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From the Vice Chancellor's Desk

Leveraging FPOs For Farm Profitability And Rural Prosperity

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to meet you all through this edition of the JAU newsletter, which captures glimpses of our XVIII Annual Convocation ceremony along with several activities, celebrations, and achievements. The stakeholders of Indian National Agricultural Research & Education System (NARES) are working towards enhancing the livelihood and income of small and marginal farmers. Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs) are serving as an



important component to provide support to small farmers with end-to-end services covering almost all aspects of cultivation from inputs, technical services to processing and marketing. FPOs have become no less than a buzzword with extensive support from the central and state governments. Like cooperatives, FPOs are also pillared around the principle of 'collectivization' for reducing transaction costs and realizing scale advantages. Though the origins of cooperatives date back to the early 19th century in India, it was only the late Prof. Y. K. Alagh, Gujarat-based educationist par farm economist, under whose chairmanship the concept of FPOs was promulgated by bringing together the desirable aspects of cooperative and corporate sectors. It is beyond doubt that cooperatives have played a stellar role in ensuring agricultural growth and prosperity. But, given the right kind of management, FPOs have the potential to outperform cooperatives themselves. As of 2021-22, there are more than 7500 registered FPOs in the country. It is inspiring to see such a good number. But more than 50% of the entities are concentrated in only four states and, that too, in some districts like Pune leading the nation with 180-plus FPOs. On the other hand, there are 35 districts with farmers' population exceeding one lakh but without a single functional FPO. To address this regional imbalance, the Government of India launched a central sector scheme called 'Formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs by 2027-28' with a budgetary provision of Rs. 6,865 crores. NABARD also proposed a dedicated credit guarantee fund of Rs. 1000 crore for establishing 10,000 FPOs besides the already existing Producers Organization Development Fund (PODF). JAU recommended the following action strategies for improving the functionality of FPOs in Gujarat, which have a nationwide appeal as well: 1) Extension of tax exemption to FPOs on par with cooperatives; 2) Incentivizing FPOs for the creation and maintenance of rural farm infrastructure; 3) Extending External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) on par with NGOs and NBFCs; 4) Promoting group insurance schemes for FPO member farmers, and 5) Provision of collateral free loans up to Rs. 25 lakhs for FPOs. FPOs may have the potential to emerge as a game-changer in making farming a more viable proposition provided the existing institutional support and handholding continue for at least another decade and, simultaneously, the entities continue to be independently and professionally managed. We, as agricultural universities, also have the mandate to keep upskilling our students in tune with the current market needs, which ultimately will lead to the upliftment of FPOs and the betterment of farmers.

(V. P. Chovatia)

XVIII Annual Convocation

On a delightful morning of January 9, 2023; Junagadh Agricultural University celebrated 18th Annual Convocation with great joy and enthusiasm in the auspicious virtual presence of Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University, Shri Acharya Devvratji.; Shri Deepak Shah, Chairman, SML Group of Companies as the Chief Guest and Dr. S. K. Bera, Director, ICAR-DGR as the Guest of Honour. The event commenced with the welcome address by Dr. V. P.



Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor JAU. He presented the glimpses of activities and achievements of the varsity in academic, research and extension during the year. A total of 62 Gold Medals/Gold Plated Silver Medals including 03 Chancellor's Gold Medals, 03 Vice Chancellor's Gold Medals, 2 Donor Gold Medals and 53 Donors' Gold Plated Silver Medals and 01 cash prize awarded to 17 graduates and post graduates of different faculty for their brilliant academic performance. On this highest academic occasion, Best Teacher Award was awarded to Dr. K. D. Shah in Agriculture faculty and Dr. G. V. Prajapati in Agricultural Engineering & Technology faculty for academic year 2021-22.



Shri Deepak Shah, Chairman, SML Group of Companies and Chief Guest of the function delivered convocation address. He ignited the minds of the students in taking Indian agriculture to new horizons by applying the knowledge gained during the study. Dr. S. K. Bera, Director, ICARDGR (Directorate of Groundnut Research) Junagadh and Guest of Honour, appreciated achievements of JAU and motivated the students for higher studies and highlighted the scope and challenges in agriculture sector in India.



Shri Acharya Devvrat, Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat and Chancellor of the University conferred degrees to a total 574 Graduates and Post Graduates of various faculties of JAU. Hon'ble Governorshri also launched JAU Android app i-Krushi Sanhita developed by JAU to provide valuable information and advisory to farmers. The chancellor appreciated the students for their academic excellence. Hon'ble Governorshri inspired the students and scientists to popularize Natural farming and spread its benefits to serve the farming community. Dr. Kalpesh Kumar, Registrar, proposed vote of thanks to dignitaries, all guests and students.

State Level Seminar on "Integrated Management of Soil Borne Pests-Diseases"

JAU and the Plant Protection Association of Gujarat jointly organized a one-day state-level seminar on 'Integrated Management of Soil Borne Pests-Diseases' at Junagadh on February 24, 2023. The inaugural function was presided by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, Junagadh. Dr. A. R. Pathak, Former VC, JAU and NAU, remained present as the Chief



Guest. Dr. K. B. Kathiria, Hon'ble VC, AAU, and Dr. C. K. Timbadiya, Hon'ble VC, Natural Farming and Organic Agricultural University, Halol were present as the Guest of

Honours. Six key lectures by various scientists and Q & A session was organized. More than 150 faculties, 130 research scholars, and 175 farmers participated. Awards were also distributed to the best farmers for their innovative works and students for best theses in the field of plant protection.

Programmes to celebrate the 'International Year of Millets'

Pearl Millet Research Station, JAU, Jamnagar in collaboration of KVK, JAU, Jamnagar organized a one-day seminar on "Millets" on February 9, 2023. The scientists of the centre explained various aspects of increasing millet production and productivity, important traits in millet crops, health benefits of nutri-cereals, etc. 35 officers and 70 farmers from different villages of Jamnagar district participated in seminar.



Dr. K. D. Mungra, Research Scientist and Head, Pearl Millet Research Station, JAU, Jamnagar delivered the keynote addresses during events organized at KVK, Lokbharti Sanosara on February 28, 2023 and KVK, Ambuja Foundation, Kodinar on March 02, 2023.

Scientists from KVK, Nana Kandhasar encouraged the participants to cultivate millets and add it in their daily dietary habit and briefed about the cultivation practices of different types of millets suitable in the agro-climatic condition of Surendranagar district.

KVK, Morbi organized awareness on "Importance of millets in diet" on March 8, 2023 at A.J. Women College, Morbi. Dr. L. L. Jivani and Shri D. A. Saradava delivered lectures on role of millets and importance of millets in diet to 220 students.



Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela - 2023

The AICRPs of CAET, JAU, Junagadh; on Farm Implements & Machinery, Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology, Plastics Engineering in Agriculture Structure and Environment Management, Irrigation Water Management organized the 'Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela-2023' on February

04, 2023 in collaboration with ISAE, Gujarat Chapter and ATMA Project, Junagadh. The mela was inaugurated by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC and Shri Sanjay Koradia, MLA, Junagadh in presence of Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR; Shri Chintan Patel, President, GAMMA, Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal and Dean, CAET, Junagadh and Shri Ravi Rathod, Director, ATMA Project, Junagadh.



About 40 prominent manufacturers of agricultural implements exhibited their products. The advanced research technologies in agriculture including the applications of drones and robotics were displayed by JAU. As many as 800 farmers from Junagadh and nearby districts and more than 400 faculty members and students of JAU visited the mela.

Training on Scientific Cultivation and Natural Farming in Sesame

A two day training programme for extension functionaries was organized on "Scientific Cultivation and Natural Farming in Sesame" by Agricultural Research Station, JAU, Amreli during March 20-21, 2023. A total of 20 participants from Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and State Department, Govt. of Gujarat attended the training. The training covered different topics including latest sesame varieties, production technologies, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest and disease management, post harvest technologies and value addition and natural farming in sesame crop.



G20 University Connect Program

A special introductory lecture on ‘Understanding India’s Presidency at the G20’ was organized by CoA, JAU, Junagadh for 350 students on March 23, 2023. Dr. B. Swaminathan, Asstt. Prof., (Agril. Economics), CoA, Junagadh served as the resource person. Besides, a virtual lecture was also organized on ‘The Power of Youth in Realizing the Global Goals’, which was delivered by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Joshi, Assistant Professor, Agribusiness and Rural Management, IGKV, Raipur. Student competitions such as debate, elocution, essay writing and e-poster presentation were also organized on the focus areas of G20 nations during March 2023 by all the colleges and polytechnics of the university.

NAHEP-IDP Events

Guests Lectures on Commodity Markets

Two special guest lectures on “Career and entrepreneurial opportunities for agricultural graduates in commodity markets” and “Commodity market analysis” were organized by the Department of Agricultural Economics, CoA, JAU, Junagadh on February 15, 2023 for 50 selected UG students from CoA, Junagadh & Khapat. Dr. R. M. Jadeja, Asstt. Prof. (Agril. Economics), SDAU, Dantiwada was the resource person for both lectures. The lectures provided a comprehensive overview of the opportunities available for agricultural graduates in the commodity markets.



Drone Technology Training Programme



A two-day hands-on training programme on ‘Drone Technology: Future Prospects in Plant Protection’ was organized by the Department of Agricultural Entomology, CoA, JAU, Junagadh for 100 students during March 6-7, 2023. Experts from BASF Agricultural Solutions Global were invited

for the training program. This comprehensive training aimed at equipping the students with the knowledge and skills required for operating drone for plant protection activities including aerial spray, field mapping, and pest and disease monitoring. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon’ble VC participated in one of the practical demonstrations and interacted with the students and the experts.

Vocational Training on Vegetable Breeding

A five-day vocational training programme on ‘Recent Advances in Vegetable Breeding’ was organized by the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, CoA, JAU, Junagadh during February 20-24, 2023 benefitting 50 students. Theoretical and practical sessions on a multitude of topics including recent advances in plant genetics, molecular breeding techniques, and the use of biotechnology in vegetable breeding were delivered. Dr. Gyan P. Mishra, Principal Scientist, Division of Genetics, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi delivered the Guest of Honour address during the inaugural ceremony in the presence of Dr. S. G. Savalia, Principal and Dean, CoA, Junagadh and other university officers.



Vocational Training on Entophytes

The Department of Plant Pathology, CoA, JAU, Junagadh organized a three-day vocational training programme on “Endophytes: A potential bio-agent for plant health and nutrition” benefitting 50 selected UG students during March 02-04, 2023. Expert lectures were hosted on basics of endophytes, the role of endophytes in plant growth and development, methods for endophyte isolation and identification, and the commercialization of endophyte-based products. The inaugural was presided by Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR; Dr. S. G. Savalia, Principal and Dean, CoA, JAU, Junagadh and other university authorities.



Workshop on Automation in Food Processing

The Department of Processing and Food Engineering, CAET, Junagadh organized a two-day workshop on “Use of Modern Technologies and Automation in Food Processing” during January 05-06, 2023 in which 148 students and faculties participated. The workshop covered fundamental and advanced topics on automation in the food packaging industry. Shri Chandubhai Virani, Director, Balaji Wafers Pvt. Ltd., delivered his keynote address during inauguration in the presence of Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR; Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal and Dean, CAET and other dignitaries.



Waste Utilization and Management Workshop

The Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, CAET, Junagadh organized a two-day workshop on “Waste Utilization and Management for Energy Generation” during February 16-17, 2023 benefitting 173 students and faculties. The workshop was conducted in hybrid mode covering latest topics on integrated technology options for waste management and promotion of bioenergy. The inaugural ceremony of the workshop was graced by several luminaries, viz. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon’ble VCs, JAU; Dr. N. S. Rathore, former VC (MPUAT) and former DDG (ICAR, Education) and presently Director, GITS, Udaipur; Dr. B. S. Negi, Former Adviser, MNRE, GoI; Shri D. D. Jagdale, Joint Secretary, MNRE, GoI; Dr. S. N. Jha, DDG (Agril. Engineering), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR, JAU; Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal and Dean, CAET, JAU; Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar and Dr. P. Mohnot, ADR, JAU.



Robotics and Drone Technology Workshop

A two-day workshop on “Application of Robotics and Drone Technologies in Agriculture” was organized during March 02-03, 2023 by the Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, CAET, Junagadh with the participation of 132 students and faculties. The workshop covered theoretical and hands-on

training sessions encompassing the impact of drones in agriculture, robot and robotic approaches. Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal and Dean, CAET, Junagadh; Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar; Dr. P. Mohnot, ADR and other faculties and staff of the university graced the inaugural ceremony.



Participation in International Conference on Blended Learning Ecosystem

The International Conference on “Blended Learning Ecosystem for Higher Education in Agriculture” was organized by IASRI-ICAR under NAHEP Component-2 during March 21-23, 2023 at NASC, New Delhi. The conference aimed at exploring effective strategies of blended learning for higher education in agriculture. The conference was inaugurated by Chief Guest Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, GoI.



JAU showcased its cutting-edge research and innovative teaching and evaluation methods. Dr. K. C. Patel, Director, IT, JAU and Dr. D. J. Patel, Assistant Professor, JAU along with two UG students presented the output of the IDP project

ICAR-NAARM Soft Skill Workshop

A one-day awareness workshop on ‘Development of Soft Skills for Entrepreneurship among AgriGraduates’ was organized by the Dept. of Agril. Economics, CoA, JAU, Junagadh in collaboration with ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad on February 24, 2023 benefitting 100 UG students of JAU. Dr. S. K. Soam, and Dr. Surya Rathore, ICAR-NAARM served as the national advisors. As a part of the workshop, a tête-à-tête session was facilitated with the Mr. Ashwin Gohil, Chairman, Tirth AgroTechnology Pvt. Ltd., Gondal; and other reputed agripreneurs customized psychological/interactive games were conducted for soft skill development. Dr. B. Swaminathan, Asstt. Prof., CoA, was the Programme Director.

Seminar on “Learning and Career Opportunities in Agribusiness, Food Business & Agri Exports”

JAU in collaboration with Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru organized a seminar on “Learning and Career Opportunities in Agribusiness, Food Business & Agri Exports” on February 14, 2023 at JAU, Junagadh. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC delivered the presidential address. Dr. Sarbani Mukharjee, Associate Professor, IIPMB delivered talk on ‘The relationship between learning and career development in agri-business, food business and agri exports perspective’. The seminar was organized by the office of DSW, JAU. More than 350 students from various colleges of JAU participated.



Special Lecture by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, GoI

Prof. Ramesh Chand, India’s prominent Agricultural Economist and a member of NITI Aayog, a think-tank of GoI visited JAU on February 17, 2023. To honour the moment, JAU hosted his special lecture on “Preparing Agriculture for Better Nutrition, Sustainability and Resilience” to a hall-packed audience. He covered on future challenges in agriculture and their mitigating strategies. Dr. Neelam Patel, Senior Advisor (Agriculture), NITI Aayog briefed about the role of the body as a think-tank. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU felicitated the guests. Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR, Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW and other university officers and Principal & Deans of various colleges remained present. Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar proposed a vote of thanks.



Training Programme on “Campus to Corporate”

A one day training programme on “Campus to Corporate” was organized by office of, JAU for 150 UG students of CoA, Mota Bhandariya and CoH, Junagadh during March 13-14, 2023. Dr. Vishwas A. Joshi, Associate Professor, SDAU, Dantiwada

guided the students on interview preparation and a mock interview session was also arranged. Mr. Bharat Vaghela, Motivational Trainer talked on the significance of body language, personal appearance, postures and features, facial expressions and eye-contact. Mr. Rahul Kachhad, CFA-Organic Farming, Rajula discussed ‘Getting Ready for Interview’. The training imparted confidence among students for facing the interview.



Lecture on “Think the Best, Do the Best”

A special lecture of Shri Shailesh Bhai Sagaria, motivational speaker on “Think the best, Do the best” was organized by office of DSW, JAU on March 03, 2023 with the participation of more than 450 students. An interaction session was also held regarding participation of students in competitive exams.



Participation in 21st All India Inter-University Agri-Sports & Games

The 21st All India Inter-University Agri-Sports & Games was held at CCSHAU, Hisar, Haryana during February 20-24, 2023. A team of 44 students enthusiastically participated in Volley-ball, Table Tennis, Kabaddi and various Athletics. The team was headed by Dr. N.V. Kanani and Dr. B. S. Gohil.

Participation in 21st AGRUNIFEST

A team of 22 students of JAU participated in AGRUNIFEST held during March 13-17, 2023 at GKVK, UAS, Bangalore. The JAU students performed in the events like; Drama, Mime and Folk Dance with full zeal and enthusiasm. The participation by our students was appraised. This exposure for the students was proved well for their better preparation in future events. The students performed under the guidance of Prof. D. S. Thanki and Prof. S. V. Kelaiya of CAET, JAU, Junagadh.

NSS Special Camps

CAET, JAU, Junagadh

A seven-day NSS special camp was facilitated by CAET, JAU, Junagadh for 53 volunteers during March 5-11, 2023 at Chaparda Ashram, Junagadh. During the camp, the students were actively involved in 'Swachhta Abhiyan' and environmental awareness programmes and organizing lectures on natural farming, naturopathy and the importance of old age home and ashram for the visually impaired. Dr. R. M. Solanki, NSS Programme Coordinator, JAU and Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal and Dean, CAET interacted with the students. Shri Arjunsinh Rathod, Director of Brahmanand Vidya Sankul, Chaparda extended his hospitality in the organization of the camp. The camp was coordinated by Dr. P. P. Gajjar, NSS Officer, CAET, Junagadh.



Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar

The Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar organized a seven-day NSS special camp for 44 volunteers at Bhatiya village, Vanthali taluka, Junagadh from February 28 to March 06, 2023. The activities like village cleanliness, wall slogans, visits to farmers, social and education surveys of the villagers, and creating awareness of health and hygiene, special lectures of JAU scientists were carried out.



The invited lectures on 'Motor Vehicle Rules and Regulations' and 'Women Harassment Issues' were also delivered in the camp by RTO, Junagadh, and Abhayam 181 Helpline, Junagadh, respectively. Dr. K. B. Parmar, Principal and Shri S. B. Makwana, Agril. Asstt., Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar coordinated the camp.

Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Dhari

Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Dhari organized special camp at Nabapara village, Dhari taluka in

Amreli district during March 6-12, 2023 for 50 NSS volunteers. Various activities on cleanliness, hygiene and social awareness were organized. The camp was coordinated by Prof. M. B. Savalia, Principal, Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Dhari and staff.



Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh

A seven-day NSS Special Camp was organized by the Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh for 21 volunteers at Choki village, Junagadh from February 24 to March 02, 2023. The students enthusiastically participated in a variety of activities including village cleanliness, yoga, physical exercises, and sports. The students were also involved in the social Awareness Campaign under 'Azadi ka Yuva Sankalp: Shrestha Bharat ke Panch Prakalp.' Besides, expert lectures were delivered by JAU faculties and Shri Hiteshbhai Domadiya, a progressive organic farmer. The camp was coordinated by Dr. N. K. Dhamsaniya, Principal, Polytechnic in Agro-Processing and Er. Geeta Tomar, NSS Officer.



Inter-Polytechnic Sports Tournament 2022-23

The Annual Inter-Polytechnic Sports Tournament for the year 2022-23 was organized at JAU, Junagadh during March 10-11, 2023. The tournament comprised the sports of volleyball, khokho, table tennis and badminton in which the polytechnics of all the four SAUs in Gujarat (i.e., AAU, JAU, NAU and SDAU) participated. The students of the Polytechnic JAU, Dhari won the championship in volleyball and were adjudged with the Runners' Up trophy for their overall performance.

Inter-College and Inter-Polytechnic Athletic Meet of JAU

The Inter-College and Polytechnic Athletic Meet was jointly organized by CAET, JAU, Junagadh and Polytechnic in Agriculture, Sidsar during March 10-11, 2023 in which a total of 97 students from all the five colleges and 85 students from the six polytechnics of JAU participated.



Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC presided the inaugural while Dr. M. P. Trada, Principal, College of Commerce and Law, Junagadh was the Chief Guest. The inaugural was attended by Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR; Principal and Deans of various faculties and Principals of various Polytechnics of JAU. The Championship Trophy in boys' category was jointly won by CAET, Junagadh and CoA, Junagadh, while CoH, Junagadh won the Championship Trophy for girls. Among the Polytechnics, the Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar won the Championship Trophies for boys and girls as well the Overall Championship Trophy.



Thalassemi Screening Camp

The Thalassemia Screening Camp for the first year students of various colleges and polytechnics of JAU was organized on February 03, 2023 by office of DSW, JAU with the support of Indian Red Cross Society, Ahmedabad. During inaugural, Principal and Deans of various faculties, Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW, JAU and Dr. R. B. Madaria, ADR, JAU, and other faculty and students remained present. Awareness about Thalassemia and its cure and need of diagnostic test were discussed in the programme by the officers. Around 450 students screened for Thalassemia and necessary guidance was provided.



Mega Blood Donation Camp

JAU in collaboration with SBI branch, JAU campus organized a Mega Blood Donation Camp on World Tuberculosis Day, i.e. March 24, 2023. Hon'ble VC, Dr. V. P. Chovatia inaugurated the camp with lighting of the lamp. During inaugural, Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW, Dr. R. B. Madaria, ADR, JAU, Shri Rabintra Prasad Singh, SBI Branch Manager and JAU faculty and students remained present. The necessary service was rendered by Blood Bank Department of GMIRS Medical College and Hospital, Junagadh. In all, 66 units of blood were collected in this camp.



Inter-Polytechnic Sports Tournament 2022-23

The On-Campus Placement Drive by Students' Counselling and Placement Cell (SCPC), CoA, JAU, Junagadh in February 2023 AgroVikas Pvt. Ltd., Gandhinagar selected 33 students and AgroStar Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad selected 16 students of CoA, Junagadh, Amreli, Khapat and CoH, Junagadh. Similarly, seven students have been offered jobs in Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. and Captain Polyplast in the on-campus recruitment drive organized by CAET, JAU, Junagadh.



Several guest lectures and campus connect lectures were also organized by the Placement Cells of the respective colleges during the months of February and March 2023. Besides, a virtual invited lecture on 'Job, career and higher education opportunities in Australia' by Mr. Parag Shah, JAU alumnus and international education consultant was organized by SCPC, CoA, JAU, Junagadh on March 31, 2023

Celebration of Days

74th Republic Day

The 74th Republic Day was celebrated with aplomb on January 26, 2023 at JAU, Junagadh. Dr. V.P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU unfurled the flag and inspired the gathering to work tirelessly towards development of agriculture. Cultural programmes were also organized with patriotic fervor. On this occasion, the placement in-charges of various colleges and polytechnics were felicitated for their outstanding efforts for the placement of students. The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW, JAU.



Faculty members, students, staff and family members of staff participated in large number.



The day was also celebrated by KVK, Khapat with festive spirit. The staff member of KVK, CoA and students of CoA, Porbandar remained present on this occasion.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti

The 126th Birth Anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, popularly called 'Netaji', was observed by CAET, JAU, Junagadh on January 23, 2023. On this occasion, floral tributes were paid to the Netaji's life-size statue kept at CAET's entrance by Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR and DEE; Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal and Dean, CAET, Junagadh, university officers, faculty members and students of JAU.



International Women's Day

KVK, Jamnagar

KVK Jamnagar celebrated the "International Women's Day" at Vinjalpar village, Devbhumi Dwarka district in collaboration with Agakhan Rural Development Trust for 141 farm women. Deliberations on different topics like value addition, marketing, input production in natural farming, vermi-composting, animal keeping, kitchen gardening, etc. were organized by Prof. A. K. Baraiya, Scientist, KVK, JAU, Jamnagar.



KVK, Targhadia

The day was also celebrated by KVK, Targhadia at Movaiya village of Paddhari Taluka in which 28 farm women participated.

KVK, Nana Kandhasar

KVK, JAU, Nana Kandhasar also celebrated at Malod village of Surendranagar district. Around 120 women farmers from various agriculture and allied sectors participated in this programme and shared their experiences.

KVK Pipalia

The International Women's Day was celebrated by KVK, Pipalia in collaboration with Aga Khan Foundation at Manavadar Taluka with the theme "Digit-ALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality". Female experts from different fields, viz. Child Development Project Officers (CDPO), entrepreneurs, Agriculture Dept., GSFC, KVKs, TDO, IRDA, NGO, etc. were invited to motivate women for their rights, equality, social security and empowerment. Around 160 farm women participated.

World Water Day

Under the guidance and motivation of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU and in the gracious presence of Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal & Dean, CAET, Junagadh; Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar, JAU and Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW, JAU, Junagadh, "World Water Day-2023" was celebrated on March 21, 2023 on theme of "Accelerating Change" by AICRP on Irrigation Water Management, Department of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh. In all, 91 faculties, staff and students participated.

Elocution competition on the theme was also organized for the students and awards were given for the first three positions.



KVK, JAU, Pipalia also celebrated the day during which the topics on importance of water, conservation, recycle and reuse of water were discussed. A total of 40 farm women of Rayidi village, Dhoraji remained present. KVK Jamnagar also observed the day at Singach Village of Lalpur Taluka of Jamnagar in collaboration with the Arid Communities and Technology (ACT) and BIAF Foundation. About 105 farmers remained present in the event.



Various Programmes on Natural Farming

Shri Acharya Devvratji Hon'ble, Governor of Gujarat visited KVK, Amreli on March 17, 2023 for interactions with farmers practicing natural farming and officers. In this event, Shri Gaurangbhai H. Makwana, IAS, District Collector, Amreli; Shri Dinesh Ramesh Gurav, DDO, Amreli, other district authorities and ATMA officials remained present. The Hon'ble Governor Shri addressed the gathering and urged officers of ATMA to prepare a roadmap of farmers who are associated with natural farming by making cluster of 10 villages and to organize a meeting at village level.



A live interactive session with farmers and discussed about problems faced in natural farming and marketing was also organized. KVK, JAU, Khapat (Porbandar) organized a seminar on Natural Farming on February 20, 2023. The lecture cum interaction sessions on natural farming was organized. Dr. R. B. Thanki and Mr. V. M. Savaliya, Scientists of KVK and Shri Rameshbhai Savaliya, Farmer practicing natural farming served as resource persons for training to 367 farmers.



KVK, Pipalia conducted various Awareness-cum Training Programmes on Natural Farming for farmer groups for popularizing the techniques to prepare Jivamrut, Nimastra, Brahmastra etc in a total of 12 programmes with 1031 farmers participants of at various villages. KVK, Targhadia organized three different training programs on Natural Farming during the tenure in which total 260 farmers participated and awarded on importance of natural farming.

Bi-Monthly Workshop



Bi-monthly workshop under T & V system was organized by DEE, JAU, Junagadh during March 23-24, 2023 under the guidance of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC.

The main aim was to handover new technologies/innovation developed by Agricultural University to the extension personnel.



Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DEE, JAU inaugurated the workshop and encouraged the participants/officers to disseminate the technologies at the grassroots. Shri S. K. Joshi, Joint Director of Agriculture, Rajkot and Junagadh also remained present. Scientists of the university delivered lectures on their respective fields. About 47 officers from line departments of the Government of Gujarat participated in this workshop.

Farmers Training Programme

The Office of DEE, JAU, Junagadh organized farmers training programme at SSK, Junagadh for farmers of



Amreli and Junagadh districts during March 01-03, 2023 and March 15-17, 2023 respectively. The training programme was inaugurated with

lighting of the lamp by Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DEE. He addressed the gathering and discussed on judicious use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, importance of soil sample analysis and soil health card. Around 65 farmers participated in the training programme.

Certificate Distribution Programme for Fertilizer Dealers

The certificate distribution programme for 21st and 22nd batches of 'Integrated Nutrient Management for Fertilizer Dealers' was organized on January 18, 2023 and March 28, 2023. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC graced the occasion as the president and addressed the participants on effective and efficient utilization of fertilizers. Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DEE appealed to the dealers to upgrade their knowledge for betterment of farmers. A total of 174 dealers were felicitated with the certificates.



Training Programme under Sardar Smruti Kendra

The Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh organized five on campus and one off campus Bakery training programmes at SSK, JAU, Junagadh in association with AKRSP- Vankaner and



Maliya, IFFCO-Junagadh, Ambuja Cement Foundation-Khambha and Savarkundala. Different topics including Aadarsh Pashupalan, Bagayat, Gruhvigyan, and Aadhunik Kheti Paddhati were covered in the training. A total of 428 farmers and farm women participated in programme.

Trainings under Farmer FIRST Programme

Under FFP, two on campus training programme on topics "Improved Agricultural Practices and Bee Keeping" and "Value Addition in Horticulture; Animal Husbandry and Self Employment through Bakery" was organized for farmers and farmwomen of Rafala village, Amreli on dated January 20-21, and March 13, 2023 respectively. A total of 30 farmers and 28 farm women participated in these programmes.

Training on Protected Cultivation

The residential training programme on Greenhouse/ Net house farming was organized by the Office of DEE, JAU, Junagadh during February 7-21, 2023 with the participation of 36 farmers. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU. In his address, Dr. H. M. Gajipara, Course Director & DEE, JAU highlighted the importance of the course and the benefits of protected cultivation. Trainees were trained on different aspects of greenhouse/net house by JAU scientists through 30 lectures, three practical sessions and exposure visits.

Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of all the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) were held in the month of February 2023 to present the Annual progress report of the current year and Annual action plan of next year. The meetings were chaired by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU. Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR and DEE, JAU; Senior Scientist and Heads; Officers from various line departments of various districts, university scientists, progressive farmers and scientists of the concerned KVKs participated in the meeting and gave constructive suggestions. Senior Scientist & Heads of all KVKs presented their annual progress report for the year 2022-23 as well as the action plan for the year 2023-24.



Awards and Accolades

GAAS Award - 2019



Dr. S. G. Savalia, Principal and Dean, CoA, Junagadh was conferred the GAAS AWARD: 2019 for his work as PI of Farmer FIRST Programme. The award was conferred

during the one-day state-level seminar on “Khetima Atma Nirbharata Mate Prakrutik Kheti” organized by GAAS, Gujarat and Gujarat Natural Farming and Organic Agricultural University, Anand at Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad on February 02, 2023. one-day state-level seminar on “Khetima Atma Nirbharata Mate Prakrutik Kheti” organized by GAAS, Gujarat and Gujarat Natural Farming and Organic Agricultural University, Anand at Gujarat Vidhyapith, Ahmedabad on February 02, 2023.

Prof. J. P. Trivedi Award (2020) of GAAS



In the same event, Dr. M. G. Valu, Research Scientist (Cotton) and his co-workers awarded Prof. J. P. Trivedi Award (2020) sponsored by Shri Hari-Om Ashram, Nadiad for their work

on "Bt Cotton BG-II hirsutum hybrid JBG-4 (Gujarat cotton hybrid-24 BG-II): (Sorath Swet Kanak)".

Best Farm Manager Award



Dr. A. M. Polara, Assistant Research Scientist, Cotton Research Station, JAU, Junagadh received the 'Best Farm Manager Award' during International conference 'Innovative approaches in

Agriculture, Horticulture' jointly organized by SGT University and ISAHRD at Gurugram, Haryana on during March 29-31, 2023.

Councillor of Indian Society of Seed Technology



Dr. J. B. Patel, Professor and Head, Department of Seed Science and Technology, CoA, JAU, Junagadh was elected unopposed as the Councilor for the West and Central Zone in the newly formed Executive Council of Indian

Society of Seed Technology for the period of three years from 2023 to 2026.

Outstanding Academician and Young Achiever Awards 2023

Dr. B. Swaminathan, Asstt. Prof., Dept. of Agril. Economics, CoA, JAU, Junagadh was conferred with the 'Outstanding Academician Award -2023' by the Kamarajar Institute of Education and Research (KIER), Theni, Tamil Nadu on February 26, 2023. The scientist was also bestowed with the 'Young Achiever Award-2022' by the Society for Advancement of Human and Nature (SADHNA) by Dr. Y. S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, Himachal Pradesh on March 12, 2023.



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

Sr No.	Name and Designation	
January - 2023		
1	Mr. M. H. Murim	Field Men
2	Mr. J. R. Makavana	Agri. Laborer
February -2023		
3	Mr. A. B. Dhareiya	Agri. Officer
March - 2023		
4	Mr. K. M. Nimbark	Technical Assistant
5	Mrs. Ushaben G. Zala	Peon
6	Mr. Pravinbhai K. Makavana	Agri. Laborer

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To

From

Directorate of Extension Education
Junagadh Agricultural University
JUNAGADH 362 001 (Gujarat)