number of lectures among all SAUs of India and uploaded in *Agri Diksha* portal using the virtual classroom facility. JAU was the first University in India to start agri-input dealers' course as per the guidelines of GoI. *Tauktae* cyclone hit the coastal region of Saurashtra during the May 17-18, 2021. huge damage on the orchards have been occurred during the cyclone. Under the guidance of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, JAU formulated teams of scientists for Gir Somnath, Junagadh, Amreli and Bhavnagar districts of Saurashtra region to the visit the affected villages and advise the farmers to rejuvenate damaged orchards. The teams visited 340 villages and advised 3188 farmers at their fields during May 22-31, 2021. Dr. Chovatia addressed the National Level Virtual Seminar On HEALTH of MOTHER EARTH ~ conservation of Ecosystem and Biodiversity for Sustainable Development on June 4, 2021 jointly organized by All India Women's Conference, New Delhi and JAU on the eve of World environment day.



JAU has also conducted several virtual seminars for farmers on whitefly and other burning issues, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor keenly attended the seminars and guided the farmers scientists. Due to constant efforts of JAU scientists under guidance of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, the milk production at Cattle Breeding Farm, JAU increased by 37% in Gir Cow and 20% in Jafarabadi Buffalo.

The annual zonal workshop of KVKs of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa was organized on August 04, 2021 via online mode. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor addressed the participants and gave his valuable suggestions for improving agricultural extension activities in Gujarat. Centre of Excellence for Quality Testing of Cotton was inaugurated at JAU on August 26, 2021. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor presented the activities and achievements of JAU in a conference organized by Raj Bhavan Gandhinagar in presence of Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat on August 31, 2021. Apart from this, Dr. V. P. Chovtia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor has served as a member in several committees of Govt. of Gujarat and made critical suggestions for upliftment of agriculture in Gujarat. Dr. V. P. Chovatia completed the in-charge Vice Chancellorship of JAU on August 31, 2021. In presence of August gathering, the farewell was extended to Dr. V. P. Chovatia on September 02, 2021. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor handed over the charge to Dr. R. M. Chauhan, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SDAU. Dr. R. M. Chauhan Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities held on September 28th, 2021 through Video Conferencing. The Govt. of Gujarat handed over the responsibility as in-charge Vice Chancellor, JAU to Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal and Dean, CAET, JAU, Junagadh who took over the charge from Dr. R. M. Chauhan from October 05, 2021.

Dr. N. K. Gontia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor attended the 42nd Foundation day of Directorate of Ground Research, ICAR, Junagadh on October 1, 2022 and addressed the gathering. He enriched the

deliberation by valuable suggestions to strengthen the interface between industry-researchers-farmers. The Agri Gujarat Expo-2021 was jointly organized by JAU and Spark Media Inc., Ahmedabad from November 19 to 21, 2021 at JAU, Junagadh. Dr. N. K. Gontia also delivered talk in “Pre-Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2021: Agro & Food Processing: Entering in a new era of Co-operation” organized by GoG from December 14-16, 2021 at AAU, Anand. The agricultural exhibition was organized under Agri Gujarat Expo-2021 spread across 2500 sq. m. The technologies were exhibited in 70 stalls of different agriculture and allied companies, 13 stalls of different departments of JAU, Junagadh and 04 stalls of natural farming. Seventeenth Annual Convocation January 08, 2022, Junagadh Agricultural University had celebrated 17th Annual Convocation with an auspicious virtual presence of Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat. Dr. N. K. Gontia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor also participated in XV Agricultural Science Congress organized by National Academy of Agricultural Sciences at Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi from November 13-16, 2021 and delivered a lecture on "Internet of Things (IoT) Applications in Irrigation for Economizing Energy Consumption" during the congress. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU attended 45th IAUA Vice Chancellors' during December, 20-21, 2021 at Birsa Agricultural University (BAU), Ranchi. He delivered a talk on "Water Management for Sustainable Agriculture through applications of IoT" during the convention. Central Ground Water Board, West Central Region, Ahmedabad organized a one day interaction program on “Aquifer Mapping and Ground Water Management” of Junagadh district on December 28, 2021. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor graced the inaugural session as Chief Guest and highlighted the issues and challenges of ground water management and contribution of JAU, Junagadh in ground water management research. Hon'able Vice Chancellor Dr. N. K. Gontia was nominated as



member on the General Body as well as Governing Body of the ICAR Society with effect of June 06, 2022. Dr. N. K. Gontia, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, JAU delivered a talk as guest speaker on "Challenges of Water Scarcity in Agriculture" on December 26, 2021 during the webinar organized by Krishi Jagran on Challenges of Water scarcity in Agriculture. The

workshop on *Subhas Palekar Natural Farming* was organized at JAU, Junagadh during March 11 to 13, 2022 in the auspicious presence of Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat. Dr. N. K. Gontia, also encourage the farmers to adopt natural farming by his address.

