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|  | CSK H.P. Agriculture University, Palampur 176062Media Cell मीडिया प्रकोष्ठ01894-283108, 9418097070 hirdaypaulsingh@gmail.com www: hillagric.ac.in No.QSD/PR/926 dated: 04 March 2022 |  |

Press Release प्रैस विज्ञप्ति

***CSKHPAU working hard for the aspirations of hill agriculture: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 4 March. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has informed that CSK H.P. Agriculture University has reoriented its efforts for achieving the aspirations of hill agriculture in *Amrit Kaal*. He was expressing his views during the inaugural session of annual conference of Vice-Chancellors, directors of the institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and industries today in online mode.

 The Vice-Chancellor detailed major efforts of the University in achieving academic excellence, focusing on need based location specific research and extension education efforts involving private sector. The Vice-Chancellor said that the University was working to enhance skill of the farmers by providing them new farm knowledge about new researches and technologies. He informed that 57 progressive farmers including *Padam Shree* awardee Nek Ram Sharma have been recognized as *'University Krishi Doot'* in the last two years.

The University has taken initiative to enhance administrative and financial efficiency and as per the directions of ICAR, the University was also re-orienting All India Coordinated Research Projects to increase output results, etc. He told that his University has taken lead in implementing New Education Policy 2020 and has created state of the art facilities like high tech planting material production unit, high tech plant growth chamber, hydroponic unit, phytotron facility, molecular laboratory, bioagent production unit etc. worth Rs 602.93 lakh. Prof H.K.Chaudhary told that Academic Management System has been implemented where all academic information of faculty and students will be available in cloud and accessible to all from anywhere in the world. He said that an on-line repository of e-lectures in the subjects of agriculture, veterinary and allied sciences is being maintained through Agri Diksha web channel of ICAR through the establishment of High-tech Virtual class rooms facility. Actual Reality and Virtual reality systems have also been established in the university to help the students to learn the practical skills in the different domains of agricultural and veterinary Sciences. Around 50 post graduate students have been benefited through the exposure visits to various international and national institutes. He told that 5 faculty and 8 PG students have attended the international trainings at leading institutions at USA, Australia, Israel and Taiwan.

The University has developed framework for post graduate diploma in Commercial Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops, Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops and Pest Management for the skill enhancement and Startups.

The Vice-Chancellor while detailing rich diversity in the North Western Himalayan region told that the University has taken up in a big way the characterization and purification of the farmers’ varieties for their further registration with PPV&FRA to protect the farmers’ right and encourage the farmers for conservation of potential landraces of the State. Some farmers’ varieties and landraces of the State have been got registered with the PPV&FRA helping farmer communities and individuals receiving ICAR awards. Prof. Chaudhary said that to harness the potential of Plant Genetic Resources of N-W Himalayas, establishment of Germplasm Resource Network was underway. The scientists are mapping the farmers’ varieties of the State, sensitizing them and are creating awareness about importance of protection and conservation of traditional crops and varieties. He said that collaborative research was necessary to face emerging challenges and the University has signed 12 MoUs with several premier institutes, industry and private and public sector to conserve and explore rich biodiversity and natural resources of Himalayas and develop market-oriented programs and produce industry ready graduates.

The Vice-Chancellor told that several activities have been planned this year to celebrate International Year of Millets. To improve the nutritive value, the University will popularize use of Millets in food and feed. It will motivate farmers to grow millets and increase their income. He told that Rs. 56 crore project on herbs, medical and aromatic plants have been submitted to the funding agency.It will propel major research activities and extension activities benefitting farmers. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to the ICAR for its regular support to the University.

***CSKHPAU student to represent India in freestyle wrestling championship at Serbia***

Palampur 2 March. Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice Chancellor,CSK H.P.Agriculture University has congratulated M.Sc.Agronomy student Mr. Ajay Sindhu for winning gold medal in 65 Kg category Senior Men Freestyle National Wrestling Championship. It was organized by the Sports Authority of India at Hissar recently. The Vice Chancellor extended his best wishes to the student who will represent India for his next competitions with international players at Serbia.

Dr Daizy Basandrai, Students' Welfare Officer and Dr Naveen Kumar, Head, Department of Agronomy were present on the occasion.

***CSKHPAU takes a lead in acquiring drones: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 1 March.CSK H.P. Agriculture University has acquired three drones for demonstrations and use in farming. This was informed by Prof.  HK Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor told that after getting funds from the Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Ludhiana , the University has taken lead in purchasing drones recently. Under ‘Agri Drone Project’ three Agri spray drones have been purchased for demonstration to the farmers at Palampur, eight Krishi Vigyan Kendras, thirteen research stations and farmers’ fields all over Himachal Pradesh.

Prof Chaudhary said that the drone technology is emerging at a very fast pace in agriculture. The farm sector is likely to be second largest user of drones in the world in next five years. He said that application of drone technology in agriculture can help to reduce time and increase efficiency in soil and field analysis, crop monitoring and surveillance, crop spraying for pest and disease control, nutrient application, etc. Prof Chaudhary informed that his university will use newly acquired drones to demonstrate the spraying capabilities, crop area mapping, etc. The demonstration will  provide exposure to the farmers in the use of drone technology in cost effective and efficient nutrient management.

Initially three University scientists have acquired Director General of Civil Aviation certified remote plane aircraft license for drone flying. They will demonstrate the use to farmers and will train other university scientists in drone policies and flying rules. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary thanked the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for their support in introducing the latest technologies to the hill farmers. He said that the University will work on the economic viability of this technology in hills and will come out with recommendations on use of drones in farming in Himachal Pradesh. This endeavor will open new vistas in the area of artificial intelligence and precision farming.

International Women Day

***CSKHPAU launches two Mobile Apps for women; to extend guidance on ‘Menopause and Health’ and ‘Secrets of Elegance’***

Palampur 23 February. CSK H.P. Agriculture University has launched two mobile applications for the women, especially to cater to farm women. The mobile apps were launched by Dr.(Mrs) Parveen Lata Chaudhary, first lady of the University in the presence of Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor and other scientists.

Disclosing this here today, Prof H.K.Chaudahry, Vice-Chancellor said that the Mobile App on ‘Menopause and Health’ has been developed by the University scientists keeping in mind the reproductive health care needs of farm women especially women belonging to rural areas as they are least aware about their health care needs. This App was developed for the women who are in their Menopausal years. They can have updated information about menopause, its symptoms, treatments and home remedies, diet, exercise etc. Women can post their queries to the Gynaecologist who is readily available to answer their queries.

As menopause leads to various hormonal changes in women that in turn make them psychologically prone to behavioural problems like restlessness, mood swings or even depression. To cope up with such problems, the App has a provision of online consultation with a consultant psychologist. The women can share their worries or problems online and get the answers.

Dr.(Mrs) Parveen Lata Chaudhary said that the women especially in their menopausal years and the ones experiencing these problems are being ignored and termed as attention seekers by other family members. Their problems are either misunderstood or ignored and getting medical advice is not given any thought. “In order to cater to their health care needs this Mobile Application will help them solve their queries and give them desired information on the issue”, told Prof Chaudhary.

Another mobile application on ‘Secrets of Elegance’ has been developed to provide beauty tips and beauty care ideas which are easily available in every kitchen. With the help of this app women along with their household works can take care of their beauty without spending money and wasting time. At the click of the button, girls and women will be getting relevant information on the use of materials available in the home to maintain and enhance their beauty and care of skin, hair, hands and feet. They will get information that fruits, vegetables, medicinal leaves, spices and many more readily available items in their kitchen and kitchen garden or home can do wonders. These natural beauty care products are becoming a popular option for women who want a more eco friendly way to keep their hair and skin radiant and healthy.

The Vice-Chancellor said that women are beautiful creations of God and play multiple roles at home and outside the home. It has been observed that they ignore their health, wellness and appearance while fully engrossed in household chore. In today’s era, we all want to look beautiful as well as like to get attention. “Beauty is just like the garden which must be maintained and should be taken care from time to time to feel confident and this app has been specially developed for it”, informed Prof Chaudhay.

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated Dr Raj Pathania, Professor & Head and Ms Goldy Chopra, Research Associate, Department of Human Development & Family Studies, College of Community Science for developing both apps.

# 2. Mobile Application on Secrets of Elegance

# The women are beautiful creations of God and play multiple roles not only at home but also outside the home. They are engaged in household chores and ignore their health, wellness and appearance. In today’s era, we all want to look beautiful as well as like to get attention. Beautiful things change one’s emotion in a very positive way; they just act as mood changing catalyst in the mind of person. Beauty of a person gives a feeling of magnificent happiness. Beauty is a unique expression of any person which reflects the personality of the person in the true manner. However, beauty is just like the garden which must be maintained and should be taken care from time to time to feel confident. For this they need not to go to parlours to get professional treatments but can make use of materials available in the home. The fruits, vegetables, medicinal leaves, spices and many more which are easily found at home can do wonders in the care of skin, hair, hands and feet. In addition these natural beauty care products are becoming a popular option for women who want a more eco friendly way to keep their hair and skin radiant and healthy.

# To have easy access and availability, a mobile application has been developed on beauty care ideas which are easily available in every kitchen. With the help of this app women along with their household works can take care of their beauty without spending money and wasting time. This App has been developed by Dr Raj Pathania, Professor & Head, and Ms Goldy Chopra, Research Associate, Department of Human Development & Family Studies, College of Community Science, CSKHPKV, Palampur. It will be of great help to rural youth and women at the click of the button.

Inter college youth festival concludes at CSKHPAU

***Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Winners of Youth Festival***

Palampur 9 February. Three days inter college youth festival concluded at CSK H.P. Agriculture University with Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences(COVAS) claiming the winning trophy with their spectacular performances.

The College of Agriculture (COA) remained Runners-up. The students of College of Community Science (CCS) and College of Basic Sciences (COBS) also won prizes in different competitions.

Chief Guest Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, COVAS awarded the winners. He congratulated participants and appreciated Students’ Welfare Organization. Dr.Daisy Basandrai, Students Welfare Officer told that more than 250 students from four constituent colleges of the University took part in nineteen activities like Light Vocal Music, Group Song, Mono acting, skit, mime , cartooning, rangoli, collage making, clay modeling etc. She thanked teacher incharges of cultural activities and judges. Dr.Sapna Gautam, Coordinator and Dr Virender Pathak, Co-coordinator also spoke on the occasion. All statutory officers, scientists and students were present during the prize distribution ceremony.

The detailed results: **SOLO EVENTS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Position** | **College** | **Winners** |
| **Elocution** | **I** | **COCS** | Akanksha Rana |
| **II** | **COVAS** | Vanshika |
| **Extempore** | **I** | **COVAS** | Amisha Sharma |
| **II** | **COA** | Gracy Singh |
| **On the spot Painting** | **I** | **COCS** | Tamanna Sharma |
| **II** | **COVAS** | Vatsal Sanyal |
| **Collage** | **I** | **COCS** | Muskan Rana |
| **II** | **COVAS** | Jitender Singh |
| **Poster Making** | **I** | **COCS** | Shagun Jamwal |
| **II** | **COVAS** | SukritiKheterpal |
| **Clay Modeling** | **I** | **COCS** | Maneesha Kumari |
| **II** | **COVAS** | Anvi Thakur |
| **Cartooning** | **I** | **COCS** | Muskan Rana |
| **II** | **COA** | Aryan |
| **Rangoli** | **I** | **COCS** | Palak |
| **II** | **COA** | Parul |
| **Mimicry** | **I** | **COVAS** | Nimesh Sharma |
| **II** | **COA** | Priyanshu Mehra |

**GROUP EVENTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Position** | **College** |
| **Quiz** | **I** | **COVAS** |
| **II** | **COCS** |
| **Debate** | **I** | **COA** |
| **II** | **COVAS** |
| **Light Vocal** | **I** | **COVAS** |
| **II** | **COCS** |
| **Patriotic Song** | **I** | **COVAS** |
| **II** | **COA** |
| **Group Song** | **I** | **COVAS** |
| **II** | **COA** |
| **Folk Dance** | **I** | **COVAS** |
| **II** | **COCS** |
| **One Act Play** | **I** | **COA** |
| **II** | **COVAS** |
| **Skit** | **I** | **COA** |
| **II** | **COBS** |
| **Mime** | **I** | **COA** |
| **II** | **COVAS** |

***Let students spread fragrance of rich hill culture: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 7 February. Three days inter college youth festival began at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today. Around 250 students from the four constituent colleges are taking part in nineteen cultural and literary events.

In his message to the participants, Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, underlined the importance of cultural activities for the holistic development of one’s personality.He said that glorious future of our nation in the hands of present young generation and we all should make them strong and visionary and such activities help in improving their communication and cultural skills. He lauded the students for their academic and sports achievements and exhorted them to spread the fragrance of rich and diverse hill culture beyond Himachal Pradesh too. He asked participants to highlight the importance of farm education among school students, village youth and others. He also advised them to celebrate this International Year of Millets with farm families.

Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr G.C. Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences formally inaugurated the festival as a chief guest. Dr.Daisy Basandrai, Students Welfare Officer told that activities like Light Vocal Music, Group Song, Mono acting, skit, mime , cartooning and rangoli will be taken up today. Scientists and students attended the inaugural ceremony.

***“Be Good Samaritans to eliminate TB”, exhorts Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 02 February.Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has exhorted the university staff and students to extend all support to tuberculosis (TB) patients in their vicinity.

While appreciating the University health centre for organizing an awareness workshop on TB in collaboration with the State Department of Health and Family Welfare, the Vice-Chancellor said that the Govt. of India and the Govt. of H.P. has initiated a massive programme to eliminate TB from the country by 2025 and we all should join hands in this noble effort. He said that he was sure that many staff members will be Good Samaritan and become ‘*Nikshay Mitra’* to adopt TB patients to extend them emotional and nutritional support.

Dr.Gurdarshan Gupta, Chief Medical Officer, Kangra, thanked the Vice-Chancellor and the University Health Centre for the commendable work during Covid-19. He said that since highly qualified people were serving this temple of learning so he expects them to extend all help in this good cause. He said many advanced techniques were available to identify TB microbes and very effective treatment to cure TB patients was in use now. He told that diagnoses and treatment was free of cost.

Dr.Anjana Tuli, Senior Medical Officer from the University Health Centre said that all myths and stigma attached with TB should be removed from the society. Dr. R.K.Sood, District TB Officer detailed many programmes like ‘ *Nikshay Mitra’*, ‘*Nikshay Poshan Yojna’* etc. where citizens can extend help to eradicate TB.

Besides the staff and students, Shri Sandeep Sud, HAS, Registrar; Sh.B.R.Rathod, Comptroller, Dr Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr.Suresh Kumar, Dean PGS, Dr.S.P.Dixit, Director Research, Dr.Pawan Pathania, Librarian and Dr Hirday Paul Singh, Joint Director( Information & Public Relations) were present in the workshop.

Extension & Research Council Meetings at CSKHPAU

***Share knowledge freely for the common good of all:Prof H.K Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 30 January.Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor chaired meetings of Extension Council and Research Council at CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today.He said that the University involves farmers and other stakeholders while planning its all extension and research plans.He disclosed that several activities have been planned this year to celebrate International Year of Millets at Palampur and University research and extension centres.To improve the nutritive value, the University will popularise use of Millets in food and feed.It will motivate farmers to grow millets and increase their income.He told that Rs. 56 crore project on herbs, medical and aromatic plants have been submitted to the funding agency.It will propel major research activities and extension activities benefitting farmers.He advised traditional and scientific knowledge sharing for the common good of humanity.

Prof Chaudhary said exemplary work by both farm Universities and departments of agriculture, animal husbandry etc.have drawn the attention of the nation and some farmers have been honoured at the national level. He informed that 57 progressive farmers including Padam Shree awardee Nek Ram Sharma have been recognised as 'University Krishi Doot' in the last two years.

With scientific intervention, the University has helped in popularising crops like red rice, local rajmash, Bayla basmati,urd,Janjheli lahsun, Kala Zeera, Nirmand area kulth, Nadauni raddish, garlic, etc helping farmers to earn more from such area specific traditional crops.He discussed University efforts in beekeeping, cold water fisheries, backyard poultry farming, protected and integrated agriculture, levender, saffron and kalazeera , developing entrepreneurship among young farmers, etc.He said that collaborative research was necessary to face emerging challenges and the University has signed MoUs with several premier institutes to conserve and explore rich biodiversity and natural resources of Himalayas.

Dr.V.K.Sharma, Director Extension Education detailed major activities, achievements and future programs in extension education at the University and its eight Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Dr. S.P. Dixit, Director Research told that in the recent past, 29 improved varieties of different crops have been released, 14 farm technologies have been developed, two patents have been obtained and GI registration of Kala Zeera has also been facilitated.

Most of the members suggested creating awareness among farmers about animal breeds, improving quality of mineral mixture for cattle, curbing the excessive use of chemicals in vegetable crops, increasing income of farmers by different farm avocations, availability of University fodder varieties for winters, popularising organic products, etc.

Shri Sandeep Sood,HAS, Registrar, Sh S.L.Negi, Comptroller, Deans Dr Mandeep Sharma, Dr Suresh Kumar, Dr Y.S.Dhaliwal and Dr Anita Singh, SWO Dr Daizy Basandrai and Librarian Dr Pawan Kumar, Dr Inder Dev, Director Extension,Dr Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, social worker and progressive farmer members Suman Lata, Lekh Raj Rana, Hima Ram Shastri, Kundan Singh Shastri,Sundar Sharma and nominated members Dr Amar Singh and Dr Satish Guleria and representatives of Director Agriculture, Director Animal Husbandry, Director Fisheries, Director, Central Potato Research Institute, head of departments, program coordinators of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Associate Directors of Research Stations also took part in both meetings.

 ***CSKHPAU research scholar leaves for training in Australia***

Palampur 28 January. Mr.Akashdeep Singh, Ph.D scholar of CSK H.P. Agriculture University will undergo one month’s advanced trainings at University of Southern Queensland, Australia. Before his departure he met Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed happiness that Mr.Akashdeep Singh, Ph.D scholar from the Department of Agronomy will be getting training on modelling of rice cropping systems for bio energy production and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from 1-28 February at the Institute of Life Sciences and Environment, University of Southern Queensland.

 Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that crop simulation models are used to assess the impact of changing climate on the agriculture production systems. These provide opportunities to build scenarios of agriculture output in changing climates and help to compare experimental findings across various sites to devise management strategies for wider environments. He asked the research scholar to explore the potential of new cultivars and management strategies.

Dr.Naveen Kumar, Head, Department of Agronomy told that Dr.A.D.Bindra is guide of Akashdeep Singh and during one month training, the research scholar will work under the guidance of Dr. Keith Pembleton, Chair of Agricultural Production Systems Simulator Initiative. Dr. Ranbir Singh Rana, Principal Investigator, told that the five scientists and seven students have been sponsored for international trainings on cutting edge technologies under Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Agricultural Higher Education Project on Centre of Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology on Protected Agriculture and Natural farming**.**

***The Vice-Chancellor felicitates University Krishi Doot Nek Ram Sharma for his selection for Padma Shree award***

Palampur 27 January. Prof.H.K Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor felicitated *University Krishi Doot* and progressive farmer Shri Nek Ram Sharma who has been selected for the Padam Shree award this year.

Prof. Chaudhary, while congratulating Shri Nek Ram Sharma for being selected for the coveted national award by the Govt. of India, lauded his achievements in conservation and propagation of traditional crops including millets. He said that Shri Sharma has inspired and motivated farmers of the State and neighboring states to conserve and grow such crops. He is also popularizing organic and natural farming. The Vice-Chancellor said that he was happy that this talented farmer was recognized as ‘ *University Krishi Doot’* by him and has been associated with the University scientists and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mandi for the last twelve years. Prof Chaudhary said that it was a matter of pride that he is the first farmer from H.P. who will be receiving Padma Shree award. He said that it was heartening that some other *University Krishi Doots* were also awarded other national level awards in the recent past.

Shri Nek Ram Sharma expressed his gratitude to Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary for his guidance and regular support from the University scientists and working in collaboration with KVK, Mandi.

Dr Pankaj Sood, Programme Coordinator, KVK Mandi, Shri Sita Ram Verma, President, Himachal Kisan Union and progressive farmers Sh Sanjay Kumar, Sh.Kundan Lal and Sh.Parma Ram Chaudhary were also present during felicitation ceremony.

Palampur 24 January. To express grief on the demise of former Vice Chancellor Dr Kirti Singh, a condolence meeting was held in the University auditorium today. Prof.H.K Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that Dr Kirti Singh was well known educationist and an able administrator.He recalled the contributions of Dr Kirti Singh during his tenure as Vice Chancellor at H.P.Agriculture University from 1989-1992.Prof Chaudhary said that Dr Singh motivated him to join as Assistant Plant Breeder at University Research Station, Kukumseri and was in touch with him till his last days The Vice-Chancellor said that Dr Singh is also remembered for his contributions as Vice- Chancellor at farm universities at Faizabad and Raipur too.He was well known for his work in vegetable crops.He was a true friend of diverse farming communities of the nation.

Sh.Sandeep Sood, HAS, Registrar read the condolence message and two minutes silence was observed in the memory of Dr Kirti Singh.The University community including students, attended the condolence meeting.

***Republic Day celebrated with patriotic fervour at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 26 January. The Republic day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and joy at CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today.Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor unfurled the National Flag and inspected impressive parade by NCC contingent.During his address to the entire University community, the Vice Chancellor, recalled the sacrifices by freedom fighters and farsighted vision of national leaders which enabled the country to traverse glorious path of progress in the last 74 years.He detailed great achievements in the areas of agriculture which transformed country from food deficit to food surplus nation.He discussed efforts in conservation of biodiversity and other natural resources by various national level institutes.The Vice Chancellor discussed progress made by Himachal Pradesh and extended greetings to the *'University Krishi Doot'* and progressive farmer Nek Ram Sharma for getting Padam Shree Award this year.

He also extended greetings on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami and asked the teachers to help students become best citizens serving the society with full dedication.Prof Chaudhary detailed major achievements of the University in academics, research and extension education.He said that University has remarkably fulfilled its mandate and has brought name and fame in hill agriculture.He asked scientists to help farmers in conserving rich biodiversity and natural resources of Himalayas.It is important for the entire humanity.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary discussed the need to conserve water resources, creating awareness about education in agriculture and animal husbandry, developing entrepreneurship among young farmers, improving marketing, automation of farm machinery, use of artificial intelligence and drone technology in precision farming, integrated farming systems, nutracutical crops, vertical farming etc.He said that it is important to adopt modern farming and the University has made efforts to develop collaboration with several top international and national institutes.

The Vice Chancellor appreciated the Students Welfare Organisation for organizing the function meticulously. He also appreciated NCC and NSS cadets for the parade, their various achievements and presenting colourful cultural programme.All Statutory Officers, staff and their families and students attended the celebrations.

***Farm sector is to be second largest user of drones in the world: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 21 January. “The drone technology is emerging at a very fast pace in agriculture. The farm sector is likely to be second largest user of drones in the world in next five years” opined Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University.

As a Chief Guest during a seminar on ‘Application of Drone Technology in Agriculture’ and the inaugural ceremony of ‘India Agri Progress Expo’ at Ludhiana today, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the importance of drone technology. He said that it can help to reduce time and increase efficiency in soil and field analysis, crop monitoring and surveillance, crop spraying for pest and disease control, nutrient application, etc.

The Vice-Chancellor recalled the great contribution of PAU in ushering in the Green Revolution in the country and called it a mother institution for his University and HAU, Hissar.

Prof Chaudhary also spoke on the future technologies in farming, need to follow protocols for spray through drones in different cops, role of remote sensing technology and detailed plans of his University to popularise millets during in this International Year of Millets.

He appreciated Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Punjab Agricultural University for jointly organising the seminar. He also appreciated the Punjab State Agricultural Implements Association and Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Association for organizing exhibition with the participation of large numbers of manufacturers and firms from all over the country and invited them to his University for creating awareness among hill famers about the utility of new technology.

Dr.Nachiket Kotwaliwale, Director, ICAR CIPHET was Guest of Honour in the function. Dr.Rajbir Singh, Director, ATARI told that a large number of scientists, extension agencies, policy makers, machine manufacturers and farmers are attending the two days expo.

During his visit to PAU, Prof. H.K. Chaudhary,Vice-Chancelllor held a meeting with Dr. S.S. Gosal Vice-Chancellor, PAU today. Both Vice-Chancellors discussed about on-going research and extension activities and possibilities of joint collaborations in the near future.

Separately, all those alumni of CSKHPAU who are pursuing higher studies or serving at PAU and GADVASU also met Prof Chaudhary and honoured him.The Vice-Chancellor appreciated them for their hard work

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***NAHEP gives a big fillip in academics and state of the art infrastructure at CSKHPAU: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 20 January. The Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology on Protected Agriculture and Natural Farming under National Agricultural Higher Education Project has given a big fillip for improving the academics and creating state of the art infrastructure at CSK H.P. Agriculture University.

Disclosing this, Prof. H.K Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said that under this project, high tech planting material production unit, high tech plant growth chamber, hydroponic unit, phytotron facility, molecular laboratory, bioagent production unit etc. have been created worth Rs 602.93 lakh. Besides adding 105 farm and laboratory equipments, the laboratories, lecture theatre and conference rooms were upgraded with latest technologies and renovation work of polyhouses was also done. Around 50 post graduate students have been benefited through the exposure visits to various international and national institutes. As a result of participation in capacity development program, 24 M.Sc and 18 Ph.D. students have been assigned research topics in different thematic areas of protected agriculture and natural farming.

 The Vice-Chancellor said that the ambitious project has enabled the University to develop linkages with prestigious national and international organizations and more than 12 MoUs have been signed with private sector, industry and public sector organizations to develop market-oriented programs and produce industry ready graduates. He told that 5 faculty and 8 PG students have attended the international trainings at leading institutions at USA, Australia, Israel and Taiwan. The project has also developed framework for post graduate diploma in Commercial Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops, Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops and Pest Management under Protected Cultivation for the skill enhancement and Startups. Two alumni of the University have established their own Startups.

 Prof H.K.Chaudhary said that Academic Management System developed under this project has been implemented in which all academic information of faculty and students will be available in cloud and accessible to all from anywhere in the world. It is a milestone of e- Governance in the university. He said that an on-line repository of e-lectures in the subjects of agriculture, veterinary and allied sciences is being maintained through Agri Diksha web channel of ICAR through the establishment of High-tech Virtual class rooms facility. Actual Reality and Virtual reality systems have also been established in the university to help the students to learn the practical skills in the different domains of agricultural and veterinary Sciences. Around 43 national and international seminars have been organized benefitting around 6500 faculty and PG students.

The outputs of the project mainly signify cutting- edge technologies of Natural Farming under Protected Agriculture and open environment. These technologies are climate resilient and will help to conserve environment sustainability in hill and mountain states of the country. This Centre of Excellence shall prove as advanced centre at national level for faculty and students to carry out the research work in the domain. More than 13 technologies have been generated in Protected Agriculture and Natural Farming. Agricultural Higher Education Awareness Programme to school students was also undertaken to enhance prospects of agricultural education profession and entrepreneurship. Large number of farmers has been benefitted on campus training programme and exposure visits.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the world bank for identifying his University as leading national Centre of Excellence for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology on Protected Agriculture and Natural farming under National Agricultural Higher Education Project worth Rs.18.91crore . Prof. Chaudhary appreciated Dr Ranbir Singh Rana, Principal Investigator and his strong team of 18 scientists, three consultants and 54 supporting scientific staff. He said the hard working team has been able to achieve the deliverable outcome despite Covid-19 during the initial phase of the project.

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***CSKHPAU very first in H.P. to opertionalise Artificial Intelligence based herd management system: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 17 January. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has installed herd monitoring system Allflex in Livestock Farm complex. It is very first in Himachal Pradesh.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, who personally monitored and inspected the animals wearing neck bands, equipped with sensors, told that Allflex transmits signal on real time basis about the health, rumination and reproduction status of the cow. It gives alerts on mobile phone of the staff, in case the animal is in heat for artificial insemination or the animal is having any digestion upsets. These sensors monitor the rumination, activity and health status of animal and transmit it through a centrally located transmitter to artificial intelligence based software, which interprets the signals on real time basis. The system analyzes these inputs and gives regular message to farm manager on his mobile phone regarding animal in estrus, prone to abortion etc. Farm manager upon getting such alerts can verify the input and take necessary steps. Prof Chaudhary informed that initially 20 cows have been equipped with neck bands. This artificial intelligent based health monitoring system can cover 5000 animals with air distance of 100 meter and has been installed for the first time in the state of Himachal Pradesh for demonstration to the visiting farmers and entrepreneurs. He said that for improving the welfare of dairy animals, a music system and automatic groomer has also been installed in dairy unit.

The Vice Chancellor told that instructions have been passed to further strengthen it so that dairy unit becomes a model demonstration unit for farmers and others.

During the visit of Vice-Chancellor, Dean Dr Mandeep Sharma, Director Extension Dr V K Sharma, Dr R Kumar, Associate Director Research and Dr.S.Katoch, Head, Livestock Farm Complex were present.

The department of Horticulture & Agroforestry, COA, CSKHPKV, Palampur till date sold 11,325 plants
of various temperate fruit plants such as apple, pear, stone fruits, kiwifruit, pecan nut, pomegranate
and grapes to 910 farmers of H. P., J & K, Punjab and Maharashtra as well as to State department of
Horticulture of H.

Palampur 4 January.Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor flagged off 'IFFCO Nano Urea Jan Jagrookta Publicly Van' at the University today.He lauded the efforts of IFFCO for creating awareness about Nano Urea as it will reduce wastage and save resources of the farming community.The Vice-Chancellor told that IFFCO has also played a major role in the Green Revolution by producing fertilizers for the high yielding crop varieties.He suggested that IFFCO should join hands with the University for training farmers and awareness campaigns.Prof Chaudhary also distributed blankets to needy people.Sh Shrey Sood, Field Officer IFFCO, University officers, and some staffers were present during the ceremony.

*Oath Taking Ceremony at Dr GCN CoVAS*

**Veterinarians asked to take up entrepreneurship by Chief Guest Dr D.V.R.Prakash Rao**

Palampur 3 January. An oath taking ceremony for passing out veterinary graduates was organized at CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today.

Chief Guest Dr D.V.R.Prakash Rao, President, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences, said that knowledge has no boundaries.He asked veterinarians not to look for jobs but become entrepreneurs.Dr Rao said that animal husbandry sector was fast growing sector and technological intervention can play an important role in it.He said that animal protein has huge demand in the country and associated industries have come up providing large number of jobs.The Chief Guest asked veterinarians to access the future needs and start ventures as capital was readily available.He provided detailed information about enterprises, startups and animal husbandry based industries.

In his presidential remarks,Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor while congratulating the neo graduates asked them to serve the livestock keepers and society with complete dedication.He said that as animals can not speak so they need much care and compassion.The Vice-Chancellor said that livestock keepers face multiple challenges and artificial insemination by untrained persons have aggrieved their problems."Abandoned cattle on roads needs introspection by the ones who have taken professional oath", asked Vice-Chancellor.He asked all concerned to accord due status of 'mother' to cows.Prof Chaudhary discussed issues like entrepreneurship, balanced nutrition and timely vaccination of cattle,sheep, goat, etc.The Vice-Chancellor asked veterinarians to grasp traditional knowledge and system too.

The chief guest and Vice-Chancellor distributed internship completion certificates to neo-graduates.They also released 7 manuals and brochures, including a guidebook in Hindi on lumpy skin disease.

Dr Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, told that 990 graduates have passed out from the College since its establishment in 1986.He detailed major achievements of his college. He said that Advanced Veterinary Multi-speciality Centre, Animal Disease Investigation Laboratory and Livestock Farms are three vital windows of the college.He administered professional oath to neo-graduates.

Dr Pankaj Sud, internship incharge, told that 41 graduates, including 23 girls have successfully completed their B.V.Sc.& AH degree program.

Dr R.Kumar extended a vote of thanks.

Besides the parents of neo-graduates, all Statutory Officers and scientists attended the solemn ceremony.

New Year Address by the Vice-Chancellor

***Several Programs involving farmers envisaged to celebrate International Year of Millets: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 2 January.CSK H.P.Agriculture University has envisaged several programmes to celebrate International year of millets. This was disclosed was Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor in his New Year address to the staff and students, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor exhorted students to be always inquisitive to assimilate relevant knowledge to optimum capacity and compete for scholarships for their higher studies at top national and international institutions. He asked scientists to help students in higher research with more than 30 premier institutes who have entered into MoU with the University.

 Prof Chaudhary also discussed initiatives for entrepreneurship and placement of scholars. The Vice-Chancellor asked each scientist to get minimum Rs. 30 lakh research project sanctioned to propel research and becoming self-reliant in their research needs. He said that nobody should underestimate one’s competence and capacity and work for exploring the potential of great Himalayas in collaboration with international premier institutes. Prof.Chaudhary exhorted collaboration and coordination with industries too.

The Vice-Chancellor said that this is International Year of Millets and four important millets are grown in H.P. “The University has planned several programmes like fairs, seminars, discussions, etc to celebrate it involving all stakeholders, including famers”, disclosed Prof Chaudahry. The University has signed MoU with the Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad three months back. He told that some volunteer centres will be established to expedite research in millets and other crops at the University and its research centers.

He thanked Govt of H.P. , Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) and other funding agencies for their support in fulfilling the given mandate in academics, research and extension education. He said that some remote areas like Bharmour and Pangi need independent Krishi Vigyan Kendras(KVK) as such areas have distinctive farming and animal husbandry needs. The University has approached ICAR for sanctioning KVKs in such areas. He discussed digitization, new challenges, need of fund generation, new infrastructure, etc. He suggested that all retiring professors should deliver a lecture of their achievements and contributions to the University and society.

The Vice-Chancellor released two publications and asked non teaching staff to extend support in executing all programmes expeditiously.

Shri Sandeep Sood, HAS, Registrar, Dr. Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences and Dr.Suresh Upathyay also expressed their views

Earlier, the programme started with the University Anthem, lighting of lamp and *Saraswati Vandna*.All statutory officers, heads, teaching and non teaching staff and students attended the programme.

***CSKHPAU making efforts to get GIs for crops and other products of H.P.: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

***CSKHPAU to establish Rs.2.50 crore Germplasm Resource Network***

Palampur 6 December.CSK H.P. Agriculture University has initiated active efforts to get Geographical Indications (GI) for important crops of Himachal Pradesh. After getting GIs, the farmers or other owners get special rights over these distinct crops and reap rich dividends by selling such crops or products.

According to Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, the crops selected for GI are Japonica red rice of H.P.; Bharmour, Barot and Kinnaur rajmash; Karsog, Shilai and Chamba urdbean; Karsog kulthi; Kullu, Kangra and Mandi red rice; chukh of Chamba, antique jewellary of Chamba; animal breeds and their products etc.

He disclosed that there are a good number of field crops like rice, barley, rajmash, kulthi, mash, potential crops like buckwheat, amaranthus, chenopodium, millets, kala zeera, orchids, bamboo, forages,, garlic, ginger, red ginger, zimikand, cucumber,*kakadi* ,*ghandiyali*, radish, kakora, *Tardi,* lingroo,etc and animals like Pahari cattle and buffalo (Gojri); Spiti horse; Spiti donkey; Rampur-bushair and gaddi sheep; cheegu and gaddi goats, Himachali yak , snow trout; golden mahseer, carps and hill stream fish, etc which have drawn the attention of the University for GI. He said that unique traditional jewellery of gaddi women like chak and chiri, chandan har and champakali, loung, koka, tilli and balu, bunde, jhumke, kante, latkni; tungni and kanphuls, gojru, toke,kangnu, snangu , singhi and pari and medical products like white honey from Bharmaur; aphids honey dew from Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur, wild mushroom (*Kirajari*), Spiti *Chharma and woolen products like* charkhani pattu, dohroo, pude and pashmina from cheegu goat,etc have been short listed for GIs.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the university is collaborating with H.P. Council for Science, Technology and Environment(HIMCOSTE), Himachal Pradesh Patent Implementation Centre, Shimlafor its efforts to get GIs as scientific and technical data has to be generated for each and every crop, animal or other distinct products where there is possibility of getting GI.

The Vice-Chancellor told that in the recent past, the University made successful efforts and got certain research projects sanctioned which will help in determining the distinct traits of the selected crops. The Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs.2.50 crore and the University has planned to utilize it for establishing the CSKHPKV Germplasm Resource Network, a basic and most coveted facility to conserve the precious treasure of Himalayan crops, plant land races for the future posterity and sustainable utilization of the novel genes in on-going improvement endevours for varied agroclimatic conditions of North\_West Himalyan regions especially H.P.. It will also open a new horizon for establishing linkages and sharing precious genetic treasure with rest past the country and other nations by attracting International collaborations and signing MoUs.

HIMCOSTE has sanctioned some project to generate the requisite information. These include ‘Generation of GI related information in Karsog kulthi (Horsegram) and Registration under Geographical Indications of Goods, Rules 2002 project worth Rs 1.17 lakh, ‘Generation of GI related information in red rice of Himachal Pradesh and Registration under Geographical Indications of Goods, Rules 2002 worth Rs 1.37, GI tag for foods of Himachal Pradesh-   Unique foods of Himachal Pradesh   c*hukh*   of Chamba district worth Rs 1.17 lakh.

Supported with the scientific and technical inputs, the University helped farmers to apply for national awards. Sh Nandu Ram from Palampur was awarded National Breed Conservation Award 2021 under individual category (small ruminants) for Gaddi goat breed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research- National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal in last December. The farmers of Bhaddal Panchayat of Chamba district also got Plant Genome Saviour Community Award for conserving land races of maize namely Haachi (white), Retti (red) and chitkuri (popcorn) and Red rice farmers of Rohru (Shimla) bagged ‘Plant Genome Saviour Award 2021 for preserving red rice variety Chhohartu.’ Further, such efforts are afoot to get awards for Kala zira, rajmash, urdbean, kulthi and ginger.

The University is also helping in Registration of Farmers varieties with Protection of Plant Varieties with Farmers’ Right Authority, Govt of India. Ratti, Hachhi Kukadi and Chitku landraces of Maize from Salooni (Chamba) and Chhohartu land race of Red Rice from Chirgaon, Rohru were registered. Similarly, the University helped in Registration of eight Animal breeds with NBAGR Karnal. These are Gaddi Sheep, Rampur-Bushair Sheep, Gaddi Goat, Chegu Goat, Spiti Horse, Spiti Donkey, Himachali Pahari Cattle and Gojri Buffalo. The University scientists generated relevant technical and scientific data for registration.

Prof Chaudhary informed that the University has also registered five RNA and DNA sequences of genes of important traits with National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Recently the University has also registered HBL 391 (Gokul) variety of Barley, and eight other varieties of Lentil, Soybean, Wheat, Field pea and Chickpea. The University also got registration of Garden pea germplasm, Wild lentil and Chickpea germplasm with National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources. He said that ‘Intellectual Property Rights-Policy guidelines’ have also been published for scientists and farmers to understand the intricacies of this process. From time to time conferences are organized on GIs and Intellectual Property Rights. Field days are organized to create awareness for Geographical Indications and help is extended in formation of farmers groups for GI.

Recently the University has helped farmers from Jia ( Palampur), Prini and Baragaon from Kullu and Lusasana( Mandi ) in applying registration of red rice farmers varieties Kaalijhini , Matali Jatoo and RR 575 under PPV & FRA.

***Refresher course on 'Post mortem diagnosis with emphasis on veterolegal investigations***

Palampur 5 December.A five days refresher course on 'Post mortem diagnosis with emphasis on veterolegal investigations' began at Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today.

Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor, in his inaugural address declared to open modern post modem centre in the University to give precise opinion and training.He said that we need to give equal status to animals as we give to human beings while performing Post mortems. "Moreover, for performing Post mortem, special care for sample collection to scientific and legal report writing requires thorough knowledge for which such trainings are very important '', opined Prof. Chaudhary.He underlined the importance of animals in human life and exhorted all to treat them as family members as they respond with much love.He said that cruelty against animals must be stopped.He cited the example of abandoned cattle which has created multiple problems in the society due to cruelty against them by owners.He also advised not to disturb ecology and plant fruit trees in jungles so that monkeys and other animals need not leave their habitat for searching food outside. He asked organisers to honour the first three trainees after taking their test at the end of course. The Vice Chancellor expressed happiness that specialists from top veterinary institutes will be importing trainings to officers and they should attend it devotedly. He also released 20 pamphlets and posters related to the course.

Dean Dr Mandeep Sharma said that outreach programs sharpen the skills of field officers.He asked trainees to become master trainers for other veterinarians. Course director Dr R.K.Asrani told that 20 veterinary officers from State Department of Animal Husbandry are taking part in it.Drs. Rakesh Kumar and R.D.Patil also expressed his views.Besides the University Statutory Officers and head of departments, Dr Sandip Mishra, Joint Director from State Department of Animal Husbandry was present in the inaugural ceremony.

 ***CSKHPAU scientist and three research scholars leave for training in Israel, Japan, Taiwan and Turkey***

Palampur 30 November. One scientist and three Ph.D scholars of CSK H.P.Agriculture University will undergo advanced trainings at Israel, Japan,Taiwan and Turkey. Before their departure they met Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor here today.

Dr Parveen Sharma, Professor( Vegetable) will be visiting Israel from 1 December 2022 to 28 February 2023.He will undergo advance training on Protected Cultivation at Agricultural Research Organization, Israel.  The Vice-Chancellor advised Dr Parveen Sharma to learn the state of art research techniques to augment research work and explore the possibility of post doctoral training and collaborative research project. Prof Chaudhary also interacted with Mr Himanshu Thakur, Ms Khushwinder Kaur and Ms Ekta Kaushik, Ph.D research scholars, who are also leaving for advanced trainings and advised them to experience the state of art facilities to augment their Ph.D. Research work.

Mr Himanshu Thakur will work for a month on `DNA sequencing techniques in termites and their gutorganisms` at Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Japan under the guidance of Dr Thomas Bourguignon beginning 1 December. Principal Scientist Entomology Dr Kuldeep Singh Verma is his advisor in the University.

Ms. Khushwinder Kaur will get one month hands on training beginning 1 December on angular leaf spot of common bean at Plant Protection Central Research Institute, Turkey. She will work under the guidance of Plant Pathologist Dr. Sirel Canpolat. Principal Scientist Palnt Pathology Dr. Amar Singh is her Ph.D advisor in the University.

Ms Ekta Kaushik will undergo three months research internship on 'Evaluation of tomato genotypes against whitefly and pin-worm’ at World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan from 10 December onwards under the supervision of Dr Srinivasan Ramasamy, flagship programme leader on safe and sustainable value chains. Principal Scientist Entomology Dr Ajay Sood is her Ph.D advisor. Dr. Ranbir Singh Rana, Principal Investigator, told that the scientist and students have been sponsored under Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Agricultural Higher Education Project on Centre of Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology on Protected Agriculture and Natural farming**.**

Ms. Payal, Ms. Shristi and Ms. Alisha Thakur, Ph.D research scholars from CSK H.P. Agriculture University will get one month training at Taiwan.

Disclosing this here today, Prof. H. K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told the National Agricultural Higher Education Project in the University has sponsored these research scholars to undergo training at World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan. These scholars from the Department of Vegetable Science and Floriculture will get acquainted with new areas of research topics pertaining to molecular vegetable breeding and will also get familiar with world’s largest public gene bank. The Vice-Chancellor told that they will work under the guidance of Dr. Roland Schafleitner, Head, Molecular Genetics- cum- Flagship Program Leader, Vegetable Diversity and Improvement from 1 October to 31 October 2022.

On the eve of their departure, Prof Chaudhary interacted with these Ph.D. scholars and advised them to experience the state of art facilities to augment their Ph.D. Research work.

Dr.D.R. Chaudhary, Head, Dr. Ranbir Singh Rana, Principal Investigator of National Agricultural Higher Education Project in the University and Dr. Parveen Sharma, students’ advisor told that the research scholars have been selected based on their research problems on molecular genetics.

***CSKHPAU sigs MoU with three ICAR institutes***

Palampur 26 November. CSK H.P.Agriculture University signed three Memorandum of Understandings with three Indian Council of Agricultural Research ( ICAR) institutes, today.

Earlier, Chief Guest Dr T.R.Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICAR while chairing a brainstorming session on future collaborations of the University with ICAR institutes, said that available human and infrastructure resources among all farm research institutes and farm universities should be utilised judiciously.He suggested that ICAR and University scientists should write and publish research work in collaboration.They need to organise joint seminars and workshops.He suggested joint programmes on seed biology and developing seed standards.He said that their should be exchange programme of students and scientists between the University and ICAR institutes.Dr Sharma said that regular monitoring of MoUs should be done.

While chairing the meeting, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor said that all mega projects are planned to utilze rich resources in the Himalayas for the nation.He said that ICAR institutes have huge strength and collaboration with the University will go a long way for the academic and research excellence.It will be beneficial to students and farmers.He said that ICAR will be provided all University resources so that benefit is passed on to masses.The Vice-Chancellor assured that the University will move with full speed and precision for quality research.

MoUs with National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR), Lucknow and Indian Institute of Seed Science,Mhow were signed in the presence of DDG and Vice Chancellor by Dr V.K.Sharma, Director of Research and Dr Suresh Kumar, Dean Post Graduate Studies on behalf of the University and Directors of three ICAR instituts.They

told that MoU with NBAIR is for Academic and Research Co-operation in the area of Insect Resources in Agricultural and allied sciences. Whereas, MoU with Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research(IISC) will be for research and seed production in the field of sugar beet.MoU with IISS will give impetus to seed production programmes.These MoUs are for strengthening the ongoing teaching and research programmes of the university. The University has already signed MoUs with five other ICAR institutes in the past.

Dr S.N. Sushil, Director, NBAIR, Dr A.D. Pathak, Director, IISR and Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director, IISS elaborated about research activities of their institutes.

Other scientists from ICAR instituts Dr A.K.Mal, Dr U.Amala and host University Drs R.S.Chandel, D.R.Chaudhary,R.K Kapila, all Head of Departments and Dr Ranvir Singh Rana, Principal Investigator, National Agricultural Higher Education Project, also expressed their views.The high level ICAR team visited the centre for advanced agricultural technology facilities created on protected agriculture.All University statutory officers and heads were in present the meeting.Dr P.C.Sharma conducted proceedings.

Inter-college Games conclude at CSKHPAU

***Dr.G.C.Negi COVAS wins Overall Trophy***

Palampur 18 November. Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences won overall trophy in the annual inter-college games that concluded at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today. The College of Agriculture remained runner up.

After awarding the winners of various games, Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that he was happy that the participating students have shown exemplary discipline and played the games with a true sportsman spirit. He declared that the Students’ Welfare Organisation will create all necessary amenities and facilities for the players enabling them to excel in their respective game and bring laurels to the University.

While the men and women teams of Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Science remained winners in Table Teninis,Volleyball and Powerliftng, the men and women teams of College of Agriculture were declared winners in Badminton and Chess.

The men team of COVAS was winner in weight lifting and the team of COA remained runners up. In football, the men team of COA was winner and the team of College of Community Science was runner up.

Dr.Daisy Basandrai, Students’ Welfare Officer, told that sixty teams comprising 501 boys and girls took part in fifteen events. All the Statutory officers, scientists and students attended the inaugural ceremony.

Inter-college Games at CSKHPAU

***Games essential for physical and mental fitness: Prof H.K.Chaudhay, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 14 November. Annual inter-college games began at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

In his inaugural address Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that sports play a pivotal role in the development of students’ personality. “The sports help in physical and mental fitness as they develop stamina, a sense of team spirit, brotherhood, friendliness, fairness and competitiveness too”, opined Prof Chaudhary. He asked the participants to play the games with joy and sportsmanship. The Vice-Chancellor informed that a mega project has been submitted to the Govt of India for development of sports complex which will enable the University to organise such events at a larger scale. He expressed happiness that the Students’ Welfare Organisation has been able to hold games after three years. Earlier games could not be conducted due to the pandemic. He directed the organisation to organise inter-university games, athletic meets and youth festivals in the coming times. Earlier the Vice-Chancellor inspected inaugural parade by the sportspersons and he was introduced to the contingents of all four constituent colleges.

Dr.Daisy Basandrai, Students’ Welfare Officer, told that around 480 boys and girls were taking part in eight games each like Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, Volleyball, Basketball Football, Power and Weight Lifting. All the Statutory officers, scientists and students attended the inaugural ceremony.

***Dr.Taisuke Kanao from Yamagata University, Japan delivers an expert lecture at CSK H.P. Agriculture University***

Palampur 5 November. Under the international expert lectrue series, Dr.Taisuke Kanao, scientist from Yamagata University Japan, delivered an interactive lecture on termites and other associated insects at CSK H.P. Agriculture University.

Speaking to the research scholars and scientists, Dr Kanao detailed species diversity and evolutionary history of termitophilous rove beetles. He also spoke on the importance, diversity and co-evolution of termites and termitophiles and shared his experiences.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told that Dr.Kanao is a member of international termite research team and CSK H.P. Agriculture University will also join the team soon to strengthen the research work on termites in India. He said that there is need to study diversity of termites and significance of termitophiles in the country. The Vice-Chancellor asked the Head of Entomology Department to explore the possibility of signing MoU with Yamagata University, Japan so that the research scholars and other students may get new inputs for their research work. He asked Dr. Kanao to help in strengthening termite research work in the University and co-operate in joint research publications.

Dr.Ravinder Singh Chandel, head of the department told that Dr. Kanao is on a fortnight visit to the University and has conducted a joint survey work with scientists on termites in Sirmour, Hamripur and Kangra districts. His interaction with the scientists and students have remained very productive.

The talk was organized by Department of Entomology under National Agricultural Higher Education Project.Around 150 persons attended the talk in offline and online mode.

CSK H.P. Agriculture University celebrates its 45th foundation day

***New Education Policy to be implemented seamlessly: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 1 November. With the active participation of staff and students, the 45th foundation day of CSK H.P. Agriculture University was celebrated with joy and zeal at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

In his address to the University community, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor asked them to introspect, plan and execute new plans to serve the farming community with renewed enthusiasm. He vividly recalled the development phase of this hill farm varsity and the present status when it’s among top ten agricultural universities of the country. He said that despite several achievements in its kitty, the University is to move ahead with faster pace facing new challenges. “For serving the farmers, students and other clients, out of box thinking is a must”, advised Prof Chaudhary. He expressed the hope that brilliant students, innovative scholars and all concerned will work in cohesion to bring laurels to the institution with remarkable achievements in coming times.

The Vice-Chancellor said that quality research needs passion, complete dedication and untiring hard work. He said that each and every employee needs to pay back to the society with his love for the assigned job, seeking assistance of all and doing something extra for the students, farmers and society. He asked scientist to help the students in applying for national awards and foreign fellowships. The Vice-Chancellor expected students to always seek guidance and express gratitude to their teachers. Prof Chaudhary also asked other staff to cooperate with each other for high quality and timely office work.He expressed the hope that unison among all components will raise the status of the University and enable it to implement New Education Policy seamlessly.

While exhorting the young and newly recruited scientists and staff to work relentlessly for the welfare of farmers of the State, the Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to all those who laid firm foundation of the institution. He said that several heads, hearts and hands have contributed dedicatedly to successfully fulfil the given responsibilities of academics, research and extension education. He elaborated about many inter institutional collaborations and new initiatives taken in the last one year.

The Vice-Chancellor released a booklet entitled ‘Significant Achievements of CSKHPKV’ and some other publications to mark the occasion.

The students presented a colourful extravaganza with several cultural items. The students also presented a short documentary on the University.

Dr.Daizy Basandrai, Students’ Welfare Officer welcomed all. Drs Gitanjali Singh and Janardan Singh, Presidents of Teachers’ Unions, Shri Rajeev Sharma, President, Non-teaching employees union and other statutory officers detailed major achievements. Dr Suresh Upadhyay skilfully compared the programme.

**Foundation Day Feature : 1 Nov 2022**

***Forty four years in the Service of Farming Community of Himachal Pradesh***

**H**imachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (renamed as Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya in June, 2001) was established on 1st November, 1978.The College of Agriculture (established in May, 1966) formed the nucleus of the new farm University. It is Indian Council of Agricultural Research accredited institution and ICAR has ranked this University at 10th place among all farm universities of the country.

The University has been given the mandate for making provision for imparting education in agriculture and other allied branches of learning, furthering the advancement of learning and prosecution of research and undertaking extension of such sciences, especially to the rural people of Himachal Pradesh.

Over the years, this University has contributed enormously in transforming the farm scenario of Himachal Pradesh. It has developed human resources, crop varieties and technologies and transferred these to farming community enabling the State to forge ahead and become self-sufficient on food front. Today, the State has earned its name for hill agricultural diversification and the farming community has imposed its faith in the University.

**Academic Programmes**

The University has four constituent colleges. The College of Agriculture has 13 departments, Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences has 18 departments, the College of Community Science has five departments and the College of Basic Sciences has four departments. These colleges offer five Bachelor Degree programmes, 27 Masters Degree and 14 Doctoral Degree programmes. The University has a glorious history of being a ragging free and it provides congenial academic environment in the campus and is known for quality education as evident from overwhelming response of applicants annually for B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture and B.V.Sc. & AH programmes.

At present 1503 students (909 girls & 544 boys) are on roll including 125 ICAR/ VCI nominees and international students from six countries and 14 Indian states. 9174 students have passed out from the University since its inception. The University has world class academic, sports and co-curricular facilities. It has eleven students’ hostels (five boys and six girls’ hostels) including one International Students’ Hostel.

**Research Activities**

The Directorate of Research coordinates research in the field of agriculture, veterinary and animal sciences, community science and basic sciences. It has been giving priority to the location specific, need based and problem oriented research with multidisciplinary approach at main campus Palampur, 3 Regional Research Stations (Bajaura, Dhaulakuan &  Kukumseri) and 10 Research Sub-stations (Kangra, Malan, Nagrota, Salooni, Akrot, Berthin  Sundernagar, Sangla, Leo & Lari) situated  in all four agro-climatic zones of the State.

The University has developed and released 177 improved varieties of different crops for the different regions of the State. Around 1000 quintal breeder seed and around  500 quintal foundation  seed of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable and fodder crops is produced and supplied to the State Department of Agriculture for further multiplication and making it available to  the farming community. More than 100 farm technologies have been recommended to the farmers. To enhance crop and animal productivity, the University has developed suitable technologies in the areas of crop improvement, animal breeding, disease combating, natural resources management, etc. Besides continuing research on organic farming in hill agriculture, the University is first in the country to establish an Advanced Centre on Protected Agriculture and Natural Farming worth Rs. 22.66 crore with the assistance of National Agricultural Higher Education Project and initiated research for safe farm produce.

For doubling the farmers’ income by 2022 as envisaged by the government, twenty farm based models have been formulated and shared with the agriculture and animal husbandry departments of the State government. Efforts have been made to educate and motivate the farmers to adopt the models as per the agro-climatic conditions of their area and their requirements.

**Extension Education**

The Directorate of Extension Education shares the responsibility for planning, implementation and coordination of various extension education programmes of all the departments of four

constituent colleges and research stations in close collaboration with the State Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and other concerned departments and institutions. It conducts a large number of trainings for farmers, livestock keepers, farm women, rural youths, etc. both at main campus and at its all eight *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (KVKs) located at Bajaura, Dhaulakuan, Hamirpur, Una, Mandi, Kangra, Berthin and Kukumseri. The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare has sanctioned Model Training Courses to the University and various skill enhancement trainings sponsored by Agriculture Skill Council of India are also conducted. Natural Farming activities are also being undertaken by all KVKs. The Agricultural Technology Information Center is serving as a single window service to the farmers. ‘Progressive Farmers' Photo Gallery’ has been established in the University Museum.

The Media Cell projects the image of the University among target clients and others by various Public Relations and Communication tools. The University has its noteworthy presence on social media platforms.

A massive infrastructure to fulfill the mandate and realize objectives has been created at main campus Palampur, all Research Stations and *Krishi Vigyan Kendras*. The main clients viz. the farmers and the students are provided quality facilities like academic management system, smart classrooms, video-conferencing facilities, virtual class room, hybrid university library, high-tech polyhouse, phytotron, hydroponic facility, high-tech training halls, farmers’ hostels, transportation, students’ hostels, playground  &  gymnasium, placement cell, etc.

This University has emerged as a lighthouse for all farm universities in the hill region of the country. It is progressing at a fast pace to attain an international status. It is most peaceful institution in the region with very conducive atmosphere to pursue academic and research activities.

Due to the earnest and arduous work during the past forty four years in the University, the State has achieved new heights in agricultural development. Despite constant decrease in area under farming, crop yields have increased. The State has earned name in commercial agriculture, especially off-season vegetable cultivation.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said that the University was working hard on current approaches and future strategies for increasing the income of farmers. He said that the University has started registering 51 traditional crops, unique products and commodities of Himachal Pradesh with various national agencies. The Vice-Chancellor said that inputs like quality seed, breed and feed at the doorsteps of farmers and facilities like storage, post-harvest processing and assured marketing are a must to enhance productivity and income of the farmers and the University was emphasizing it with all concerned. In the last one year, the University has signed Memorandum of Understandings with well known International and National institutions to accelerate research and extension activities, besides students’ and faculty exchange programmes. Some of the students have already gained international exposure and earned fellowships from top ranking foreign universities. The University helped some farmers to get national awards. He said theUniversity will work persistently for the socio-economic development of farming community and several programmes have been initiated for the farmers.

***Make farmers aware about SRT to improve their livelihood:Prof.H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 1 November. Prof. H.K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor,CSK H.P.Agriculture University has appreciated the efforts of an innovative farmer Sh. Chander Shekhar for his innovation 'Saguna Regenerative Technology (SRT) that will contribute in enhancing the livelihood of the farming community. As Chief guest during the virtual lecture series of Organic Agricultural Society of India(OASI), Prof Chaudhary was addressing participants today.

The Vice-Chancellor, who is Chief Patron of OASI, also appreciated the efforts of OASI for organizing such events in collaboration with the Department of Organic Agriculture and Natural Farming.He also highlighted the importance of plant genetic resources of Himachal Pradesh and invited Sh. Chander Shekhar to the University to share his experiences in the field of SRT.

Earlier, Krishi Ratna and Krsihi Bhushan awardee Sh. Chandra Shekhar Bhadsavle delivered a virtual lecture on the “Regenerative Agriculture (RA): The only easy way out for overcoming food shortage and global warming problems” and elaborated about the the SRT through a documentary. He also compared the findings of SRT with traditional farming. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the soil health and environment which is directly or indirectly linked to the happiness of the farming community.

Dr. D.K. Vatsa,Dean, College of Agriculture and Dr. S.P. Dixit,Director of Research, both National Conveners, shared their views.

Dr. Janardan Singh, President, OASI-cum-Head of Department said that organic and natural farming is the best way for sustainable and safe food.His department is organizing Virtual Lecture Series on the aspect of Organic and Natural Farming under the umbrella of OASI since June, this year where scientists, farmers, NGOs, social workers etc.share their ideas, knowledge and experience with the aim to benefit different stakeholders of the country through interaction and brainstorming. Dr. Gopal Katna and Dr. Rameshwar also expressed their views.

National Unity Day at CSKHPAU

***Vice-Chancellor Prof. H.K.Chaudhary asks students to work for unity, integrity and security of the nation***

Palampur 31 October. The birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was observed as ‘*Rashttirya Ekta Diwas’* at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor flagged off ‘Run for Unity” rally and all the NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and other students enthusiastically took part in it.

Later, in his address to the participants and the University staff, the Vice-Chancellor asked the students and staff to imbibe great virtues of Sardar Sahib like relentless work for national integration, unity, integrity and security of the nation. He vividly recalled the huge role of Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for integrating the nation with his statesmanship. The national unity day pledge was administered to all the participants. All the offices in the University also took pledge for preserving the unity, integrity and security of the nation.

***Indian scientists too played a noteworthy role in the Indian Freedom Struggle: Vice-Chancellor Prof. H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 29 October. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor has asked the youngsters to learn, understand and appreciate the role of all those scientists of the country who played a role in the Indian Freedom struggle.As Chief Guest, he was addressing the University scientists, school principals, teachers and students during a curtain raiser program on the role of Radhanath Sikdar in India's freedom struggle at CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that due to unknown reasons, several scientists and heroes have remained unsung and un- acknowledged although they played a noteworthy role in the freedom struggle of our great country.He called upon the scholars to search and do research on such scientists.He narrated great contributions by Sh.Sikdar,Srinivasa Ramanujan, C.V.Raman, etc.They were real gems of the country who impressed the world with their unique research.He said that we must remember and imbibe their glorious virtues.Prof Chaudhary said that their biographies should be part of our text books.He spoke on the contributions of old institutions of the country.

Dr.B.C.Chauhan from Central University, H.P. delivered a special lecture on Sh.Radhanath Sikdar.He said that besides being a freedom fighter, Sh Sikdar was very first to measure the exact height of Mount Everest. Dean of Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Dr Mandeep Sharma, Principal Investigator Dr Ranbir Singh Rana and Head Dr.D.K.Banyal and Dr.Manjula Sharma also expressed their views.

Under the aegies of Union Ministry of Culture, the programme was jointly organised by Vigyan Bharti and National Agricultural Higher Education Project.

***Kangra Tea popular in urban India: Vice-Chancellor Prof. HK Chaudhary***

Palampur 26 October. The University tea gardens will soon undergo a transformation with addition of a cafeteria. This was disclosed by Prof H.K Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today. He said that a plan has been envisaged to link the University tea gardens with tea tourism, excursions, etc. The Vice-Chancellor visited the Orthodox Tea Garden of the Department of Tea Husbandry &Technology and sought details about the on-going activities like processing of Orthodox Black and Green Tea. Prof. Chaudhary said that the tea of this hill state has been accepted at higher standards in quality and taste by several experts and has got wider acceptability in urban areas of the country. He said that high polyphenols in green tea help in improving metabolism as compared to black tea, thereby making the green tea much popular amongst the health conscious urban population.

Prof. Chaudhary appreciated the efforts of Dr.Sanjay Kumar, Dr Parmod Verma and other staffers in the department.

Rs. 76 lakh US Scholarship to CSKHAPU student

***Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary congratulates Sachin Sharma for getting Doctoral Fellowship in USA***

Palampur. 15 October. Prof. H.K Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has congratulated Mr. Sachin Sharma, M.Sc. student of CSK H.P. Agriculture University who has been selected with full scholarship of Rs. 76 lakh for doctoral studies at well known Montana State University, USA.

Mr. Sachin Sharma, a student of the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, has been selected for a doctoral scholarship in the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department of Montana State University, USA. He has obtained his graduation also from this University.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed happiness that the student will get a grant of Rs.19 lakh per annum by the US government for the next four years. He will be pursuing research on “Mechanism of antibiotic production in *Ralstonia* species”. The Vice-Chancellor also appreciated Dr.Pardeep Kumar, major advisor of the student and Dr. D. K Banyal, Head of the Department. He said that it was creditable that another student of the University B.J. Raju, was selected with a scholarship of Rs.1.20 crore for doctoral studies at Clemson University, USA in May, this year. He asked other students to emulate both brilliant students who have brought laurels to the University, their teachers and parents.

 Mr. Sachin credited the achievement to his parents, MSc. research guide, head of the department and faculty of the Department of Plant Pathology.

***CSKHPAU to join hands with IIRR and Advanta Seeds, Hyderabad for research collaboration: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 5 October. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University has informed that his University will collaborate with Indian institute of Rice Research and Advanta Seeds, UPL Ltd. Hyderabad in the areas of research and farm technologies.

During his visit to Hyderabad, Prof. H K Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor visited Indian institute of Rice Research, Rajendranagar. IIRR is a premier Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The Vice-Chancellor held discussions with Dr. R M Sunderam, Director and Head of Divisions and Scientists regarding rice research and related activities. Dr. Sunderam briefed the Vice-Chancellor about the research, varieties and technologies. The Vice-Chancellor proposed to Dr Sundram to join hands with the CSKHPKV on research collaboration in the field of rice which he accepted gladly.

The Vice-Chancellor also visited Advanta Seeds, UPL Ltd. Hyderabad and took a round of their laboratories, polyhouses, R & D facilities on agricultural crops. He held detailed interaction with the officials and scientists of Advanta Seeds.

Dr. Shashikant Kularni, Head, UPL, South Asia Region and other scientists thanked Prof Chaudhary for visiting them and sharing his ideas including his well known research work on Double Heploid technology. The Vice-Chancellor invited Dr Kulkarni to Palampur with proposal for joining hands with the University to avail the facilities available with the University and Advanta Seeds. The Vice-Chancellor congratulated Dr. Kulkarni for establishing such a venture to promote agriculture and agricultural technologies in India and abroad.

During his visits to both the institutes, Prof Chaudhary was accompanied by Dr. S.P Dixit, Director Research, Dr. Vinod Sharma, AD, Bajaura and Dr. Pankaj Sood, PC, KVK, Mandi.

***CSKHPAU and ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad sign MoU to promote and enhance scientific interaction***

Palampur 4 October. CSK H.P. Agriculture University and Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad have signed a MoU to promote and enhance scientific and academic interaction between both institutes.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told that under this MoU, research work on millet research will be expedited like Millets breeding including germplasm exchange, crop improvement, processing and value addition. He told that IIMR is a premier research institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Prof Chaudhary told that research instrumentation and library facilities available with the two Institutions will be made available to the faculty and research scholars of each other. It will be helpful to the PG students of the University for conducting research related to the thesis requirements. IIMR and CSKHPAU will undertake joint research work in the areas of millets interest. The scientists of both institutions will formulate research projects and HRD plans for joint work. Apart from this, joint sponsored and consultancy projects could be undertaken with long term and short term goals. He said that the collaboration will benefit in sharing and exchange of germplasm of millets and this joint venture will benefit the farmers of this hill State for promotion of millets cultivation. Dr.Rathnavati Director, IIMR said that IIMR will also provide financial assistance to the University for Awareness Campaigns for cultivation of millets in Himachal Pradesh.

The MoU was signed by Prof. H K Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor on behalf of his University and by Dr. (Mrs.) C V Rathnavati, Director on behalf of ICAR IIMR.

Dr. S P Dixit, Director of Research, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Associate Director, HAREC, Bajaura and Dr. Pankaj Sood Programme Coordinator, KVK Mandi and Scientists of ICAR IIMR, were present during this ceremony.

***One month training at Taiwan for three Research Scholars from CSKHPAU***

Palampur 29 September. Ms. Payal, Ms. Shristi and Ms. Alisha Thakur, Ph.D research scholars from CSK H.P. Agriculture University will get one month training at Taiwan.

Disclosing this here today, Prof. H. K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told the National Agricultural Higher Education Project in the University has sponsored these research scholars to undergo training at World Vegetable Centre, Taiwan. These scholars from the Department of Vegetable Science and Floriculture will get acquainted with new areas of research topics pertaining to molecular vegetable breeding and will also get familiar with world’s largest public gene bank. The Vice-Chancellor told that they will work under the guidance of Dr. Roland Schafleitner, Head, Molecular Genetics- cum- Flagship Program Leader, Vegetable Diversity and Improvement from 1 October to 31 October 2022.

On the eve of their departure, Prof Chaudhary interacted with these Ph.D. scholars and advised them to experience the state of art facilities to augment their Ph.D. Research work.

Dr.D.R. Chaudhary, Head, Dr. Ranbir Singh Rana, Principal Investigator of National Agricultural Higher Education Project in the University and Dr. Parveen Sharma, students’ advisor told that the research scholars have been selected based on their research problems on molecular genetics.

Farm Officers’ Workshop on Rabi Crops at CSKHPAU

***CSKHPAU to develop new crop varieties from germplasm resources of Himalayas: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 28 September. A state level Agriculture Officers’ Workshop on Rabi crops was organised at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

While inaugurating the workshop, Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor, expressed his gratitude to the State government for heeding to his request and creating Rs. 2.5 crore research fund for his University. He told that this amount will be exclusively spent on conserving invaluable germplasm resources of Himalayas so as to develop new crop varieties. He said that the University needs more mega research projects under *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Pariyojna* for addressing specific research issues directly concerning farmers of different districts.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the nature has bestowed distinction on each district and University is making serious efforts to get Geographical Indicators for the special crops of all districts, valleys and niches. A special GI task force has been created for this purpose. He told that 56 progressive farmers have been designated and honoured as University *Krishi Doots* and they help in spreading the useful information generated at main campus in their respective areas all over the State.

He informed that the crop varieties developed by the University have enabled increase in production and productivity of all major crops. This has helped farmers to raise their socio-economic status. He underlined the need to strengthen marketing network so that all crops, especially crops grown under natural farming system get remunerative prices.

The Vice-Chancellor also appreciated perfect coordination and communication between the University and State Department of Agriculture. He asked all deputy directors of agriculture to discuss major issues of their respective districts to resolve these in consultation with farm scientists.

Dr.Raghbir Singh, Joint Director of Agriculture, H.P. elaborated about arrangements of farm inputs like seeds for the Rabi crops. He also detailed various government schemes to increase farm production. He told that Rs. 23 crore will be spent on farm mechanisation. He asked officers and scientists to popularise millets as nutrie-cereals.

Dr.S.P. Dixit, Director of Research, told that 130 research projects worth Rs.85 crore are in operation in the University. The University has focussed its efforts on crop improvement,production and protection. He also spoke on the achievements in biotechnology, vegetable crops, organic and natural farming. Dr. V.K.Sharma, Director of Extension Education, elaborated about major achievements in extension education. He told that 350 training programmes were held with the participation of more than twelve thousand farmers.

 Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Dean, College of Agriculture and Dr.Luv Bhushan also expressed their views. Dr. Jeet Singh Thalur, Additional Director of Agriculture, H.P., Deputy Directors, University scientists and around a dozen progressive farmers like Baljeet Sandhu, Sangita Devi, Vinod Kumar, Ved Ram, Suresh,Mohinder Kumar, etc from different districts also actively took part in the workshop. Issues like protected cultivation and hydroponics of vegetable crops, prospects of natural farming, use of nano fertilizers for increasing nutrient use efficiency, etc were deliberated at length. Farm officers, programme coordinators and farmers from different districts gave feedback of their areas.

World Tourism Day at CSKHPAU

***Involve rural masses in eco-agro tourism: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 27 September. World Tourism Day was celebrated at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, advised integrating agro tourism and eco tourism to revive the tourism industry in Himachal Pradesh, which suffered setback during the pandemic. He said that the state is known for its scenic beauty like snow clad mountains, rivers, sprawling gardens, meadows, national parks, flora and fauna and theses must be promoted for additional tourist attractions like paragliding, skiing, etc. This will generate income for the people from rural areas.

While appreciating the Department of Resources Management and Consumer Science for the initiative to celebrate this day, he advised the scientists and students to create awareness about eco-agro tourism among the people for their livelihood.

Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal, Dean, College of Community Science also highlighted the importance of tourism industry. Dr.Neena Vyas, Prof. & Head, Deptt. of Resource Management and Consumer Science, informed that several cultural activities and several competitions were organized in the last one week to commemorate the World Tourism Week.

The following students were selected for the best performance is the each respective activity. The 1 st ,2 nd , 3 rd and Consolation prizes were bagged by Ms. Mehak and Ms. Tamana from College of Community Science, Ms. Priya Dhiman from College of Agriculture, Ms. Divanshu Dogra from College of Basic Science. Aksay kapoor and team from College of Community Science were selected as the winner in the Quiz competition. Sanskriti and team from College of Community Science were adjudged best in ‘*Vrat*’ Recipe competition.

Retired professors from the college Dr.Shubhangna Sharma, Chief Guest and Dr Avinash Sharma, Guest of Honour distributed prizes to the winners. Some tourism industry experts also expressed their views. Scientists and students were present on the occasion.

***Lumpy Skin Disease awareness campaign by CSKHPAU***

Palampur 23 September. CSK H.P. Agriculture University has initiated an awareness campaign on Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD).

On the directions of Prof H.K.Chaudhary, a committee of veterinary scientists from Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences has been constituted to create awareness among livestock keepers and general masses on the various aspects of LSD. The Vice Chancellor said that there are many myths and misinformation about LSD among the livestock owners and the veterinary scientists of the University will help farmers in this difficult situation by providing expert opinion and guidance to deal with the situation.

 He said that as per the experts, LSD is an infectious and highly contagious disease caused by Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV). LSD spreads though direct contact with infected animals or indirectly by fomite. Blood sucking and biting insects like flies, ticks, fleas and mosquitoes spread this disease to different locations. The disease in animals starts with fever for 2-3 days followed by development of stiff, round cutaneous nodules (2-5 cm in diameters) on skin all over the body. Animals usually recover after 2-3 weeks but there is reduction in milk production for several weeks. Only 1-5 % infected animals die from LSD. This disease mainly infects cows of both indigenous and exotic breeds (Jersey, HF) but disease also rarely infect buffaloes. He said that according to the Public Health experts, the LSD is not communicable to the in contact humans but proper protective gloves, mask, etc. should be used while handling the infected animals. Milk from the infected animals is safe for human consumption after proper boiling. It is also recommended that the infected animals should be given green, soft and nutritious feed and fodders for uncomplicated recovery.

Dr Ravindra Kumar, Coordinator of the expert committee, has advised farmers to get their healthy animals vaccinated against LSD by contacting the local veterinary officer. All the cattle and buffaloes should be vaccinated with available Goat pox vaccine (cattle and buffalo at the age of 4 months and above). Affected animals should not be vaccinated. For preventing this disease to spread to new areas or to unaffected animals, farmers should immediately isolate the infected animals from the health ones and should never take them to common grazing fields and water sources. Movement of infected animals or animals with signs of fever should be completely restricted. Animals should not be taken to animal fairs or animal markets, etc. Insect population in and around the animal houses should be reduced using sprays or repellents. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the affected animal sheds and contaminated materials including vehicles should be done using 1% formalin or 2% phenol for 15 minutes or 2-3% Sodium hypochlorite. Disinfection of premises should be done at regular intervals.

Sick animals should be handled carefully and new cases should be reported immediately to nearby veterinary hospital or other veterinary institutes. Dressing of the skin wounds should be done regularly with antiseptic ointments and care should be taken to prevent maggot infestation of open wounds. If the animal dies then the carcass should be disposed of by deep burial method observing all hygienic measures.

The Vice-Chancellor has directed the committee to work actively and keep in touch with livestock keepers of the state through telephonic consultancy, radio and TV talks and publishing articles in newspapers and prepare pamphlets on diverse aspects of lumpy skin disease. The committee shall be working in close liaison with the State Department of Animal Husbandry.

***Govt. of India authorizes CSKHPAU to test Lumpy Skin Disease samples in H.P.***

Palampur 23 September. CSK H.P. Agriculture University has been authorised to conduct testing of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) samples from all over the State. While giving this information, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told that as per the recent notification from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Dr.G.C. Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in the University has been granted the status of authorized laboratory to conduct testing of LSD samples from the livestock of Himachal Pradesh for rapid screening.

The Vice Chancellor said that the Department of Veterinary Microbiology is fully equipped to carry out screening of the samples in collaboration with Department of Animal Husbandry, H.P. This designated LSD laboratory will help in quick management of the disease in the State as now samples need not be sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal for testing. He asked the scientists to help the livestock keepers of the State in all aspects to tide over the situation created by the LSD.

Dr. Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences and Dr. Rajesh Chahota, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology informed that for screening of samples, sensitive molecular techniques like conventional PCR and Real-Time PCR will be used for providing test results quickly to the field veterinarians for better disease control and prevention. This will enable field veterinarians to timely intervene to control and prevent LSD so that there are minimum financial losses to the livestock owners.

***Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor inaugurates workshop on veterinary emergency response operations at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 19 September. A four days workshop on veterinary emergency response operations was inaugurated at Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Science at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary Vice Chancellor, in his inaugural address, asked the trainees to effectively respond in emergency like situations so that there is no panic in the public. He asked the veterinary emergency response unit (VERU) to conduct trainings for the veterinarians to equip them with necessary tools and skills so that they could be a core player in responding to emergencies and disasters and preventing losses of lives and animals and saving livelihoods. He discussed the situations like Lumpy Skin Disease and need to issue quick advisory to the livestock keepers and others. Prof Chaudhary also discussed abandoned cattle issue that may take up a form of a disaster in near future if not tackled effectively. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his satisfaction that topics like principles of disaster management, management of animals during disasters, etc will be discussed in detail and activities like rescue and search mission, fire drill, live animal rescue simulation exercises, earthquake games and team building exercises have been planned during the training.

Dr Mandeep Sharma, Dean, underlined the need to extend working of VERU to the field. Dr R Kumar, Founder Coordinator, VERU, told that Palampur Centre is one of six centres in the country and only the one in the North Zone. Dr Subhash Verma, Organizing Secretary & Coordinator, told that 50 trainees and 20 resource personnel are taking part in the workshop. Dr Ankur Sharma, Joint Organizing Secretary also expressed his views. All the statutory officers, Heads of Department and faculty attend the function.

***CSKHPAU and Agricare Organic Farms Ludhiana sign MoU***

Palampur 31 August.CSK H.P.Agriculture University and Agricare Organic Farms Ludhiana signed Memorandum of Understanding, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary Vice Chancellor told that under the agreement, there will be academic,research and training cooperation between both institutes.The University and Agricare will promote education, training, research, and exchange of information and technology in the areas of mutual concern related to plant protection under protected agriculture and natural farming.Both institutions will also collaborate in providing training to post graduate scholars in plant protection in organic and natural farming and protected agriculture.They will also

cooperation in the exchange of scientists and research staff to encourage sharing of experience, scientific knowledge, and technology advances.Collaboration in holding industrial attachments of rural agriculture work experience students, trainings workshops, conferences, and symposiums, etc.is also envisaged. Smt Reema Arora,MD, from Organic Farms and Dr.V.K.Sharma, Director Research signed the MoU document on behalf the University.Smt Uma Saini, Sh Vipin Saini and University scientist from the Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology were present during the MoU signing ceremony.

Vice-Chancellor inaugurates sales outlet

***CSK HPAU to sell pasteurized milk and milk products under Him Palam Brand***

Palampur 30 August. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor inaugurated the Milk and Milk Products Sale Outlet at Dr G.C Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Science at CSK H.P.Agriculture University here today.

While congratulating the scientists for the new venture, he said that it was important to create sales outlets in all such departments which produce agricultural and animal products like seeds, vegetables, mushrooms, flowers, etc. He asked the scientists to create and maintain a distinct identity of their products so that the name and fame of the University reach the nook and corner of India and beyond. It will also develop entrepreneurship among students and young farmers. He also advised improving the milk products after getting feedback from the consumers. He also appreciated local farmers for supplying quality milk to the Unit. He said that the Unit will economically empower farmers as they will learn entrepreneurial skills and create FPOs in future. He was happy to learn that high-quality pasteurised milk, *paneer*, curd, *burfi, gulab jamun*, flavoured milk, *ghee, khoya* etc will be available under the Him Palam brand. Dean Dr Mandeep Sharma and Dr R.K.Asrani, Head, Deptt of Livestock Products Technology detailed the importance of this new unit. The university scientists and students were present on the occasion.

***Induction Training to newly recruited scientists concludes at CSK HPAU***

Palampur 27 August. Six days Induction Training for newly recruited scientists concluded at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today. During the training, the University Registrar, Comptroller, Deans, Directors and other officers interacted with the scientists and made them aware thoroughly on the mandate, objectives and functioning of the University. The participants were provided complete knowledge about their duties and responsibilities, conduct and leave rules, office procedures and records, University Act and Statutes, financial management system, guidelines for better auditing services, etc. For making their service better, they were made aware about the facilities, role of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, UGC and Veterinary Council of India in regulating higher education, accreditation and ranking criteria, etc. The experts detailed about course curriculum designing and academic regulations for teaching, library services, Students’ welfare activities, thrust areas of research and formulation of research project proposals, extension strategies and Krishi Vigyan Kendra functioning, RTI Act, e-office and academic management system, etc. Special lectures on Public relations and media protocol and health services in the University were also arranged.

At the end, a session was held on feedback and evaluation of participants. The training was inaugurated by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor on 22 August with his detailed lecture on National Education Policy. Dr.Pawan Kumar Sharma, Coordinator told that 77 teachers participated and expressed gratitude to the University for this much needed and useful training.

***CSKHPAU and PAU sign MoU to promote and enhance scientific and academic interaction: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 27 August. CSK H.P. Agriculture University and Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana signed MoU today at Ludhiana to promote and enhance scientific and academic interaction between both farm varsities in mutually beneficial areas. Prof. H K Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor and Dr. S.S.Gosal, Vice-Chancellor, PAU were present during the MoU signing ceremony. Prof Chaudhary told that both universities will undertake

joint evaluation of crop varieties and other technologies of mutual interest at different locations in both states with objectives of cross-state recommendations and popularization.

Screening of germplasm under epiphytotic conditions at the unique hot spots available in two states for the development of resistant material of field and horticultural crops e.g. wheat rust, rice blast, sheath blight, bacterial wilt in brinjal, cold tolerance in pea etc.will be done.It has been agreed to conduct joint experimentation to address common agricultural issues of the border districts of both states sharing similar crop profile as well as biotic and abiotic stresses.There will be focus on crops of mutual interest and with complementary research strengths of CSKHPKV (e.g. desi maize, red rice, ginger, herbs, medicinal plants, organic farming, their processing and marketing etc.) and PAU (e.g. wheat, rice, canola sarson, sugarcane, vegetables etc.).He told that there will be

collaboration in research programmes of postgraduate students in different disciplines of agriculture and allied fields with the inclusion of advisory committee members from the partner university. Formulation of collaborative projects for funding by national and international agencies. Cooperation for sharing of scientific knowledge, library, laboratories and field facilities,etc are also part of MoU.

Earlier,Prof H.K Chaudhary congratulated Dr. S. S. Gosal for assuming the office of new Vice-Chancellor of prestigious PAU, Ludhiana. The Vice-Chancellor said that it is a great pride for the CSKHPKV to join hands with the PAU, our parent institution. He also said that it is a great strength to Himachal Pradesh as well to tie our joint efforts in academics and research commencing today by signing this MoU. He said that it will be a milestone in furtherence of our reasearch and academics activities in the field of agricultural sciences. He said besides the area of Himachal Pradesh bordering Punjab, the collaboration will benefit exchange of our research technologies, students and faculty. This joint venture will go in a big way in the interest of farmers of both the states. Dr. S S Gosal Vice-Chancellor, PAU extended warm welcome to Prof.Chaudhary and expressed happiness at the new initiative to sign the MoU with PAU. He said the PAU and CSKHPKV will work together in all areas of mutual interests.

The MoU was signed on behalf of the CSKHPKV by Director of Research Dr S.P. Dixit and Dr. Shammi Kapoor, Registrar on behalf of PAU, Ludhiana.

***Induction Training to newly recruited scientists concludes at CSK HPAU***

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At the end, a session was held on feedback and evaluation of participants. The training was inaugurated by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor on 22 August with his detailed lecture on National Education Policy. Dr.Pawan Kumar Sharma, Coordinator told that 77 teachers participated and expressed gratitude to the University for this much needed and useful training.

*Induction Training to new faculty*

**"Think out of the box for high-quality work", exhorts Prof H. K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK HPAU**

Palampur 22 August. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, inaugurated Induction Training Programme for newly recruited scientists at CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor, while exhorting the young teachers to work selflessly for the welfare of students and farmers, said that the suggestions and enthusiasm of young staff will be utilized fully to take forward the University in fulfilling its given mandate and make it truly International in its stature. He said that the University was getting full support from the Governments of India and Himachal Pradesh. Fifty-five teachers have been recruited and 26 more teachers will be recruited soon. New challenges were emerging and these are to be faced with new innovations collectively. He asked the scientists to rise above difficulties and think out of the box to excel in academics, research and extension education activities. Prof Chaudhary said that young faculty may seek inspiration from the world-class standards and work of top Indian scientists like Prof Hargobind Khurana, Dr.M.S.Swaminathan, Dr Khem Singh Gill etc. He also detailed his successful professional journey beginning at the remote tribal area Kukumseri and then establishing world-class research facilities at Palampur where scientists from Japan, Australia and other countries seek permission to conduct research in chromosome engineering, tissue culture, and molecular biology, etc. Prof H.K.Chaudhary suggested scientists to become their own managers and be ever ready to perform under all situations and conditions. He also asked them to write their future with success and concentrate on fundamental and practical research. He said that they need to ignore minor issues and proceed ahead working extra hours. He told that he himself has been sleeping in his lab while working on double haploidy technology.

" You think and work differently to give something extraordinary and new to the world", suggested Prof Chaudhary. The Vice-Chancellor said one should keep one's aim high and then start working for it with complete dedication and commitment. He said that University scientists must become restless to realize their dreams and become his competitors and break his records in innovations and publishing their research work in high-impact journals. He also provided information to them on the needs of the nation and state."Nobody will come to honour when you keep sitting in cosy cocoons. Move and take strong strides to conquer the world", exhorted Vice-Chancellor. Prof Chaudhary also detailed National Education Policy. He promised to provide them with all facilities and wished them success in their duties.

Dr S.P.Dixit, Director of Research and Dr Pawan Kumar Sharma, Programme Director, HRD and Placement Centre also expressed their views. All statutory officers, including around 80 scientists were present during the ceremony.

Patriotic fervour dominates Independence Day celebrations at CSK H.P.Agriculture University

***The University ready to face new challenges with renewed enthusiasm and zest: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor,CSKHPAU***

Palampur 15 August Patriotic fervour was dominant during 76th Independence Day celebrations at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

After unfurling National Flag, Vice Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary greeted and addressed the University Community. He paid his glowing tributes to the freedom fighters and expressed his gratitude to all those who took initiatives for the spectacular growth of nation after independence. He said the country has become food surplus nation with the farsighted decisions of planners, research by farm scientists and hard working farming community. He also enumerated achievements in agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, health, education and other sectors in Himachal Pradesh turning it as a model state. He said the University has earned name and fame by various achievements in education, research and extension education. The University has contributed tremendously in making the state self sufficient in food front. He recalled the growth of University and told that in the recent past progressive farmers have been involved in spreading the new technology among other farmers by designating and honouring them as University *Krishi Doots*. Their photographs have been displayed in *Krishak Deergha* so that other farmers may draw inspiration from their success. He said that the University will popularize 'one valley two products' and local landraces will be registered so that farmers may get remunerative price of their farm produce. The Geographic Indicators task force was already working on it.

The Vice-Chancellor elaborated about the reforms in admission process. The University has signed MoUs with leading institutions for the collaboration in research and soon there will be bilateral collaborations with international institutes for students and faculty exchange. He also elaborated about new facilities at the campus and the recent initiatives in the areas of drone technology, Artificial Intelligence, etc to accelerate research. He appreciated the farm scientists for their contributions enabling the farmers to receive national awards. He also discussed efforts in formation of FPOs, UniShop, clean and green campus, increase in students scholarships, etc. Prof Chaudhary also drew attention of staff towards challenges like climate change, water scarcity and rainfed farming, conservation of rich Himalayan resources, etc and told that germplasm conservation network will be established soon. He expressed gratitude to the State Government and other funding agencies for their constant support. The Vice Chancellor also praised NCC cadets for their impressive parade despite rain. He also distributed prizes to the winners of literary, sports and cultural competitions organized during *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign during *Azadi Ka Amritmahotsav* and some NCC cadets. He appreciated the Students' Welfare Organization for the programme.

Besides first lady of the University Dr(Mrs.) Parveen Lata Chaudhary, all officers, scientists, students and residents enthusiastically took part in the celebrations.

**Kisan Goshthi and Parbhat Pheri to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at CSKHPAU**

***Grateful to farming community for the food security of country: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 12 August. A *Kisan Goshthi* under *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign to commemorate *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* was organised at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

In his message, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that the country was indebted to the farming community for food security in the country. “Their sheer hard work has enabled the country to traverse a glorious path of self sufficiency on food front. From ‘ship to mouth’ economy, we are now food surplus nation and the farming community has played very crucial role in it.” He told that the University has designated and honoured 51 progressive farmers as ‘*University Krishi Doots’* and they are taking part in all major university extension activities. Their photographs has been displayed in ‘*Krishak Deergha’* so that other farmers may imbibe their hard work. The University has helped some farmers of Chamba, Kangra, Mandi and Shimla to receive national level awards. Efforts are being made to register landraces of different traditional crops so that the farmers may get national level recognition and remunerative prices of their traditional crops and products. He assured farmers that the University will continue to serve them with full dedication.

Shri Sandeep Sood, HAS, Registrar, while presiding over the function, paid his glowing tributes to the freedom fighters and remembered second Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahdur Shastri for his slogan, ‘*Jai Jawan Jai Kisan’* He asked farmers to make the country self sufficient in pulses and oilseeds.

Dr.V.K.Sharma, Director of Extension Education, thanked farmers for participating in the University programmes and adopting the technology recommended by scientists. He told that all eight *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* also celebrated ‘*Har Ghar Tiranga’* campaign today.

Drs Vishal Dogra and Hirday Paul Singh also elaborated about various academic, research and extension education activities and asked farmers to educate their near and dear ones in the University. Some farmers also narrated their success stories.They were provided National Flags also.

The University Library also celebrated Librararian Day under *Azadi Ka Amritmahotsav* where as Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, College of Veterinary & Animal Science presided over the function and Dr Pawan Kumar, Librarian underlined the importance of day. Earlier, a *'Parbhat Pheri'* was taken out under *'Har Ghar Tiranga'* campaign of *'Azadi Ka Amritmahotsav*.' NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, University staff and campus residents took part enthusiastically and raised patriotic slogans in the *'Parbhat Pheri'* today morning.

 The Students Welfare Organization organised inter college literary and sports competitions and cultural activities.

Glimpses of 'Parbhat Pheri' taken out under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign of 'Azadi Ka Amritmahotsav.' NCC cadets,NSS volunteers, University staff and campus residents took part enthusiastically in the 'Parbhat Pheri' today morning.

***CSKHPAU begins cultural campaign to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav***

Palampur 11 August. To celebrate *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* to mark 75 years of Independence of the country and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements, CSK H.P. Agriculture University organized a series of literary, cultural and sports activities under *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign.

The Students Welfare Organization organised inter college literary and sports competitions and cultural activities beginning 6 August. A ‘*Prabhat Pheri’* will be organised in the campus on 12 August. A *Kisan Goshti* will also be organized to mark the historic occasion.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor appreciated the participants for their enthusiasm and participating in a large number in *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* programme.

***CSKHPAU and NFL sign MoU for research collaboration***

Palampur 6 August. CSK H.P. Agriculture University and National Fertilizers Ltd has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for research and extension collaboration, here today.

Prof H K Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor told that his University has agreed to establish NFL professor chair in the department of soil science to give impetus to research on fertilizers, bio fertilizers, customised and fortified fertilizers of NFL. There will be joint extension programmes like field demonstrations, soil testing campaigns, field days etc at regular intervals. Prof Chaudhary said that this agreement will go a long way benefitting the scientists, students and farmers of the State. He recalled contributions of high yielding crop varieties highly responsive to fertilizers which were able to bring green revolution to feed the nation. He declared that a special lecture to commemorate the MoU signing ceremony will be held on 6 August every year.

Mr.Nirlep Singh Rai, Chairman and Managing Director, NFL while appreciating the new development, said that NFL will allow the University students for industrial training at its plants. Specialised crops like red rice, blueberry etc will be grown, use of Artificial Intelligence, soil and plant analysis, etc were other contours of MoU. He told that ammonia based fertilizers contribute around fifty percent in grains production. There is need of second green revolution and NFL is silently contributing for it with its fertilizers and other products. He underlined the need of balanced use of fertilizers. He said more areas of collaboration will be explored for the welfare of farming community.

Mr.Atul B Patil, Director Marketing and Mr.Anil Motsara, Executive Director Marketing told that some of the products yet to be launched by NFL will be provided to the University for testing. Messers Yoginder Singh, Rajbir Taya and Dilbagh Singh, all senior officers of NFL, were present on the occasion.

Dr N.K.Sankhyan, Head of Soil Science department and Dr Pardeep Kumar, Professor NFL Chair detailed activities to be undertaken like precision agriculture, field testing and demonstrations of NFL products, etc The Vice-Chancellor and CMD exchanged MoU documents.

The University statutory officers and scientists also were present during the ceremony.

***CSK HPAU to get GI tag for Himachali Rajmash: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 4 August. The CSK H.P. Agriculture University has decided to get GI tag for Himachali Rajmash in the near future. This was disclosed by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor.

Prof Chaudhary, a well known chromosome engineer and molecular breeder, has contributed for developing 20 important crop varieties, including rajmash variety ‘Triloki Rajmash’. The Vice-Chancellor said that he has collected and identified 368 rajmash landraces from tribal belt and other areas of the state including Kukumseri (Lahaul & Spiti),Kinnaur, Kullu,Mandi and Chamba districts. These are called main hot spot regions for the landraces of rajmash cultivation in the state. He told that after collection, he evaluated, purified, characterized and developed a very popular rajmash variety ‘Triloki Rajmash’ following pure line selection method of breeding. The University has initiated process to get Geographic Indicators for rajmash landraces in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE) Shimla. This will get national and international recognition benefitting local farmers by value addition and fixing the price of this unique food. “Utilization of this novel Himalayan gene pool for the development of bio-fortified and climate resilient varieties using innovative approaches is another initiative taken by this University”, disclosed Prof Chaudhary.

The Vice-Chancellor said that Himachal Pradesh has diverse agroclimatic zones ranging from sub tropical to dry temperate desert and possesses a distinct position among other states with regard to rajmash . Abundant landraces of these regions have their own historical origin, distinct identity, genetically diverse and locally adapted, and associated with a set of farmers’ practices and knowledge base. He said that rajmash variety “Triloki” has been released for cultivation in dry temperate zone hilly region of the state. It has bold and creamish yellow seeds with good cooking quality and excellent organo- leptic taste, resistant to diseases like bacterial blight, angular leaf spot and anthracnose and provides 20-22 q/ha average seed yield. It is ready for harvesting 10-20 days earlier than other varieties of rajmash. The creamish yellow rajmash, grown by the farming community in the hilly regions of Himachal Pradesh possesses many health-related nutrients. Such light coloured rajmash contains a good amount of carbohydrates, fibers and anti-oxidants which has the ability to fight against diseases. Apart from this, vitamins such as vitamin B6 and vitamin C, mineral elements viz., potassium, zinc, magnesium, calcium and iron, etc. are also found to increase the immune system and control blood pressure. Phytohaemoglutin, a harmful toxic element, is found in lesser amounts in creamish yellow rajmash than in red rajmash which prevents many stomach related problems like diarrhea, colic, indigestion etc. The creamish yellow colour seeded rajmash has thin seed coat and takes less time for cooking. The Vice-Chancellor said that this variety has become very popular among the farming community and efforts are underway to promote it further by way of branding and attractive packaging is the major goal of the University.

Press Conference of the Vice-Chancellor

***Joint research projects and faculty exchange programmes will be initiated with top foreign Universities: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 26 July. “CSK H.P. Agriculture University is planning to start dual degree programmes and initiate training courses for the students and faculty in cutting edge technologies with the University of Leicester, England”, this was informed by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, during a press conference, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor who has recently returned from his official visit to the United Kingdom under the National Agriculture Higher Education Programme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research told that under Indo-UK collaboration, joint research projects and faculty exchange programmes will be initiated. He disclosed that during his meeting with Dr.Nishan Canagarajah, Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester, it was agreed to work collectively on artificial intelligence, drone technologies and advanced earth observation technologies to face the emerging challenges due to climate change and develop climate-resilient crop varieties and effectively control emerging insect-pests, etc. He underlined the need for fine mapping of nook and corned of H.P. with ultra-modern tools to identify exact rainfed and irrigated areas, alpines, meadows, and pasture lands including routes of nomadic farmers ( *Gaddis)* for proper planning.

Prof Chaudhary said that he also visited the University of Edinburgh, Scotland to explore the possibility of collaboration in the areas of veterinary and animal sciences. He told that the Centre of Excellence on Chromosome Engineering and Haploid Engineering will be established in the near future and the University will also seek collaboration with other foreign universities like Michigan State University, USA; University of Melbourne, Australia, etc. The University was also establishing germplasm resource network to conserve Himalayan landraces. “For crop improvement, speed and precision breeding with ultra-modern technologies, collaboration with top world universities will be sought’, told Prof H.K.Chaudhary.

Shri Sandeep Sood, HAS, Registrar and Dr.Hirday Paul Singh, Jt. Director (Information & Public Relations) were present in the press conference attended by fifteen media persons representing various print and electronic media channels.

Group Meet on Soil Arthropod Pests begins at CSK H.P. Agriculture University

***Also use AI to study and control harmful inspect-pests: Dr.T.R.Sharma, DDG, ICAR***

Palampur 20 July. A two days group meeting of ‘All India Network Project on Soil Arthropod Pests’ was inaugurated at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Chief Guest Dr.T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) asked the scientists to extensively review the research work done in various centres and formulate strategies to develop economical, safe and practical integrated technology for management of key white grub and other soil arthropod pest species under different agro-climatic conditions and cropping systems of the country. He told that monitoring and advisory committees for all 80 All India Coordinated Research Projects have been constituted to achieve excellence by fixing goals and working in cohesion.

The DDG said that despite self sufficiency of the nation in food grains, it was a major cause of concern that up to 30 percent crop losses are caused by insect pests and diseases. White grub is a big menace but the Palampur farm varsity has done commendable work on it. Since the insects are causing extensive losses and attacking all plants so scientists need to work on assessment of exact economic yield losses, population structure of these pests and their genetic variability, host studies and studies on pheromones, bio control etc and also use of artificial intelligence and deep learning techniques on white grub and termites. He suggested studying gut microbes of these insects to learn that how they eat and digest everything. He also suggested involving research students in these studies.

In his message, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, currently on official visit to UK, exhorted the participants to mull over and suggest effective and farmer friendly control measures for the soil arthropod pests like white grubs, cutworms, termites, wireworms, etc. He said that noxious soil pests cause severe damage to a number of crops like potato, rajmash, groundnut, sugarcane, maize, apple, pear, vegetable crops, etc. so research for the management of soil arthropod pests should be accelerated. He said that white grubs, termites, cut worms, etc. required to be tackled on priority to reduce annual losses in several crops. The Vice-Chancellor informed that 80 percent infestation has been reported in higher hills which signifies the importance of white grub in H.P. He told that the University has initiated good work on termites in the last two years. The University will seek collaboration with well known experts from Czech Republic to accelerate work on termites.

Guest of honour Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences and officiating Vice-Chancellor also spoke on the need to control white grubs and suggested adopting participatory approach to control harmful insects. Another Guest of honour Dr S.C. Dubey, Assistant Director General, ICAR, suggested that methodology of observation should be meticulous and management should be uniform and eco friendly. Dr.A.S.Baloda, Network Coordinator detailed importance and achievements of the research project and detailed good research work at Durgapura, Ranichauri, Palampur, Bangalore and Jorhat centres

Dr.S.P.Dixit, Director of Research, welcomed all. Dr R.S.Chandel, Organising Secretary told that around 70 participants from all over the country, including experts Drs P.K.Mehta, R.D.Gautam, V.V.Ramamurthy and G.K.Mohapatra are taking part in the meeting jointly organised by the University and Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute.The Chief Guest also released some technical publications.

All Statutory Officers, Heads, scientists and students were present in the inaugural ceremony.

***Five CSKHPU Students selected as Executive Trainees by Mother Dairy***

Palampur 01 June. Under its campus placement process, Mother Dairy has selected five M.Sc. final year students of CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University as Executive Trainees. The students include Vaishali Rana, Shaifali Rana, Sachin Sharma, Rohan Kashyap and Pankaj Sankhyan. They will be placed in the Safal Business unit of Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Ltd. Three more University students have been kept in the waiting list. All the selected students are from the College of Agriculture will be getting a package of Rs. Five lakh per annum and other allowances.

 Prof H.K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has congratulated the students for starting their career with a known company.

***Forty three years in the Service of Farming Community of Himachal Pradesh***

**H**imachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (renamed as Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya in June, 2001) was established on 1st November, 1978.The College of Agriculture (established in May, 1966) formed the nucleus of the new farm University. It is ICAR accredited and ISO 9001:2015 certified institution. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has ranked this University at 14th place among all farm universities of the country.

The University has been given the mandate for making provision for imparting education in agriculture and other allied branches of learning, furthering the advancement of learning and prosecution of research and undertaking extension of such sciences, especially to the rural people of Himachal Pradesh.

Over the years, this University has contributed extensively in transforming the farm scenario of Himachal Pradesh. It has developed human resources, crop varieties and technologies and transferred these to farming community enabling the State to receive the “*Krishikarman award*” of Govt. of India four times in row for food grain production among small states of the country. Today, the State has earned its name for hill agricultural diversification and the farming community has imposed its faith in the University.

**Academic Programmes**

The University has four constituent colleges. The College of Agriculture has 13 departments, Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences has 18 departments, the College of Community Science has five departments and the College of Basic Sciences has four departments. These colleges offer five Bachelor Degree programmes, 27 Masters Degree and 14 Doctoral Degree programmes. The University has a glorious history of being a ragging free and it provides congenial academic environment in the campus and is known for quality education as evident from overwhelming response of

applicants annually for B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture and B.V.Sc.& AH programmes.

At present 1788 students (1062 girls & 726 boys) are on roll including 78 ICAR/ VCI nominees and international students from six countries and 14 Indian states. 8785 students have passed out from the University since its inception. The University has world class academic, sports and co-curricular facilities. It has eleven students’ hostels (five boys and six girls’ hostels) including one International Students’ Hostel.

**Research Activities**

The Directorate of Research coordinates research in the field of agriculture, veterinary and animal sciences, community science and basic sciences. It has been giving priority to the location specific, need based and problem oriented research with multidisciplinary approach at main campus Palampur, 3 Regional Research Stations (Bajaura, Dhaulakuan &  Kukumseri) and 10 Research Sub-stations (Kangra, Malan, Nagrota, Salooni, Akrot, Berthin  Sundernagar, Sangla, Leo & Lari) situated  in all four agro-climatic zones of the State.

The University has developed and released 168 improved varieties of different crops for the different regions of the State. Around 1000 quintal breeder seed and around  500 quintal foundation  seed of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable and fodder crops is produced and supplied to the State Department of Agriculture for further multiplication and making it available to  the farming community. More than 100 farm technologies have been recommended to the farmers. To enhance crop and animal productivity, the University has developed suitable technologies in the areas of crop improvement, animal breeding, disease combating, natural resources management, etc. Besides continuing research on organic farming in hill agriculture, the University is first in the country to establish an Advanced Centre on Protected Agriculture and Natural Farming worth Rs. 22.66 crore with the assistance of National Agricultural Higher Education Project and initiated research for safe farm produce.

For doubling the farmers’ income by 2022 as envisaged by the government, twenty farm based models have been formulated and shared with the agriculture and animal husbandry departments of the State government. Efforts have been made to educate and motivate the farmers to adopt the models as per the agro-climatic conditions of their area and their requirements.

**Extension Education**

The Directorate of Extension Education shares the responsibility for planning, implementation and coordination of various extension education programmes of all the departments of four constituent colleges and research stations in close collaboration with the State Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and other concerned departments and institutions. It conducts a large number of trainings for farmers, livestock keepers, farm women, rural youths, etc. both at main campus and at its all eight *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (KVKs) located at Bajaura, Dhaulakuan, Hamirpur, Una, Mandi, Kangra, Berthin and Kukumseri. The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare has sanctioned Model Training Courses to the University and various skill enhancement trainings sponsored by Agriculture Skill Council of India are also conducted. Natural Farming activities are also being undertaken by all KVKs. The Agricultural Technology Information Center is serving as a single window service to the farmers. ‘Progressive Farmers' Photo Gallery’ has been established in the University Museum.

The Media Cell projects the image of the University among target clients and others by various Public Relations and Communication tools. The University has its noteworthy presence on social media platforms.

A massive infrastructure to fulfill the mandate and realize objectives has been created at main campus Palampur, all Research Stations and *Krishi Vigyan Kendras*. The main clients viz. the farmers and the students are provided quality facilities like  academic management system, smart classrooms, video-conferencing facilities, virtual class room, hybrid university library, high-tech polyhouse, phytotron, hydroponic facility, high-tech training halls, farmers’ hostels, transportation, students’ hostels, playground  &  gymnasium, placement cell, etc.

This University has emerged as a lighthouse for all farm universities in the hill region of the country. It is progressing at a fast pace to attain an international status. It is most peaceful institution in the region with very conducive atmosphere to pursue academic and research activities.

Due to the earnest and arduous work during the past forty three years in the University, the State has achieved new heights in agriculture development. Despite constant decrease in area under farming, crop yields have increased. The State has earned name in commercial agriculture, especially off-season vegetable cultivation. Harvests have become bountiful and the socio-economic status of the farming community has improved a lot.

**Vital Statistics\***

***Academic programmes***

Bachelor degree programmes = 5

Masters Degree programmes = 27 (9 Agri., 13 Vety.& AH, 4 CS, 1 BS)

Doctoral degree programmes = 14 ( 7 Agriculture, 6 Vety.&AH, 1CS)

***Varieties Released by the University***

The University has released 168 improved varieties of different crops (Wheat 25, Paddy 23, Maize 9, Barley 7, Pulses 24, Vegetables 38, Oilseeds 25, Buckwheat 2, Sugarcane 1, Fodder 12 and Tea 2).

***Staff Strength***

Teachers/Scientists=225 and Non-teachers=808

***Area***

 Total Area at main campus: 397 hectares, Area at Out stations/KVKs:  190 ha

**\*** As on 30 Oct 2021

**Prof H.K.Chaudhary congratulates B.Jabez Raju for getting Doctoral Fellowship in USA**

Palampur 29 May.Prof. HK Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor has congratulated Mr. B.J. Raju, M.Sc. student of the University who has been selected with full scholarship for doctoral studies at well known Clemson University, USA. The Vice-Chancellor expressed happiness that Mr Raju will be provided a scholarship of Rs. 20 lakh per annum by the USA Govt for the next six years. He asked other students to emulate this brilliant student who has brought laurels to the University, his teachers and parents.

Mr.B Jabez Raju, a M.Sc. student of the Department of Entomology in College of Agriculture told that his research work will be based on insects and cancer, which will also be helpful in treating the problem of cancer in human beings. He said that he is greatly inspired by Prof H.K.Chaudhary and expressed the hope that he will endeavour to fulfill his dream to bring Nobel Prize for the country.He has done his graduation from Agriculture University, Guntur (AP) and thereafter he passed the national examination of ICAR and got admission at CSK H.P.Agriculture University,Palampur.Recently, Mr.Raju also cleared the UGC National Eligibility Test.He has expressed gratitude to his parents, his research guide Dr Prem Chand Sharma,Head Dr R.S.Chandel and other teachers also.He said that he was motivated by the Vice Chancellor Prof. H.K.Chaudhary.

Vice-Chancellor’s Doctoral Breakfast

***CSK HPAU to award Gold, Silver & Bronze medals to research scholars for publishing quality research: Prof H.K.Chaudhary,VC***

Palampur 28 May. “CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to award Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to Ph.D scholars for publishing quality research papers in high impact journals”, this was announced by Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, here today.

In a very first and unique goodwill gesture, the Vice-Chancellor invited all Ph.D. students for breakfast and held a marathon interaction meeting with them. He motivated them to move forward with high spirits and enthusiasm to enhance their incredible learning experience at this premier farm University. He sought their innovative ideas so that the University may help them to pursue ahead of the time research in their respective departments.

The Vice- Chancellor said that the young scholars have enormous potential and energy for innovative ideas and research for the welfare of the country and humanity. “You need to walk on un-trodden paths leading to altogether new results”, advised Prof Chaudhary. He said that we are fortunate to live in the lap of the Himalayas which is our strength. We need to utilize this unique environment and come out with results which benefit the entire humanity. Our enormous challenges provide great opportunities for unique and world-class results from researching in this land of enormous diversity and huge bio-resources. The Vice-Chancellor asked scholars to utilize this prime time of their life for thinking out of the box and do much more than the approved research topics. He told that the university has provided high-quality labs and infrastructure with very competent teachers and renowned scientists from across the world are invited to interact with staff and students to guide them for breakthrough research.

He re-assured them to provide all requisite facilities and support to Ph.D.scholars to pursue cutting-edge world-class research and exhorted them to never ever lose sight of their goal and achieve it with complete dedication, hard work and sincerity. He promised all help and support from the University to bring out the very best from the scholars and chisel their raw ideas and skills so that they glimmer like topaz or diamond. He advised them to share their new ideas with their advisors.

During their candid feedback, all 158 Ph.D scholars of the University enthusiastically took part in the interactive programme and expressed their views in detail. Most of the scholars thanked the Vice-Chancellor for adding new facilities in the recent past and suggested training on the use of new software and solving labour problems during the laying of research trials. They said that the research should not be focused on getting the job, there should be student exchange programs with top research institutes and suggested organizing more conferences, etc.

Earlier, Dr.Suresh Kumar, Dean, Post Graduate Studies told that the event has held for the first time since the inception of the University on 1978. Dr.S.P.Dixit, Director of Research and other deans, directors, concerned office staff and hostel wardens also attended the meeting.

Media Visit to Hydroponic Unit

***Hydroponics is white color agriculture: Prof H.K.Chauhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 23 May. A media visit was conducted to Hydroponic Unit in the research farm of Department of Vegetable Science & Floriculture today. The media persons visited the hydroponic unit and hi-tech nursery raising unit and sought detailed information from the scientists.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor also joined briefly and interacted with press. While appreciating Dr.Desh Raj Chaudhary, Head and Dr.Parveen Sharma, Scientist In charge protected cultivation for doing excellent work in the areas of hydroponics, he told that the cultivation of plants in nutrient enriched water popularly known as hydroponics is very useful in hill agriculture where land holdings are small and this technology fits well for landless farmers and where soils are poor in fertility. It is equally useful in rainfed areas. He said that this is white color agriculture and good for environment. He suggested that the department should come up with farmer friendly hydroponic technologies with the use of bamboo. He told that the University was organizing trainings to the farmers to popularize this technology.

Dr Desh Raj Chaudhary informed that projects worth Rs. 20 crore were in operation in the department including National Agriculture Higher Education Project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The department has released 38 vegetable crops and 199 students have completed their PG studies.

Dr Praveen Sharma told that hydroponic plants are less vulnerable to pest attacks and leafy greens like lettuce are most profitable crops to grow in this system. Plants grown hydroponically grow significantly faster than soil grown plants hence farmers can take more number of crops in a year. He said that basil, coriander, lettuce, spinach, pepper, mint, cucumber etc were most profitable crops in this system.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Dean, College of Agriculture; Dr. S.P.Dixit, Director of Research, Dr.Hirday Paul Singh, Joint Director Information & PR were present during the media visit.

World Honey Bee Day Celebrations at Bee Research Station

***Efforts initiated to upgrade the BRS to Bee Heritage Farm of India: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***
Palampur. 20 May. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University celebrated World Honey

Bee Day at its Bee Research Station, Nagrota Bagwan today.

 Chief Guest Sh. Arun Mehra, MLA Nagrota Bagwan, while speaking to the bee keepers, asked them to seek guidance of scientists and others in promotion of hill bee products. He thanked the Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary for making al out efforts to develop and improve the bee research station.

As Guest of honour Vice-Chancellor Prof H. K.Chaudhary informed that efforts have been initiated to upgrade the Bee Research Station to Bee Heritage Farm of India. He asked the bee keepers to take advantage of the expertise of scientists to enhance their honey production. The Vice-Chancellor advised students to take up bee keeping and other ventures under innovative agri-preneurship to become job providers. He alongwith Shri Aurn Mehra distributed 60 colonies of *Apis mellifera* with complete brood chamber and bee veils to 20 tribal farmers from Jia, Chahari, Kawari, Majhotli and Banuri Panchayats. He appreciated the station In charge Dr. Surender Kumar Sharma for selecting new farmers and encouraging them for entrepreneurship. A booklet in Hindi on basics of bee keeping was also released by the Chief Guest and the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. R. S. Chandel, Head, Department of Entomology told that the e programme was held under Tribal Sub Plan of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to create awareness among farmers about benefits of beekeeping and to provide them inputs. A discussion on bee keeping was held. Field and museum visit was also conducted for the participants. Dr.S. P. Dixit, Director of Research and Dr. V. K. Sharma, Director of Extension Education and other scientists and students were present in the programme.

17 May: Governor chaired 25th meeting of the senate

***MoU between CSKHPAU and IIPR, Kanpur for training and research for PG students*** Palampur 11 May.CSK H.P.Agriculture University and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Indian Institute of Pulses Research,Kanpur signed an MoU here today. According to Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor under the MoU, the University postgraduate students will be able to utilise the research and training facilities of IIPR. He said that the university is trying to provide state of the art cutting edge research facilities to its students enabling them to excel in research on pulse crops. There will be an exchange of students for academic, research and training purposes. The scientists of IIPR will also be guiding the students in their research work. He also informed about the rich diversity in H.P. and traditional pulses with rich agroleptic taste.

MoU was signed on behalf of the University by Post Graduate Dean Dr Suresh Kumar and Dr Bansa Singh, Director, IIPR, Kanpur. Dr Bansa Singh said that MoU will benefit his institute as scientists will get the opportunity to teach and train the students. Dr Sanjiv Gupta, Assistant Director-General, ICAR said that all ICAR institutes have world-class laboratories and collaboration will achieve remarkable results. Dr I.P.Singh, Project Coordinator, statutory officers of the university and scientists from IIPR were present on occasion.

Annual Group Meet on Pulses at CSKHPAU

***Pulse revolution underway: Dr T.R.Sharma,DDG,ICAR***

Palampur 10 May."The country is moving towards pulse revolution with record production",informed Dr. T.R.Sharma,Deputy Director General,Indian Council of Agricultural Research while inaugurating two days annual group meet on kharif pulses at CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today.He said that work is in progress to develop short duration and climate resilient pulse varieties.He said that pulses have high protein content up to 24 percent but scientists need to further improve this content.He told that in the last eight years, with the policy support and proper marketing, pulse production has increased from 16 million ton to 27 million ton. He discussed development of insect pest resistant varieties, mechanical harvesting to reduce labour cost, twenty percent increase in area under pulses, reducing post harvest losses, resource conservation, efficient extension models, etc.He asked scientists to develop any variety as a complete product having all important traits.He also told about ICAR efforts to propel research on major crops in a dynamic mode.The country has been able to provide free food to 80 crore people during the pandemic due to high production. As Chief Guest Dr.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor told that the State was home to many pulses and the university was working to get GI tags to some traditional pulses like rajmash,kulthi, urd,etc.He described variability and diversity of bio resources in mountains. He informed about the adequate number of pulse varieties in hills and suggested their popularization among the farming community through seed village concept.Besides fetching good price, pulses are important for the nutritional security of farm families.Prof Chaudhary advised multiplication of breeder seed production of pulses in less accessible areas,strengthening marketing network, etc.He said that the all India coordinated research project system has been extremely productive in several crops.Dr Sanjeev Gupta, Assistant Director General,ICAR detailed various programmes to enhance pulse production in the country. Dr Bansa Singh, Director,Indian institute of pulses research,Kanpur detailed research work on moongbean,urdbean,lentil,lathyrus,rajmash,field pea, pigeonpea and arid legumrs.Dr I.P.Singh, project coordinator, all India coordinator research project on pigeopea, Dr Farindra Singh, project coordinator, arid legumes,Dr S.P.Dixit, Director of Research,Dr J.D.Sharma and Dr Suman Kumar,organising secretary also spoke on the research and development work on pulses.Progressive pulse growers Smt.Simro Devi,Ramesh Kumar and Munish Kumar were honoured by the the Deputy Director General.He also released some publications on the pulses.Besides around 150 delegates, university statutory officers, heads of various departments and some progressive pulse growers of the state also attended the inaugural ceremony.

**CSKHPAU and SBI sign MoU for the benefit of farm students**

Palampur 9 May. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University and State Bank of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding ,here today.

According to Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, under the MoU, the University will facilitate the bank for having a slot in the valediction program for guiding and explaining the various banking schemes for students to enable them to pursue their career in agriculture by starting cultivation, processing etc. in agriculture products like hydroponic, aquaponic, farm mechanization, protected farming, fishery, mushroom farming etc. He told that the bank has agreed to extend financial exposure on priority to eligible students who wish to start their own venture in agriculture and allied activities as per Bank’s extant instructions and terms and conditions. The Vice-Chancellor said the MoU will prove a milestone in the growth of agriculture in, especially in states of H.P., Haryana and Punjab from where major chunk of students study in this university.

Mr.Anukool Bhatnagar, Chief General Manager, SBI said that this initiative of CSKHPAU and SBI will provide an opportunity for the youth to start their own venture for livelihood immediately after completing their education. This will also give an opportunity to the neo farm graduate and post graduate to be a job provider instead of being a job seeker. HPAU shall help in furnishing the information, if available with it, as required by the Bank for preparing project viability reports.

The MoU was signed on behalf of the University by Dean Dr.D.K.Vatsa and Mr.Bipan Gupta, DGM signed on behalf of SBI. Besides the University statutory officers, senior bank officers Mr.Pawan Gupta, Mr.Satwinder Singh and Mr Anshuman Sharma were also present during the MoU signing ceremony.

**Project strength of Himalayas:Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor**

Palampur 8 May Three days National Confrence on Pluralistic Approaches for Livestock Development concluded at CSK H.P.Agriculture University, here today. While addressing around 200 delegates from sixteen states of the country, Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor said that challenges in NW Himalayas offer unique opportunities for veterinary scientists and stakeholders.

He underlined the importance of Himalayas for incredible and diverse animal genetic resources and asked scientists to project these at national and international fora.He suggested them to practise Farmer to Farmer Model of Extension of new technologies and involve progressive and innovative farmers as brand ambassadors to serve as community focal points to disseminate relevant knowledge.He said that small and marginal farmers must get equal focus.He asked farmers to be smart in marketing.He also discussed ways to

harness Corporate Social Responsibility and establishing tight linkages with private sector.The Vice-Chancellor said that the extension specialists and workers must be well conversant in local language and dialects at their workplace.He also discussed issues like indigenous technical knowledge, conservation of local flora and fauna, etc.Some recommendations of the conference like promoting entrepreneurship,blend of new and traditional approach for extension education, importance of success stories,group approach, value chain, conservation of germplasm,etc were discussed. Dr.Mandeep Sharma ,Dean of Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Dr.H.K.Verma, President;Dr Devesh Thakur,Organising Secretary and Dr Manoj Sharma,joint organising Secretary,Society for veterinary and animal husbandry extension, spoke on the importance of simple and useful knowledge for farmers and need to remove prevalent misconceptions about livestock rearing.They emphasized maintaining high quality of animal produce for fetching good returns to farmers. The Chief Guest also presented awards to 20 scientists in ten different categories like poster presentation, oral presentation,etc.Two progressive farmers Smt. Veena Devi from Nagrota Bagwan and Sh Anil Jamwal from Bindraban were also awarded.The Chief Guest also released a booklet ,'Pashupalan Shabdavali' authored by Drs Devesh,Manoj,Rakesh and Sanjay Khurana.

Three days National Conference begins at CSKHPAU

***Technological & institutional innovations can help livestock farmers in production and marketing: Dr B. N. Tripathi, DDG, ICAR***

Palampur 6 May. Three days National Conference on ‘Pluralistic Approaches for Livestock Development-An Extension Call’ began at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Chief Guest Dr B. N. Tripathi, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, while inaugurating the conference, said that livestock farmers face various challenges of production and marketing that require technological and institutional innovations. These challenges in livestock-based rural development require different services and approaches. Pluralistic approach indicates that the livestock sector is characterized by the coexistence of multiple public, private, and mixed extension systems and approaches; multiple providers and types of services; diverse funding streams; and multiple sources of information which benefit the end users in most significant way.

He told that animal husbandry scenario was unique in this hill state and it has got a great future. The veterinarians need to make the system resilient for the holistic livestock development. They have diverse roles to play while serving the farmers dedicatedly. He said that animal genetic resources in the country should be conserved well under mission mode so that no animal remains non-descriptive. He discussed issues like climate change and production stress on animals and told that overall animal production is low and should be increased with various technologies and incentives. The Chief Guest also released some technical publications.

In his presidential remarks, Dr H K Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor, emphasized the role of livestock in the rural set up of Himachal Pradesh, where a sizeable population depends on livestock for their bread and butter. He exhorted various stakeholders and line departments for the overall development of the livestock sector including public, private and mixed extension systems and approaches, and effective coordination among them so that livestock sector gets benefitted in most efficient manner. He asked scientists to find out innovative methods to extend technologies at the farmers' door steps. The Vice-Chancellor said that the women play an active role in farming including livestock rearing. The state is rich in biodiversity and it's evident at every 10 Kms. It is a big challenge to cater to each valley and area. Anyone who is successful to solve the farm problems here will be successful anywhere in the country.He asked ICAR to give preference and priority to research projects of this region. Prof Chaudhary discussed diversity in H.P. like *pashmina* goat, cold water fish, snow trout, mountain cow, diversity in poultry  etc. and said that traditional technology with farmers needs to be studies and patented. He also mentioned alpine grasses and fodders which need GI tagging and the University efforts to get 51 such commodities registered.

 Guest of honour Dr. V. K. Saxena, Assistant Director General, ICAR, emphasized the need of multi-pronged approaches to solve the challenges of the livestock production, value addition and marketing. Dr Mandeep Sharma Dean Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences detailed extension outreach activities of the college. Dr H K Verma, President and Dr.Jaswinder Singh, Secretary, Society for Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension told that around 200 delegates from different states are attending this event. Dr Devesh Thakur, organising secretary told that the conference is being organised by the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education in collaboration with Society for Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension. Some known retired scientists including Dr Madhumeet Singh, Dr.Hima Tripathi and Dr.S.C.Tripathi were honoured with life time achievement award.

***Farmers of border districts perform arduous duties: Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 29 April. “ Producing food and taking care of the borders for the nation are twin arduous duties performed by the farmers settled in tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh”, said Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor while addressing fifty farmers during the concluding ceremony of six days training programme at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that Kinnur district was known for the quality cumin seed ( *Kala Zeera*), Saffron (*Kesar*), Rajmash and traditional pseudo cereals like *Ogla* and *Phapra*. Such crops need GI tagging for their proper recognition for remunerative price to the farming community of these areas. He also appreciated the Horse gram( *Kulthi*) of Nirmand area of Kullu district. Prof Chaudhary said that his university was determined for conserving and propagating different crop varieties of the state. He said that the university was taking effective steps to provide training and technology in the less accessible and far flung areas in the tribal and border districts as the farmers of such areas face several hardships like extreme harsh climate, limited period for cultivation and less availability of transport, etc.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that such skill development programmes through trainings and demonstrations help the farmers, especially young and enterprising farmers in a variety of income generating professional activities. He asked farmers to get in touch with the university Krishi Vgyan Kendras and research stations wide spread in the state.

Dr.V.K.Sharma, Director of Extension Education told that the training was part of 40 trainings for 1000 farmers sponsored by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Foundation under a Memorandum of Understanding with the University. He told that KVKs were also conducing such trainings on vegetable cultivation, mushroom production, bee-keeping, medicinal and aromatic plants, nursery production, dairy farming, etc. Drs.Pawan Pathania and Lav Bhushan told the fifty farmers from different villages of districts of Kinnaur and Kullu participated in the training. Some progressive farmers also expressed their views.

Drs Arun Sud and Hirday Paul Singh were also present during the concluding ceremony.

**UniShop opened at CSKHPAU**

***Efforts underway to give an international look to the University: Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 28 April. With the University logo embedded in different and unique products, a ‘UniShop’ was opened at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, after performing the opening ceremony and visiting the new venture, said that all dignitaries and visitors to the beautiful campus will be able to carry mementoes, neckties, key rings, t-shirts, mugs and many more souvenir items from the UniShop which will remind them their visit to this leading hill farm varsity, nestled in lower Himalayas. He said that such shops are existing in major foreign universities and it was his dream to open such shop for the students, staff and visitors. He also declared that the University will organize annual photography competitions to capture the natural beauty of Himachal Pradesh. Selected photographs will be used as souvenirs for this UniShop. He said that all out efforts were underway to give an international look to the University which was already among top ten farm varsities in the country. He asked scientists to visit top foreign universities for new knowledge and international collaborations.

The Vice-Chancellor said that addition of fountain, lighting arrangements for the buildings, etc were efforts to beautify the campus and soon work will be initiated for a new entrance gate to the University. Alongside this gate, shopping complex with all major amenities will be created so that the students and residents are able to purchase daily need items within campus.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Dean, College of Agriculture told that it was Vice-Chancellor’s idea and dream for the ‘UniShop’ which has been realized. He told that shortly, a canteen will also start functioning for the staff and students.

All statutory officers, heads, scientists and students attended the inaugural ceremony.

Three days training on fishery concludes at CSK H.P.Agriculture University

**Adopt fishery for additional income and nutritional security:Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancelllor**

Palampur 27 April.Three days skill development training on seed production and grow out culture of carp fish concluded at CSK H.P.Agriculture University here today. While distributing certificates to 50 trainees, Chief Guest Prof. H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor underlined the importance of local breeds of fish and advised farmers to adopt fisheries as a source of additional income and nutritional security of their families.He said that new technology and scientific rearing of fish can enable the farmers to get remunerative prices in the market.The Vice Chancellor informed that the state was blessed with plenty of fresh water resources which were most suitable for quality fish production.He expressed happiness that among trainees, 46 were women farmers.The Vice-Chancellor said he will visit progressive farmers and declares Krishan Pal from Gaggal as University Krishi Doot on Fisheries.

Prof. Chaudhary also released a training manual on fishery. Dr V.K.Sharma, Director of Extension Education told that there were six thousand fish farmers in the state.He said that farmers may get in touch with University Krishi Vigyan Kendras for latest updates on fisheries.Dr Mandeep Sharma,Dean, Dr G.C. Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences told that fish was an excellent food and farmers were welcome to get technical know how on fisheries and their farm animals.Dr Daisy Wadhwa, Head, Department of Fisheries, told that training was sponsored by National Fishery Development Board.Drs Madhu Sharma, Tarang Kumar Shah and Arun Sharma and some progressive farmers also expressed their views.

Online meeting between CSKHPAU and Michigan State University, USA

***CSK H.P. Agriculture University looking for international collaborations: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 27 April. An online interaction meeting between Prof. H.K. Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University and Dr. Karim.M.Maredia, Director for International Collaborations and Professor, College of Agriculture, Michigan State University, USA was held today.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chaudhary informed about the genesis, history, mandate and other major achievements of his University. He also mentioned rich diversity of this region and other strengths of the University and State of Himachal Pradesh. The Vice-Chancellor informed about the execution of world bank funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project and told that under the project, there is provision of faculty and students exchange programme. The Vice-Chancellor told that, already, the University has MoU with national and international institutions. He also invited the Director and other faculty members from Michigan State University to Palampur.

During this interaction meeting, Dr Maredia said that his University has 50 thousand students from around 100 countries. There are several international collaborations and his University looks forward to long term collaboration with prestigious CSK H.P. Agriculture University. He told that there are possibilities of collaboration between both universities in the areas of online courses, faculty and student exchange programmes and hybrid and other guest lectures. Dr.S.P.Dixit, Director of Research and Dr. Ranvir Singh Rana, Principal Investigator of Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology project were present during the online meeting.

Crop Day at Malan

***Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary, appreciated the role of farm women in hill agriculture***

Palampur 20 April. Wheat and Rice Research station of CSK H.P. Agriculture University organised at crop day at Malan (Nagrota Bagwan), 22 KMs from here, today.

While presiding over the function, Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, appreciated the role of farm women in hill agriculture. He said that wheat and paddy varieties developed by Malan station of the University have increased production and made farmers earn more from their farms. He said that agro- climatic diversity in the state pose many challenges for the scientists but the university has seized it as an opportunity. He discussed several achievements of the University including development of two varieties of red rice, getting it registered and getting award to farmers.

The Vice-Chancellor said that every district and area has specific crops which are being popularized by the University. He asked farmers to recognize strength of such crops and popularise such crops to earn more. He also underlined the importance of quality seeds, new technology, climate change, etc and asked farmers to visit the University and its stations frequently.

Chief Guest Shri Arun Kumar Mehra,MLA, Nagrota Bagwan, asked farmers to enhance their farm income by adopting scientific technology developed by the University. He discussed some problems of the farmers like problem of stray cattle, wild animals and informed that the government has made concrete efforts to solve such problems. He said that honey of this area has medicinal properties but needs proper marketing. The Chief Guest suggested farmers to conserve seeds of traditional varieties of local crops. He said that we should take care of our natural resources for the future generations.

Dr S.P.Dixit,Director of Research and Dr V.K.Sharma, Director Extension Education elaborated about research and extension activities in the University. Dr Ajay Deep Bindra, Scientist In charge detailed major research activities of the station.

Drs R.K.Kapila,D.R.Chaudhary,K.D.Sharma,V.K.Sud,Janardan Singh, S.K.Upadhyay, N.K.Sankhyan, all Heads of department and Drs.Vijay Rana, Sachin Upmanu, Bhupinder Mankotia, Sanjay Sharma, Surinder Sharma, etc also addressed the farmers. A question-answer session was also held where scientists answered farm related questions of farmers. A farm produce exhibition was also organised on the occasion. The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Guest also visited the experimental area and released some farm publications. The farmers also visited the farm. Around 200 farmers from the surrounding villages attended the crop day.

*Delegation of the University of Melbourne at CSK HPAU*

**Vast scope of collaboration for the benefit of mankind: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor**

Palampur 6 April. To explore the possibility of collaboration between the University of Melbourne and CSK H.P. Agriculture University, a high-level delegation comprising Prof Frank R Dunshea and Dr S.S.Chauhan from the School of Agriculture arrived here today. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor of the host University, while welcoming the delegation, said that there are possibilities for broad programmes of collaboration between two prestigious institutions like collaborative research projects, faculty interchange programmes and student exchange and sandwich programmes. He said agricultural and veterinary research between both universities could include speed and precision breeding, genome assisted breeding for crop improvement, smart farming using drones, robotics, artificial intelligence, etc. It could also include agriculture and urban waste management, development of vaccines and diagnostics against veterinary pathogens, immunogenetic characterization of native breeds of animals, etc. Prof Chaudhary recalled his visit to the University of Melbourne in 2014 as a visiting fellow and asked the delegation to join hands for the benefit of humanity. He said that he has extended invitation to many foreign universities for the colloboartive programmes.

Prof Frank R Dunshea and Dr S.S.Chauhan, while addressing the scientists and students, detailed information about the University of Melbourne established in 1853 and ongoing collaborations with India. They also informed about the facilities and capabilities of the faculty of veterinary and agricultural sciences and the potential of collaboration with the Palampur farm university. They invited scientists and students to their institute.

The delegation visited molecular cytogenetics and tissue culture lab, departments of food science, nutrition and technology, livestock farm complex, veterinary clinical complex, etc. They held a detailed meeting with the University statutory officers on points of interest of both universities. Dr.S.P.Dixit, Director of Research made presentation on academic, research and extension activities.

*First ever female calf born with the use of sexed semen*

***H.P. farmers to get the option to have only female calves through artificial insemination: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHAPU***

Palampur 4 April. CSK H.P. Agriculture University achieved a rare feat today when a female calf was born through the use of sexed semen. It was in April last year that the University had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Genus ABS India Private Limited, Pune on the use of sexed semen for genetic gain in cattle of H.P.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, while congratulating the veterinary scientists, told that the experiment to produce only female calves by inseminating the cow with sexed semen has remained successful as the Sahiwal breed cow has delivered a healthy female calf. He expressed the hope that now onwards, the farmers of Himachal Pradesh engaged in cattle rearing and the dairy industry will get an option to have only female calves from their cows.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, told that the new research project has proved its immense value in genetic up-gradation of the exotic as well as indigenous breed of cattle being reared in H.P. He said that the success of producing only female calves will help in managing the male stray bulls by reproducing superior progeny of female calves through artificial insemination (A.I.). He said that rapid farm mechanization has undermined the utility of bulls hence bull calves are not seen in use in farming. So, the farmers are neglecting them and many of the male calves die in the first month of their life and others end up as abandoned. Prof. Chaudhary said that it was a very unique project scientifically as it has started giving results about important parameters like milk production and genetic potential in the progeny. As the sex of calves is selected at the time of A.I., so the stray cattle menace will also be tackled easily.

The Vice-Chancellor told that this was the first-ever organized study undertaken regarding the use of sexed semen in the State. It is in operation in two phases since April last year and will continue for another six months. In the first phase 100 farmers rearing Jersey cows and Sahiwal, an indigenous breed of cows are benefitting from the project. At present 74 Jersey and Sahiwal cattle are in the advanced stage of pregnancy and all these were artificially inseminated with sexed semen received from ABS India Private Limited, Pune.

He said that the University is known for its quality research benefiting the farming community. He told that this high-impact research in the department of veterinary gynaecology for the enhancement of livestock production efficiency has started yielding results which will be benefiting dairy farmers of the state.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary appreciated Dr. Akshay Sharma, Principal Investigator, Dr. Pravesh Kumar, Co-Principal Investigator of the project and Dr. Madhumeet Singh, retired Head, Deptt. of Veterinary Gynaecology and Director of Extension Education for brining this new technique to the University. Prof H.K.Chaudhary and Dr.(Mrs) Parveen Lata Chaudhary, first lady of the University named the newly born female calf as ‘*Ambika*’ and worshipped and garlanded it today. All statutory officers, heads and veterinary scientists were present during the visit of Vice-Chancellor to Livestock Complex

***Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor distributes superior breeding bucks to Gaddi farmers***

Palampur 17 March. CSK H.P. Agriculture University was working on the new projects on animal disease management and disaster management and these will be implemented soon for the welfare of farmers. This was announced by Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor in “Annual Buck Distribution programme” at Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences under ‘Indian Council of Agricultural Research- All India Coordinated Research Project on Goat Improvement.’ The Vice-Chancellor distributed twelve superior *Gaddi* breed breeding bucks to different progressive goat (*Gaddi)* farmers of the state.

Prof Chaudhary informed that he was committed to strengthen the association of his University with *Gaddi* farmers of the state. He told that these breeding bucks are being provided to the farmers with the objectives to bring about overall breed improvement of the existing *Gaddi* goats under migratory production system. He said that the scientists of the Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding have raised these bucks after two stages of selection and scientific management. They are free from any disease which can be transmitted to progeny through the bucks causing heavy economic losses to the farmers. He advised them to fully utilize the potential of these breeding bucks because these superior bucks will pass on desired production traits in the progeny and ultimately will improve the income of farmers. He also congratulated the project team for their hard work under migratory field conditions for the benefit of tribal people.

The Vice-Chancelloralso interacted with the younger generation and women farmers present at the programme and envisaged their role in traditional rearing practices. He also shared his long term association with the *Gaddi* community. The Vice-Chancellor also elaborated about various new technologies and services that are underway for enhancing nutritional security for the animals during commute.

Dr. Mandeep Sharma, Dean, COVAS emphasized the utility of the project to the farmers. Dr. V.K Sharma, Director Extension Education and Dr. S.P Dixit, Director Research highlighted the role of breeding bucks for improving the overall productivity of flock. Dr. P.K. Dogra, Head of the Department, Livestock Farm Complex told that the ongoing All India Coordinated Research Project on Goat Improvement is being implemented under the umbrella of Central Institute for Research on Goats at Makhdoom, Mathura. Till date more than 250 superior breeding bucks have been provided to the farmers. He said that more than 1600 pure Gaddi goats were being monitored under the project.Dr Sandeep Mishra Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry sensitized the farmers regarding current centrally sponsored schemes. Drs Nishant Verma, Principal Investigator, Anurag Sharma, Varun Sankhyan, Ankur Sharma and Praveen Sharma were also present on this occasion.

***Medicinal plants are blessings by the mother nature: Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 17 March. A daylong "Stakeholders’ meet of medicinal plant sector of Himachal Pradesh” was held at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today. In his inaugural address Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, underlined the need to utilize and harvest scientifically the rich treasurer of herbs, medicinal and other plant genetic resources in the great Himalayas.

He said that the stakeholders including growers, traders, processors and industrialists of the state can take lead in this direction. He informed that medicinal plants were blessings by the Mother Nature which play a pivotal role in the human life. Much has been written and documented in many religious scriptures. “We need to assimilate this knowledge and pass it on to the younger generations”, opined Prof Chaudhary. The Vice-Chancellor said that the farmers need technical and financial support for producing herbs and other medicinal plants. Along with their conventional farming they should be encouraged to grow medicinal plants which fetch rich dividends. He declared that his University will effectively support farmers in their all endeavours for taking up the cultivation of medicinal plants and value addition and processing.

Prof Chaudhary said that systematic work is required in herbs and medicinal plants as these were not less than diamond and gold. He said that there was no plant on the earth which has no medicinal value. He mentioned utility of several herbs and medicinal plants in our homes like *brahmi, karkara, ashwagansha, tulsi, banaksha, ajvayan, anardana, pudina,haldi, amla, bahera, doobghas, e*tc. The world has got patents of many of such plants and we have lagged behind in it. The Vice-Chancellor asked all concerned to be aware and active for such issues to protect the intellectual property rights.

Dr Vijay Chaudhary, Principal, Rajiv Gandhi PG Ayurvedic College, Paprola said that the world has realized the role and utility of Ayurveda and AYUSH medicines during the pandemic. *Ashvagandha* is used in around 100 medicines. He said that availability of raw material for quality medicine continues to be a challenge. Col Rajesh Kumar, Incharge, 98 Mobile Field Veterinary Hospital, Charhi informed that effort has been made that soldiers also learn to grow medicinal plants and adopt it as an avocation after their retirement. He said that some traditional treatments have been introduced for horses, mules, dogs, etc with the army. Dr Arun Chandan, Regional Director, Regional-cum-Felicitation Centre Northern Region-1, Jogindernagar under National Medicinal Plant Board, Ministry of AYUSH, told that there are more than 9000 industries involved in Ayurveda medicine production but there is deficiency of raw material due to multiple reasons. He detailed several new initiatives benefiting farmers and industry. Dr Punam, Organising Secretary and Dr D.R.Nag, Advisor, Regional-cum- Felicitation Centre also expressed their views.

Stakeholders from the industry, progressive farmers from all over the state and technical resource persons also enthusiastically interacted and deliberated on several issues. The University statutory officers, Programme Coordinators of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, scientists, students and doctors attended the programme. Some participants attended the meet online.

MoU between CSKHPAU and TQS

***Working hard to transform University as per the international standards: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 5 March.CSK H.P. Agriculture University and TQ Services, a division of Tata Projects Limited, Hyderabad have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for implementing Quality Management System in the University.

According to Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, the vision of this collaboration is for the ISO certification of quality management systems. It presents the delegation to flexibility, constant development and provides high-grade quality education to the students. Certification of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System covers all the academic activities and support services research, consultancy and testing services, administrative co-curricular and extracurricular activities in the University. The Vice-Chancellor said that he aims to bring his University among top five farm universities in the country in the coming times. He said that the certification of the university shall improve the performance of the institution as a whole by introduction of new quality control mechanisms. Prof Chaudhary disclosed that every employee will be trained in the principles and dimensions of quality. He expressed the hope that mandated areas of teaching, research and extension education will improve further to provide world class services to the students, farmers and others.

The MoU was signed by Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Dean, College of Agriculture and Mr. Krishna Chaitnya Verma, Consultant, TQS in the presence of Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor. Shri Sandeep Sood, HAS, Registrar and all Deans and Directors were present on the occasion.

SAC at KVK, Hamirpur

***Farmers should supplement their income: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor. CSKHPAU***

Palampur 04 March. A Farmer-Scientist interaction and scientific advisory committee (SAC) meeting of CSK H.P. Agriculture University Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Hamirpur was held at Bharmoti (Naduan) today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, chaired the meeting and appreciated the hardworking farmers of the Hamirpur district as they have earned name in vegetable cultivation. The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the role of farm women in agriculture, especially in vegetable production, mushroom cultivation, bee-keeping, floriculture, animal husbandry, etc and asked the farmers to explore the possibility of goat rearing to increase their income. He sought their feedback on several issues including climate change, value addition, etc. The Vice-Chancellor underlined the importance of conservation and preservation of traditional crop varieties like ‘Nadauni Muli’ and other plant genetic resources. He asked them to adopt the scientific farming with active support from Krishi Vigyan Kendra extension specialists to increase their income. He asked the farmers to discuss their farm related issues with the extension specialists to resolve these on priority. He said that all district level departments engaged in the welfare of farmers should work in perfect coordination.

The Vice-Chancellor also visited an exhibition of farm produce by the farmers, different products by self help groups and farm inputs by agriculture input companies. He honoured six *Krishi Doots* from six blocks of the district.

Dr. Pardeep Kumar, Programme Coordinator, KVK presented a report of the work done and future programmes. Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, College of Veterinary & Animal Science Dr.Pawan Kumar Pathania, Associate Director of Extension Education and some heads of department and scientists from the main campus Palampur and Dr.Kamal Sharma, Dean, College of Horticulture & Agro forestry, Nairi also interacted with the farmers and provided them relevant scientific information about natural and organic farming, agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture etc. A question-answer session was also held. Around 200 progressive farmers including Shri Hukam Chand, Sh Baljeet Sandhu, etc. and district level officers took part in farmer-scientist interaction and SAC meeting enthusiastically.

University bags 1st prize in conference for giant tumour surgery.

Palampur 27 February. The PG Students and Teachers of the Department of Vety. Surgery and Radiology, Dr.G.C.Negi CoVAS of CSK HPKV bagged First Prize for Best Clinical Case Paper Presentation entitled “Surgical management of a giant tumour causing vascular compromise on the neck of a dog” during National Online Clinical Case Conference organized by the department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine, P.G.I.V.A.S., Akola.

A team of Surgeons of the Deptt.of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology removed a giant 3.5 kg tumour from the neck of eight year old female dog successfully. Dr.S.P.Tyagi, Professor and Head, Deptt.of Vety. Surgery & Radiology informed that the case was challenging as the tumour was large and causing vascular compromise. He further informed that the location of the base of tumour was near major neurovascular region which made the dissection difficult. He stated that after careful surgery and use of ancillary equipment, the entire tumour was removed cleanly by the surgeons of the department viz. Dr.Ashish Cristopher, Dr.Adarsh Kumar, Dr.Deepti Sharma, Dr.Amit Kumar, Dr.S.P.Tyagi and Dr.Shivani Jain leading to uneventful recovery of the patient. This sort of surgery of giant tumour in dog has been performed first time in the department/university. Dr.Tyagi told that the details of the case were presented by one of the PG Scholars Dr. Ashish Cristopher at the 5th National Online Clinical Case Conference on “Diagnostic and Therapeutic Modalities in Emerging & Re-Emerging Animal Diseases” organized by the Deptt.of Veterinary Clinical Medicine, PGIVAS, Akola on 27th-29th December, 2021 and the paper was adjudged “The Best Clinical Case Paper Presentation and the award in this regard has been presented to the authors on 8th February, 2022.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. H.K.Chaudhary congratulated the scientists and students who performed this historical surgery in the Department of Vety. Surgery and Radiology of Dr.G.C.Negi CoVAS of this University and for bagging the First Prize for Best Clinical Case Paper Presentation. He expressed happiness for saving the life of the dog suffering from such a giant tumour. He aspired that the surgeons of the department will continue to render best services to serve and save the lives of creatures who can’t speak.

National Science Day celebrations at CSKHPAU

***Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary asks students to integrate science and technology for sustainable future***

Palampur 26 February. National Science Day and Mathematics Day celebrations culminated at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today. Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, recalled the contributions and scientific brilliance of Indian Physicist Sir C. V. Raman and lauded the efforts of all those great Indian scientists whose innovations and discoveries made country proud. He said that due to various scientific discoveries and technological innovations, the life of common man has improved.The Vice-Chancellor awarded winners of various competitions.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the country was surplus in food grains production due to large number of discoveries and developments in farm science and the country has achieved several milestone in different spheres like medicine, communication, etc which has revolutionized these sectors. He exhorted students to integrate science and technology for sustainable future He exhorted scientists for introspection and treating research scholars as their friends.

Dr Anita Singh, Dean, College of Basic Science informed that the National Science Day was celebrated on the theme Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future with the active participation of students from four constituent colleges. Dr Sharda Singh, Coordinator-cum-President, Science detailed various competitions organised during the last two months starting with National Mathematics Day to National Science Day.

The programme was supported by the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment and National Council of Science, Technology & Communication. All the statutory officers, conveners of the events Dr Usha Rana, Dr Ranbir Singh Rana, Dr Suman Sharma, Dr Sheela Thakur, Sh Kapil Sharma, Sh Vaibhav Kalia, Dr Manjula Sharma, Dr Radhika Sharma, Dr Rishi Mahajan, Dr Abhishek Walia, Sh.Arun Kumar and Dr Banti Kumar, other scientists and students attend the programme.

***Results of various competitions:*** In Science Day Theme Quiz competition, teams Tarun Kapoor & Kish Bhardwaj, Ajay Kumar & Snayu and Madhusudan & Anshika Dhatwal won the first, second and third prize respectively whereas in mathematics quiz, teams Sahil Kumar & Akshit, Yishu Thakur & Rahul and Sarthak Devdutt & Vaishali bagged first, second and third prizes. The first, second and third prize winners for slogan writing on Science day theme were bagged by Aanchal Bakshi, Himshika and Malika Kanwar respectively whereas in mathematics day theme, Gurkiran Kaur and Jitender Singh received the first and second position. In Essay writing competition on national science day theme, Tarun Kapoor, Vanshika and Shivanshi Mankotia stood first, second and third respectively whereas Gurkirandeep Kaur, Rishita Kapoor and Stuti Kaushal bagged the first, second and third prizes on Mathematics day theme.Rishita Kapoor, Gurkirandeep Kaur and Vikas Chaudhary participated in the declamation contest of Mathematics Day theme and bagged the first, second and third positions respectively whereas for Science Day theme Tarun Kapoor, Eva Sharma and Aakash Thakur were the first, second and third prize winners respectively. In poster making competition, for Science Day theme, Paalki Gupta, Sukriti Kheterpal and Ritika Chaudhary stood first, second and third respectively whereas Anshikawalia, Aryan and Anjali Singh stood first, second and third respectively in Poster making competition on Mathematics Day Theme.In model making competition the teams Aarushlal & Tarun Kapoor, Shagun Sood & Anshika and Sakshi Verma & Anshika Rani won the first, second and third prize respectively on Science day theme whereas teams Akansha & Aanchal Kapoor, Gaurav Kumar & Madhusudan and Rashika Vyas& Nikhil Pathania stood first, second and third on mathematics day theme respectively.In Power Point Presentation competition Tarun Kapoor, Rishita Kapoor and Ritvik Katoch bagged the first , second and third position respectively whereas for mathematics day theme; first, second and third prize winners were Gurkirandeep Kaur, Gaurav and Priyanka respectively.

World Pulse Day at CSKHPAU

***Pulse crops gifts of mother nature which enrich human diet: Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 10 February. To commemorate World Pulses Day and create awareness among farmers, students and general masses, a seminar was organised at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, while inaugurating the programme, said that due to agro-climatic advantages, Himachal Pradesh has great potential for growing pulses. Despite "*Daal-Bhaat'* (Pulses-rice) being a daily food of people in the State, the farmers have lost enthusiasm for growing pulses. They are not growing pulses adequately due to various reasons after the introduction of high yielding wheat, rice and maize varieties which are dependent on chemical fertilizers. Since pulse crops were intolerant to heavy doses of chemical fertilizers so the farmers were no more growing pulses as intercrop. He underlined the importance of balanced use of fertilizers. The Vice-Chancellor said that pulse crops can be grown as intercrop in organic and natural farming.

The Vice-Chancellor said that pulse crops were a gift from nature and major crops intermixed with pulses decorate the farm besides making soil healthier. He told that pulses make environment clean by fixing nitrogen from atmosphere and enriching soil. Prof Chaudhary asked farmers to grow pulses even if production is low. It will save their resources and they need not purchase pulses from the market. The farmers need to take advantage of more than two dozen high yielding pulse crop varieties and technology developed by the University for enhancing pulse production.

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Dr.S.P.Dixit, Director of Research and Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Dean, College of Agriculture told that pulses were essential component of our daily food. The state produces pulses like rajmash, mash, kulthi, moth, chana, masur, rongi, arhar, ricebean,lal mah or adjuki bean, etc. In the past these had been used as intercrops with major cereal crops like maize and wheat. Many products are made from pulses. Drs. V.K.Sood, Janardan Singh, Vedna Kumai, Farhan Bhatt and Gopal Katna delivered special lectures on the importance of pulse cultivation. Around 100 farmers from Maulichak, post graduate students and scientists attended the programme. The World Pulse Day was also celebrated at university research stations and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

***KVK, Mandi gets NABARD Best Project Award***

Palampur 10 February.CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University’s Krishi Vigyan Kendra(KVK) at Sundernagar(Mandi) has been awarded the best project for the execution of projects funded by NABARD under Farm Sector Promotion Fund in the State.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told that NABARD and the University had signed a MoU in 2019 on a project worth Rs. 24.90 lakh to make agriculture more profitable and sustainable. Since the implementation of the project, 28 off-campus training programs benefiting around 1300 farmers and 10 on-campus skill development trainings for 300 farmers on mushroom cultivation were organized by the KVK, Sundarnagar. The Vice-Chancellor told that it was encouraging that about 70 percent of trained farmers have adopted the cultivation of button mushroom and oyster mushroom commercially and 20 trainees have been working as ambassadors of NABARD and KVK and they further trained more than 500 farmers across the district. Apart from this, about 50 self-help groups are now actively working to promote mushroom cultivation.

The Vice-Chancellor while congratulating Dr. Pankaj Sood, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Sundarnagar and his team has expressed the hope that NABARD will allocate

more funds to the University for execution of such farmer-friendly projects. The award was presented by Shri Virendra Kanwar, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj at Shimla on 9 February.

Candid interaction session by Hon’ble Chancellor at CSKHPAU

***Understand the real needs of the society and work for it : Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Hon’ble Governor of H.P.***

 Palampur 7 February: Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Hon’ble Governor visited the University today. He held a candid interaction session with heads of the department and post graduate students. The Governor asked them to help turning kitchen gardens in every house hold to herbal gardens and initiating a campaign to end the menace of drugs.

Hon’ble Governor, at the outset cited famous writer Mark Twain who had aptly questioned the existence of human beings at a particular place at a particular time. He said that scientists, other staff members and students should be clear about their purpose in this University. He said that time has come to understand the needs of the society and work for it. “Our education needs reorientation in this direction and modify our syllabus accordingly”, the Hon’ble Governor added. He said we need to change our mindset for farming as in reality the natural farming is conventional farming. He also underlined the importance of medicinal plants and suggested that University should get support from forest department, AYUSH and adopt schools for planting medicinal plants there to educate the students. They will develop interest in such plants and the message will percolate to their families. He advised that herbal gardens should be developed at homes.

The Governor said that the students must avoid drugs. He said that as a society, we all should spread the word against drug use and help in eradicating this menace from society. He advised the staff and students to start a campaign against drugs.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, in his welcome address expressed his gratitude to the Hon’ble Governor for taking out time to interact with students and visiting historical Bee Research Station at Nagrota Bagwan. He detailed major academic, research and extension education. The Vice-Chancellor told that the University was wide spread in the State with its research and extension centres and is well aware about its responsibility towards all farmers in hill and mountain regions of the country. He said that the rich biodiversity in the region is to be preserved, conserved and wisely exploited for the welfare of farming community. He said despite difficulties during pandemic, the university has forged ahead. He said some major research projects worth Rs 80 crore were in operation and a mega project on medicinal plants is expected to be sanctioned to the University soon. He also elaborated about efforts to popularize ‘one valley one product’ and told that 51 products will be registered.

Some of the heads of departments gave information about the University work on seed science and technology, vegetable and horticulture crops, organic and natural farming, value addition in known traditional crops of the State, etc.

The students detailed their research work on natural farming. Jeevan Dhannjay a Ph.D scholar from Sri Lanka spoke on his work on tea and Mohmmad Zuber Mohmadi, another Ph.D.scholar from Afghanistan thanked the Vice-Chancellor and the University for extended him and other 8 students  all support during the crisis in their country.

Hon’ble Governor started his University visit at Bee Research Station where Prof Harinder Kumar Chaudhary , Vice Chancellor received the Hon'ble Governor and detailed history, development and present status of the station which was established in 1936. Hon'ble Governor evinced keen interest in the station including honey testing lab, museum, apiary, honey venom collection, pollen collection, honey quality testing lab, etc.

The Hon’ble Governor also visited advanced veterinary clinical complex at Dr GCNCOVAS.

During the interaction programme, besides the University Statutory Officers, Heads and PG students , Sh Nipun Jindal, Deputy Commissioner and Sh Khushal Sharma,SP, Kangra,Dr Amit Guleria SDM and Sh Gurbachan Singh, DSP Palampur and other officers of district administration were also present. Dr Mandeep Sharma, Dean Dr GC Negi COVAS extended a vote of thanks.

*Basant Panchami celebrations in the CSKHAPU*

**Let’s be our own managers during the testing times: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSKHPAU**

Palampur 05 February. *Basant Panchami* festival was celebrated with enthusiasm at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University today.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, performed *Pooja* of goddess *Saraswati* at the College of Agriculture and greeted the University community on the occasion of *Basant Panchami*.

 While addressing the staff and students, he said that Maa *Saraswati* is the goddess of wisdom, knowledge, creative arts, languages, learning and purity. He sought blessing of the goddess for taking forward the University in all spheres of academics, research and extension education. The Vice-Chancellor said that despite three waves of the pandemic, the University has moved ahead with full pace.

While expressing his sympathy with the students who have been compelled to stay indoors and endure stress due to disruptions in their regular studies, he advised them to be their own managers to face new kind of challenges and emerge winners. He asked students to seek blessings of *Maa Saraswati* regularly.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Dean, College of Agriculture and Dr. Pardeep Kumar, President, College of Agriculture Palampur Alumni Association (CAPAA) also expressed their views. All statutory officers also offered their respects to the goddess *Saraswati* in the premises of COA. Sweets were distributed to all present on the occasion.

***Create awareness about Intellectual Property Rights among stakeholders: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 03 February. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor CSK H.P. Agriculture has underlined the importance and need for greater awareness and literacy about Intellectual Property Rights(IPRs) among stakeholders. The Vice-Chancellor was addressing the participants in a two day online ‘Conference on IPRs: Steppingstone towards *Aatmanirbhar Bharat’* here today.

Prof. Chaudhary said that the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers’ Rights Act, 2001(PPV&FRA) takes care of farmers, breeders and the seed industry in India. Different forms of IPRs are being applied in agriculture and allied sectors. While doing so many problems were being encountered by researchers, policy planners, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders. “Our University has pledged to take agriculture-related IPR issues in the State to a higher platform and has taken several initiatives in the recent past”, informed Prof Chaudhary. The Intellectual Property Rights Cell of the University was actively engaged in helping the farmers in creating awareness and getting their crop varieties registered and getting national awards to them. He also told that the University has assigned the Krishi Vigyan Kendras to work on ‘One valley-one Product’ and campaign for ‘Vocal for Local’ to economically empower the farmers and others.

He also spoke on the need to conserve genetic resources in North-Western Himalayas by creating awareness in local languages about patenting and IPR issues. He asked all concerned to watch the interests of farmers. The Vice-Chancellor also spoke on shrinking land and water resources, threats from climate change, etc. He said that India has been benevolent to share its resources liberally for the benefit of mankind but developed nations and their farmers were working as corporate to get benefits out of their innovations. He said that efforts must be made to utilize our own genetic resources.

Dr Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Patron of Institute of Positivity, Mr. D.C.Rana, D.C. Chamba, IPR experts Ms. Tritpi Dutta, Ms.Madhuvanti Kelkar, Dr Jayashri Bangali and Mr.Sarang Vinze detailed progress to resolve problems on IPR related issues. Mr Shashi Dhar from HIMCOSTE, Shimla, University Statutory Officers Drs S.P.Dixit, Satish Paul and D.K.Vatsa, Organising Secretary Dr.Daisy Basandrai and Co-organizing Secretary Dr. Virender Kumar also spoke on Geographical Indications, IPR acts, etc. Around a hundred postgraduate students, faculty, budding entrepreneurs and administrators are taking part in the online conference jointly organized by the University and Institute of Positivity, Ghaziabad.

***CSK HPAU and NFL to sign MoU:Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 28 January.CSK H.P.Agriculture University will enter into MoU with National Fertilizers Limited for research and extension activities benefitting farming community.This was announced by Prof. H.K.Chaudhary,Vice Chancellor during a meeting here today.The Vice Chancellor said that NFL chair will be established in the University to conduct research as per the needs of NFL.He said that the students of the University will be attached with NFL for agro industrial training and efforts will be made to seek assistance of NFL for marketing of red rice and other university products. He discussed issues like soil health cards, balanced use of fertilizers and organic fertilizers,etc.Prof Chaudhary informed that aggressive efforts have been made to assist farmers with precise and specific technology suiting as per their area and requirements of state farmers.He said that scientific decisions about farming systems should not be taken emotionally but should be based strictly on long term research data. He suggested NFL to consider adding micro nutrients in Urea. He said that University crop varieties have been accepted and were performing well all over the country.He told that the University was very well spread in H.P. and has contributed immensely for the socio economic development of farming community.He also elaborated about major strengths of the University in research and extension education.The Vice-Chancellor told that some progressive farmers will also be involved during all collaborative programmes with NFL.

Earlier Sh.Anil Motsara Director Marketing NFL sought University help in vocational training to the farmers,soil testing campaigns, joint efforts for enhancing farmers income, etc.He said collaboration will be made to encourage farmers for growing pulses and oilseed crops in the region.He said precision farming will help farmers in enhancing farmers income.Sh Dilbag Sing, Zonal Manager, Sh.Yoginder Singh Dy.General Manager,Sh LR Jangra, Deputy General Manager and Sh. Rajbir Taya, State Manager detailed about NFL.The University Statutory Officers and some scientists were present in the meeting.

**Five New Crop Varieties by Farm Scientists**

***Gazette of India notifies CSK HPAU crop varieties for pan India***

Palampur 22 January. The scientists of CSK H.P. Agriculture University have developed five new crop varieties which have been notified in the Gazette of India. This was disclosed by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor told that newly developed crop varieties include Him Palam Maize Composite-1 of Maize; Him Palam Gobhi Sarson-1 of Gobhi Sarson; Him Palam White Clover-1 of White Clover; Him Palam Hara Soya-1 of Soybean and Trombay Him Palam Mustard -1 of Mustard.

He informed that the Maize variety “Him Palam Maize Composite-1” is recommended for hill zone of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya and has shown resistance towards diseases. While the oilseed variety viz. Him Palam Gobhi Sarson-1 has substantially low levels of anti-nutritional factors like erucic acid and glucosinolates. It is recommended for H.P., Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. New mustard variety ‘Trombay Him Palam Mustard-1 is tolerant towards aphids. Soybean variety Him Palam Hara Soya-1 is resistant to major diseases of Soybean. New fodder variety Him Palam White Clover-1 is recommended for temperate grasslands, pastures and orchards of North-Hill zone of H.P. and neighboring State of Uttrakhand and U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir .

Vice Chancellor Professor H.K. Chaudhary has congratulated the University scientists viz. Drs. S.K.Guleria, Uttam Chand, Adarsh Bala, V.K. Sood and Vedna Kumari and also Dr. S. J. Jambhulkar from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai for this significant research accomplishment at the state and national level. He has expressed hope that the farmers would adopt the newly developed varieties to increase their yield and income. These varieties have been notified in the Gazette of India on 24 December 2021.

Press Conference of the Vice-Chancellor

***56 scientists appointed and 84 more staffers to be recruited soon: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 4 January. “Thirty two scientists have been appointed recently and process to fill up 84 positions of teaching and non-teaching staff was underway at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University’, this was informed by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, during a press conference, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that during the last one year, the University has filled up 56 positions of scientists and 23 posts of non-teachers. In the last fortnight, interviews were conducted for 32 posts of scientists and appointment orders were also issued. Out of these newly recruited scientists, 14 scientists have been posted at the University research stations situated in Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, Chamba and other districts. This will accelerate research activities and help in conservation and propagation of rich bio-resources of the state. He told that National Education Policy warrants increasing number of students so the staff strength will also be increased gradually. Besides recruiting three more teachers, the University is making all out efforts to declare the results and complete recruitment process of 81 posts of Junior Office Assistants, Clerks, Field Assistants, etc. this month only.

He told that the University has also initiated work to demonstrate integrated farming systems to the farmers of the state and through Startups; young entrepreneurs are being encouraged to take up scientific farming. Involving progressive farmers, Seed Village Concept has been started to make the State self sufficient on seed front. Designating the progressive farmers as *Krishi Doots*, the University is making effort to strengthen its network in nook and corner of the state. Fifity one *Krishi Doots* have been requested to spread the farm technology among their neighborhood. The University is also making a serious effort to conserve local landraces and other Himalayan bio resources and getting these registered and getting GIs.

He told that scarcity of green fodder was a major problem for livestock keepers in the state and for the first time, the University has been able to prepare 4500 quintal silage in 15 silo pits. Now, the farmers will be demonstrated and trained in this simple technology. The University has also started work on snow trout and eel fish species.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary thanked and appreciated the media for highlighting the excellent work at the University and giving feedback at regular intervals. He asked them to visit any of the research station or Krishi Vigyan Kendra to interact with staff and farmers. Shri Sandeep Sood, HAS, Registrar and Dr.Hirday Paul Singh, Jt. Director (Information & Public Relations) were preset in the press conference attended by around a dozen media persons representing various print and electronic media channels.

New Year Address of the Vice-Chancellor

***Farmers need quality seed, good breed and feed as per their needs: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 1 January. “CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University will help in making state reliant in seeds by involving progressive farmers”, this was announced by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

While addressing the university community on the occasion of New Year, the Vice-Chancellor said that he has tried to integrate the old age rich tradition of ‘*Gurukul*’ system of education with modern scientific temper and each employee and student have contributed to take forward the university to newer heights. The University stands tall among top ten farm universities of the country; thought overall rank has been declared at 14th place among all Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Agricultural Universities of the country. He exhorted all teachers to make all out efforts enabling the University students to excel in life and make farming a profitable venture for each and every farmer of the state. He also asked scientists to give attention for niche based research and seek international collaborations so that students and scientists may visit top labs and institutions of the world. He said that the University will be strengthened further this year to fulfill the given mandate of teaching, research and extension education.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the great Himalayas have given much to the humanity. These are rich source of medicinal plants, traditional crops with unique identity and qualities, other flora and fauna but this strength has not been explored much. He cited the example of traditional crops, diversity in food, attire, music, dances, environment, etc. and said that we need to explore, identify and showcase this rich treasure in a polished way to the world. He asked the scientists to get maximum Himalayan commodities registered and file GIs where ever possible so that these gain national and international attention. This will help farmers to reap rich dividends. He cited example of red rice whose selling price has touched Rs.750 per kg in some areas of the state after university helped the farmers to get it registered and get national award.

Prof Chaudhary told that farmers need quality seed, good breed and feed as per their needs so the University will face challenges like developing varieties which need less irrigation water and perform well in adverse climate too. He said that teachers should develop entrepreneurship among students. Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Research Stations should also help in this direction by developing good modern research farms. He said that integrated farming system models can help small and marginal farmers. Demonstration of such models will give examples to the farmers. He said that farm based avocations like bee-keeping, develop shiitake mushroom units, etc. should be popularized among farmers for additional source of income.

The Vice-Chancellor said that public private partnership was very important as this is an era to grow together. This will also bring more money to the institution. This will also help the students to become job creators. Farmers’ network should be strengthened so that he gets useful information sitting at his home. He said that 75 progressive farmers as *Krishi Doots* will be selected throughout the state during *Azadi Ka Amritmahatosav* so that such farmers help to create awareness among other farmers of their respective arrears. Fifty one such *Krishi Doots* have, already, been selected and honoured. He said that community radio station will be established at Mandi soon. 19 MOUs have been signed in the last one year which will accelerate research benefitting farmers.He told that to overcome the problem of fodder in winters, the university has moved ahead by developing silage pits in the University by sowing 25 hectare area with maize and now 20 silo pits have been filled up with 4500 quintal silage.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor inaugurated a glow sign, ‘I love CSKHPKV- Transforming India through Agriculture’ in front of the University Auditorium.

All the Statutory Officers, three senators, presidents of teaching and non teaching unions also expressed their views. All scientists, non teaching staff and the students attended the ceremony.

Agriculture officers' workshop

**Shri Virender Kanwar asks scientists to develop integrated farming models**

Palampur 28 December. The state level farm officers' workshop-cum-Farmer Scientist interface was held at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

The Chief Guest Shri Virender Kanwar, Minister of Agriculture, AH, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Govt of H.P, in his inaugural address, asked the farm scientists to develop integrated farming models giving complete economics so that the farmers may adopt such models as per their needs. He said that since the eighty percent seed was purchased from outside so there is need to produce seed of major crops within the state with involvement of progressive farmers. He said that efforts were underway to conserve and preserve seed of traditional crops under ‘*Mukhyamantri Prampragat Beej Sarankshan Yojna’* and advised the farm officers to educate farmers about the proper use of chemicals and fertilizers as pesticide residue was highest in Himachal Pradesh. He said that farm chemicals should be only available at registered shops and the concerned person should be properly trained to stop excessive use of chemicals in the farmers’ fields. He told that 25 years roadmap has been developed for natural farming. The Minister asked the scientists to suggest crops for mid hill areas of the state. He also sought solutions to the crop damage by wild animals and told that major problem of stray cattle will end by coming March as some cow sanctuaries will be functional soon. Shri Virender Kanwar also discussed issues like lantana and asked the university to submit a project for its complete eradication.

The Minister underlined the need to make *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* more vibrant to solve the problems of farmers as district level and asked the University to take its research work to the farms.

Prof Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, detailed major research and extension achievements of the University which has enabled several farmers to get national level awards in the recent past. He said that *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* have initiated work to produce seed of wheat and Mash (urd). He said that massive work has been imitated to conserve traditional seeds and get these registered. He told that 51 programmes have been envisaged to commemorate Golden Jubilee of H.P.Statehood and 51 *Krishi Doots* were also selected whose photographs have been displayed in ‘*Kisan Deergha*.’ He said special effort has been made to rejuvenate farm research in tribal areas and discussed issues like preparedness for adverse effects of climate change, vocal for local and high end research facilities in the University like phototron, Shiitake Mushroom Unit, etc.

 Dr.N.K.Dhiman, Director of Agriculture, said that research work should be done to reduce cost of production and natural farming was a good alternative for it. As the mere increase of one percent temperature can reduce crop yields from five to ten percent so work on cropping patterns with low water requirements and temperature stress tolerant varieties should be expedited. He also discussed problems of insect pests in the major crops, need to develop package of practices for zone-wise fertilizers requirements.etc

Dr.Satish Paul. Director of Extension Education, elaborated about major extension activities of the University like professional trainings to the farmers sponsored by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam with an amount of Rs.79 lakh, adoption of seven villages under Farmers’ First programme, etc. Dr.S.P.Dixit, Director of Research, informed that 136 research projects with budget outlay of Rs. 7982 lakh were in operation and new farm technology about compounding of tall fescue grass with white clover has been recommended for farmers.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated *Krishi Deergha-II* in the University Museum and honored nineteen *Krishi Doots* and five national awardees who received awards for red rice variety conservation and breed conservation. These include Bachitar Singh, Sunil Kumar and Mangal Singh from district Bilaspur; Ameesh, Govind Singh, Avneet Kumar and Nandu Ram(district Kangra); Nishant Gazta (Solan); Pradeep Negi and Sudarshan Devi( Kinnaur), Madhu Kumari and Anita Negi (Kullu), Vividh Sharma and Vishal Pathak(Una), Taran Singh and Bhawani Dutt(Sirmour);Pramod Singh and Nimmo Devi(Hamirpur),Kundan Lal(Mandi), Maya Devi, Varsha Sharma, Depna Mehta, Leelavati and Sanita Devi( Shimla).The Minister also released a CD on redrice, farm publications and news year calander.

A session on major recommendations and feedback was also organized where progressive farmers and deputy directors from all districts provided feedback. Dr.Suresh Gautam, Dr.Desh Raj Chaudhary and Dr.Daisy Basandrai, Associate Director Extension Education also expressed her views.

Shri Ashok Sharma, Vice-Chairman, Gau Seva Ayog, the University statutory officers, heads and scientists and around 150 farm officers and progressive farmers took part in the workshop.

***National mushroom day at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 24 December. National mushroom day was celebrated at CSK H.P. Agriculture University today. The Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, underlined the importance of farm based avocations like mushroom cultivation for its nutritive values and source of additional income to the farm families. The Vice-Chancellor asked the farmers to adopt mushroom cultivation as an occupation and learn cultivation of button and oyster mushroom. He said they should also adopt the cultivation of new mushroom Shiitake for higher price in the market. He also spoke on the utility of mushrooms for complete Agro waste Management.

Dr D.K Vatsa, Dean, College of Agriculture; Dr Satish Paul,  Director Extension Education ; Dr S.P Dixit, Director Research; Dr.D.K.Banyal, Head of Department of Plant Pathology and Dr Deepika Sud elaborated about the importance of mushroom cultivation in management of agro wastes and other organic wastes.  They also educated the farmers' about nutritive and medicinal values of the mushrooms .The Department of Plant Pathology also organized a declamation contest to mark the occasion. Avantika, Sonali and Shivani Gupta who were adjudged first, Second and third in the competition. Around 60 farmers, Students and scientists also attended the function.

Palampur 22 Dec.To commemorate birth anniversary of great mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan, National Mathematics Day was celebrated at CSK H.P.Agriculture University today.Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, in his inaugural address, expressed his happiness that the celebrations will continue and culminate on National Science day on 28 Feb 2022.He appreciated College of Basic Sciences for the celebrations collaborating with Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology & Environment (HIMCOSTE) and National Council of Science, Technology & Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. Prof H.K. Chaudhary said that the mathematical brilliance of Srinivasa Ramanujan was known world over. He exhorted students to love mathematics and use it in the fields of their studies, especially life sciences, for better results and decision making

Dr R.S. Chandel, in his keynote lecture spoke about the life journey of Srinivasa Ramanujan. Various other activities were conducted on the occasion as Mathematical Games, Mathematical Quiz, and Puzzels. A Mathematical skit was also performed by the students of College of Basic Sciences. Students from all the constituent Colleges of the University took part in the activities with enthusiasm. The winners of the Quiz remained :First Postion- College of Basic Science;Second Position- College of Agriculture;Third Position- College of Veteinary Science and Fourth Position- College of Community Science.

Dr Anita Singh, Dean of the College presided over the function and encouraged the students to take part in the upcoming events of Science day celebrations like Models, Poster making, Declamation and power point presentation. Dr Sharda Singh, Professor Mathematics-cum-Coordinator of the Celebrations also spoke on the occasion.Dr Sheela Thakur, Sh Kapil Sharma, Sh Vaibhav Kalia, Dr Usha Rana, Dr Ranbir Singh Rana, Dr Suman Sharma, Dr Manjula Sharma, Dr Radhika Sharma, Dr Rishi Mahajan, Dr Abhishek Walia, Sh Arun Kumar and Dr Banti Kumar also took active part in organising the event.

***CSK H.P. Agriculture University helps Gaddi  farmer to get the prestigious Breed Conservation Award***

Palampur 16 December. Gaddi (Shepherd) Shri Nandu Ram, a resident of village Band Vihar, Tehsil Palampur, District Kangra will be receiving the prestigious national level ‘Breed Conservation Award- 2021’ on 23 December. This was disclosed by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor told that the flock of Shri Nandu Ram was included in the ‘All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Goat Improvement-Gaddi Field Unit project’ in the University in the year 2011. The University helped him to increase his flock strength from 70 to over 400 goats and sheep. The project team of the University extended continuous scientific support in the form of supply of high genetically elite breeding bucks of Gaddi breed of goats along with timely vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease and contagious PPR diseases, strategic nutritional interventions and health support as and when needed. There was remarkable progress in the flock in terms of the improved health status of animals, decreased mortality and production enhancement like body weight at different ages. Prof Chaudhary told that Shri Nandu Ram has been designated as ‘*KrishiDoot*’ of the University for his excellent work in breed conservation and propagation of *Gaddi* Goats. The University has motivated and helped the farmer in competing for this national level award.

The Vice-Chancellor told that as per the communication received by the University, Shri Nandu Ram will be awarded National Breed Conservation Award 2021 under individual category (small ruminants) for Gaddi goat breed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR)-NBAGR (National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources), Karnal. The award will carry a cash prize of rupees ten thousand along with a certificate of achievement. The award will be conferred on 23 December during the “Kisan Divas and Breed Conservation Award” celebrations at Karnal. Breed Conservation Award has been initiated in 2017 by ICAR- NBAGR  for conserving and maintaining the registered breeds of livestock and poultry. The farmer belongs to the Gaddi tribe of district Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. The farmer has a family of a total of 8 members and 20 Kanals of landholding. He has been in the practice of rearing goats by transhumance (migratory) practice since he was 10 years old and has 75 years of experience in this profession.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary visited the flock of Nandu Ram many times in the last one year. He has congratulated the farmer for his hard work and dedication. The Vice-Chancellor has also appreciated Dr. P.K. Dogra, Principal Investigator and his team members Drs. Nishant Verma, Ankaj Thakur, Madhu Suman, Praveen Sharma and other Scientific and Project Staff of AICRP.

***HPAU staff takes part in Mass Reading of Preamble to celebrate Constitution of India Day***

Palampur 26 November.Prof [Harinder Kumar Chaudhary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZWtTB87O4iqFTsC59LahD1wyVbaBshTseYX3hHC1MliUdVYKecQ3NdopOzwI6gLxVBZx0vj7S-UCDFJHDyxiQQd_7NayRK2NXObvwbkj8Cnb7nB9V-ZjXZDCA6KUcE58CVIGExAkJIRI2_xqw3A_NKM&__tn__=-%5dK-R) ,Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University along with staff of his secretariat and all Statutory Officers and their staff took part in Mass Reading of Preamble of Constitution of India along with Hon'ble President of India through live streaming today. Later, the Vice-Chancellor said that all staff members and the students must have unflinching loyalty towards the Constitution of our beloved country. All should read the provisions of it and educate others about the sanctity of Constitution of India.

**Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU interacts with Spiti valley farmers**

Palampur 9 November. CSK H.P.Agriculture University organised a field day on potential crops and farmer-scientist interaction at its Regional Research Sub Station, Lari in Spiti valley in Lahaul & Spiti district today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor alongwith University scientists interacted with around 200 farmers from the Gue,Hurling, Tabo and Lari villages in the valley and listened to their farm based problems. He said that the University has decided to develop this region as Golden valley and initiate work on traditional medicinal crops of the area like Ratanjot, high value products like Shilajeet and asked them to grow potential crops like amaranths, ogla, phafra, hull less barley, etc. He said that the University will extend them all support to increase their farm income. The Vice-Chancellor declared that Dr.N.D.Negi, presently working at the main campus will be scientist inchrge of two research sub-stations Lari and Leo and directed him to organize trainings to the farmers and provide them with improved plant material.

Padma Dorje, Pardhan, Gue; Thothal Dorje, Pardhan, Tabo and Subodh Norbu, Pardhan, Mahila Mandal also spoke on the occasion and thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the efforts to accelerate research at the station. Dr (Mrs.) Parveen Lata Chaudhary,first lady of the university, was also present on the occasion.

 Earlier, the Vice Chancellor visited Research Sub-station Leo(Kinnaur) and told the local farming community that a decision has been taken to develop the farm at Station as model farm to produce seed of millets, barley, buckwheat, rajmash,French bean, peas and other traditional crops of the region like ogla,fafra, etc. He also directed the scientists to plant saplings of apricot and almond and get the quality planting material from J&K. He assured local farmers to make available quality seed and planting material for their orchards. Smt Parma Dorje Negi, Panchayat Pradhan welcomed the Vice- Chancellor and other statutory officers and scientists from the University.

Dr S.P.Dixit,Director of Research;Dr Satish Paul, Director of Extension Education, Dr Mandeep Sharma, Dean,Dr GC Negi COVAS, Dr Desh Raj Chaudhary,Head, Deptt of Vegetable Crops; Dr.Suman Kumar, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kenda, Berthin and other scientists also interacted and addressed the farmers.

***CSKHPAU helps Red Rice Farmers of Rohru to get Rs.10 lakh Plant Genome Savior Award***

Palampur 8 November. Red rice farmers of Rohru (Shimla) will be receiving   prestigious Plant Genome Savior Award worth Rs.10 lakh soon. This was disclosed by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

The  Vice-Chancellor told  that the university scientists gathered all the scientific data and helped the red rice growing farmers to register traditional red rice variety *Chhohartu* with  Protection of  Plant  Varieties  and Farmers’  Rights Authority(PPVFRA), Govt. of India eight years back. On his directions, the university scientists in the last one year helped the farmers to pursue the matter again with renewed efforts of conservation, development, popularization and further spread of red rice resulting in  bringing  laurels to the State. The university helped red rice growing farmers to form a society as the award is given to farmers’ society only.  Prof Chaudhary told that Chairperson of  PPVFRA has confirmed in his letter to the University that the award carrying a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh, citation and memento  will be presented to red rice farmers society on 11 November by the Union Minister of  Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare. This is India’s highest Award for the farmers in recognition of their contribution in conserving and development of plant varieties.

Prof Chaudhary said that red rice is under cultivation in an area of about 1000 hectare in different villages like  Peja, Masli, Jangla, Daboli, Kaloti of Chhohara valley in Rohru  subdivision in Shimla district. It is cultivated on both sides of Pabbar river adapted to cultivation from 1300 meter to 2100 meter and is categorized under Japonica red rice. *Chhohartu* has red pericarp (outer layer) and it fetches premium price in the market and has set an excellent example of vocal for local.

The Vice-Chancellor also appreciated the efforts of his University scientists Dr. Ajai Srivastava and his team including retired plant breeder  Dr. R.P. Kaushik for their consistent efforts in the last one year helping the farmers with relevant scientific data and other formalities for the award.  He said that since centuries the paddy of this variety is served during community lunches and ‘*yajnas*.’ The excess water of thick consistency decanted after cooking of red rice is considered healthy for pregnant ladies. It is gifted on various occasions too.  A couple of years back the University scientists had helped  farmers of Bhedal panchayat in Chamba district for  Plant Genome Savior Community Award 2019 for conserving land races of maize *Haachi* (white), *Retti* (red) and *chitkuri* (popcorn).

Prof Chaudhary said that his University has decided to register at least 51 Himalayan Agri-Horticulture and livestock products and commodities during this Golden Jubilee Year of H.P. Statehood. Already a Geographical Indicators task force has been formed for the purpose under his chairmanship and an application for GI registration of red rice has been filed with GI registration authority.

**RRS, Sangla to be strengthened: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor**

Palampur 7 November. CSK H.P.Agriculture University organised a field day on potential crops and farmer-scientist interaction at its Regional Research Station, Sangla in Kinnaur district today.

The Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor while addressing around 150 farmers and farm ladies from the valley, suggested them to grow Kala Zeera as intercrop in apple orchards and saffron as a sole crop .He said that it will increase their income and the university will provide them improved plant material, technical guidance and training.He appreciated them for their hardwok and assured them all technical support for growing exotic vegetables like brocolli, lettuce, red cabbage, off season vegetables , improved fodder like fescue grass, red clover and improving animal production with quality breeds and feed.He said the crops of this tribal region like Rajmash have unique qualities like taste, aroma, digestibility etc and farmers must conserve, propagate and popularise such crops of this beautiful valley.He directed scientists to develop a calender on apple spray schedule and make it available to the growers.He said that the university farm will be developed as a model farm and the station will be strengthened with scientific and technical manpower in the near future. Earlier, Vice-Chancellor inspected the station and directed scientists to introduce intercroppping of kalazira in apple orchard at the station.

Dr S.P.Dixit,Director of Research;Dr Satish Paul, Director of Extension Education,Dr Mandeep Sharma, Dean,Dr GC Negi COVAS, Dr Desh Raj Chaudhary,Head, Deptt of Vegetable Crops; Dr V.K.Sood,Head, Deptt of Genetics and Plant Breeding and other scientists also interacted and addressed the farmers.Sh Pardeep Negi,Pardhan, Gram Panchayat Batseri and Smt Karuna Negi, Pardhan,Mahila Mandal, Kamru thanked the Vice-Chancellor and university for taking efforts to revive potential crops in the region.Dr(Mrs.) Parveen Lata Chaudhary,first lady of the university, was also present on the occasion.

CSKHPAU hosts maiden ICAR Deans’ Committee Meeting

***Under NEP India will move towards multidisciplinary universities: Dr Tej Partap***

Palampur 2 November. The very first meeting of the 6th Deans' Committee constituted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research was held at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today. Dr. Tej Partap, Vice- Chancellor, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar chaired the meeting attended by Vice-Chancellors and Deans of all five farm varsities of H.P., J & K and Uttrakhand.

Dr Partap told that fundamental changes have been proposed in the National Education Policy (NEP) but ICAR has left it to farm varsities to restructure new course and curriculum. He said that effort should be to increase practical and practices in under graduate programmes. Post Graduate courses will be restructured in a step wise manner. He told that farm varsities should structure one year certificate courses leading to two years diploma course. Currently, agriculture admissions are not as per the need and are not able to serve the purpose as many students are not going to farm sectors. There is need to frame guidelines for entrepreneurship for students having innovation and salable technology. He underlined the need to frame guidelines to increase students’ enrolment ratio and identifying individual capabilities of each student and giving freedom to excel. The will of students will prevail as one can enter and exit at any stage in any academic programme following admission procedures. He said that efforts will be made to improve the financial health of farm universities giving them institutional autonomy to select Vice-Chancellors and its members.

The chairman disclosed that other key changes recommended in NEP indicate that the country will move towards multidisciplinary universities. There will not be further division of universities and by 2035; universities with multiple campus will merge.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor of host university suggested widening the horizon of farm education by allowing freedom to choose subjects, multidisciplinary approach and introducing farm education in schools. He told that his University has moved fast to adopt and implement key recommendations of NEP. Increased intake in various UG and PG programmes, digitization, smart class rooms, use of sophisticated new age technology and facilities like phototron to grow crops year around, high tech poly houses, etc were all part of this process. The university will recruit professionals who can use local knowledge, traditional knowledge and technology to effectively develop useful human resources.

Dr J.P.Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SK University of Agricultural Science & Technology, Jammu suggested specialized tailor made certificate and diploma courses based on the competence of students after completing of three years degree programme.

All members emphasized that effort should be to provide and enhance skills of children of farm families by not having any formal class in certificate courses. The students without farm background also need skill component in the initial years of agriculture education. Admission may be made in such a way that farmers may get an opportunity to send their children to farm professional courses.

Dr.J.P.Sharma, Director of Research, Dr Bikram Singh and Dr.M.S.Bhadwal, Deans from SKUAST, Jammu; Dr.(Mrs.) Anju Dhiman and Dr.Kamal Sharma, both Deans from Dr. Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan; Dr Y.S.Dhaliwal, Dr Suresh Kumar and Dr.Anita Singh, all Deans and other statutory officers from the host University and other members took part in deliberations.

44th  Foundation Day Celebrations

***CSKHPAU to recruit staff and use new digital technology: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 1 November.CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University celebrated its 44th foundation day, here today.

Chief Guest Dr Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Uttrakhand, said that dedication of all was a must to develop the institutions. He elaborated the need and main elements of NEP. “The country has expanded exponentially in terms of students and institutions but the quality of education has suffered. There are plenty of jobs but not competent human resources. The ones concerned about percentage, placements and package will not be salable in future. Pre-job life, safe job life and post-job life will be a new scenario. All concerned will have to re-invent themselves with trainings” said Dr Partap. He said that social, economic and technological changes are taking place at a faster pace. The students are to be prepared for new kind of challenges with critical thinking, communication skills and creativity. All farm universities will be multidisciplinary with minimum 3000 students. NEP will allow flexibility to students. He suggested strategic thinking to change the economy of the state. He elaborated about research challenges also. He presented a book on students’ counselling to Prof H.K.Chaudhary.

While chairing the function Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said that the University will be recruiting staff and using new age digital technology for serving the farmers effectively. He said that the University was facing staff crunch and with the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP), challenges were many. “Besides recruiting forty teachers, all teaching and non teaching staff will be recruited in all India coordinated research projects soon. The University has initiated steps to involve Ph.D scholars and research associates in academic programmes with remuneration”, told Prof Chaudhary. He told that around 200 research projects worth Rs. 212 crore have been submitted to the funding agencies.

The Vice-Chancellor informed that sixty percent of the rooftop area at the campus has been covered under solar system, work is underway for e-office, clean and green campus and the students’ centre with complete facilities will be made functional soon. He said that around twenty Memorandum of Understandings have been signed and several international collaborations, foreign visits to make scientists globally competent, awards for young scientists, etc were the important decisions taken by the University.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that to mark the Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood, the University has envisaged 51 programmes. In the next one year, a conference of 75 agricultural ambassadors (*Krishi Doots*) will be held, a state level farm women fair, etc were other programmes envisaged. He said that scientists will accelerate work on crop diversification, integrated farming, getting Geographical Indicators for traditional Himalayan crops and enhance research on rich animal genetic resources in tribal areas. He told that his university was doing work on artificial insemination with sexed semen to produce only female calves. It will help to reduce the problem of stray cattle in H.P.

He also discussed issues like involving young farmers with Startup programmes for developing entrepreneurship, Farmers’ Produce Organizations, precisions agriculture, artificial intelligence in farming, university services for the retired staff, etc. He also pledged to take forward the University and sought cooperation of all to make it number one in all farm universities of the country and getting it an international status.

Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr. GC Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences; Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research and Dr.S.K.Upadhyay also expressed his views. Shri Suresh Chaudhary, Retired Session Judge, Statutory Officers, staff, students and some retired staff members also participate in the celebrations.

***CSK H.P. Agriculture University SJVN Foundation sign MOU to train 1000 farmers***

Palampur 26 October. CSK H.P. Agriculture University and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam(SJVN) Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) today to train one thousand farmers of Himachal Pradesh.

During MOU signing ceremony, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said skill development programmes through trainings and demonstrations to the young aspiring farmers and entrepreneurs of Himachal Pradesh will help them in a variety of income generating professional activities. He said this will enable farmers to learn integrated agriculture and some of them may even adopt start up programmes in agri- entrepreneurship. This year 40 groups of 25 farmers each will be trained by the University at Directorate of Extension Education and the University Krishi Vigyan Kendras. A sum of Rs 78.13 lakh will be provided by SJVN foundation for theses trainings.

Prof Chaudhary appreciated SJVN for its endeavors for the upliftment of farmers and livestock keepers under Corporate Social Responsibility( CSR). The university had been signing MOU with SJVN Foundation since the year 2016 and more than 3000 farmers were trained on various aspects related to agriculture.

Dr Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, told that all forty trainings will be conducted by the University experts where farmers will be trained and skill development would be under the areas of agriculture, floriculture, vegetable cultivation, mushroom production , bee-keeping, medicinal and aromatic plants, nursery production, dairy farming, poly-house cultivation, plant protection, organic agriculture, start up agri-prenureship and environment impact assessment.

Smt. Seema Kumar, Additional General Manager and Secretary SJVN Foundation, informed that MOU has been signed under *Deen Dayal Upadhyay SJVN Krishi Kaushal Vikas Yojana* for Skill development programme through trainings and demonstrations to the young aspiring entrepreneurs and farmers of Himachal Pradesh under CSR initiative of SJVN Foundation for the year 2021-22. Each trainee will be given a stipend of Rs 1400 and the programme will be completed in this very financial year.

In addition to the University Statutory Officers, Drs Desh Raj Chaudhary, Lav Bhushan and Hirday Paul Singh, Jt.Director (Information & Public Relations) were present during signing of MOU.

SAC at KVK, Kukumseri

***Much to learn from progresive farmers of Lahaul valley: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor. CSKHPAU***

Palampur 18 October. A scientific advisory committee (SAC) meeting of CSK H.P. Agriculture University Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) was held at Kukumseri in district Lahaul & Spiti today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, chaired the meeting and appreciated the hardworking farmers of Lahaul & Spiti. He said that zeal of farmers to imbibe new technology and risk bearing capacity was worth appreciating. “They know the pulse of marketing and have been supplying exotic vegetables to metropolis successfully”, said Vice-Chancellor. Prof Chaudhary said that plans were afoot to strengthnen extension and research activities at Univeristy Research Station and KVK situated at Kukumseri. He also underlined the importance of conservation and presevatiomn of local plant and animal gentic resources. He recalled his prolonged stay in Lahaul in the beginning of his career which enbled him to develop some signitficant varieties like Saptdhara of winter wheat, Triloki Rajmsh of Rajmash and Uday of buckwheat, etc.

The Vice-Chancellor also chaired a farmer-scientist interaction programme and asked the farmers to expoore the possibility of fiseheires, mushroom cultivation, producing medicinal honey, etc. He sought their feedback on several issues including climate change, value addition, etc.

Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education asked the farmers to disucss their farm related issues with the extension specialists to resolve these on priority. Dr. Surinder Kumar Thakur, Programme Coordinator, KVK presented a report of the work done and future programmes.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research, Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, College of Veterinay & Animal Science Dr.Vinod Sharma, Associate Director of Univeristy Research Station at Kukumseri and some scientists from the main campus Palampur also interacted with the farmers and provided them relevent scientific information about agriculture, animal husbandry, etc. A question-answer session was also held. Despite inclement weather, around 200 progressive farmers and district level officers took part in farmer-scientist interaction enthusiastically.

New R & D Initiative of the Farm Varsity:

***CSK H.P.Agriculture University begins tea plantations in non-traditional areas***

Palampur 14 October.CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has initiated a new drive to extend tea-related research and development activities to the non-traditional areas of Himachal Pradesh.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told that fresh tea plantations have been done at the Research Stations and Krishi Vigyan Kendras of the University at Malan, Kangra, Bara, Berthin, Sundernagar, Bajaura and Dhaulakuan situated in different districts with the objective of creating live windows and demonstration-cum-exhibition plots. He said that this will create awareness and interest of the visitors and farmers to these stations. He expressed the hope that the new initiative taken up for the first time will generate information about the impact of climate change on tea cultivation vis-à-vis the scope of extension of tea cultivation in other non-traditional parts of the state situated in Kangra, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Mandi, Kullu and Sirmour districts. In the first leg, 800 new tea plants have been planted.

It is a follow-up of the meeting of the Vice-Chancellor with officers of Tea Board-India, State Tea wing and the University scientists for general awareness on ‘heritage Kangra tea’, an identified produce under the export policy. The Vice-Chancellor said that the University was also exploring the possibility of orchard integration of tea for doubling farmers’ income and offsetting area loss. This campaign has been launched by the Department of Tea Husbandry and Technology of the University in collaboration with the Tea Board of India Zonal Office, Palampur.

***CSK H.P. Agriculture University and Nestle India Ltd sign MOU***

Palampur 12 October.CSK H.P. Agriculture University and Nestle India Ltd. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a project “Nestle Healthy Kids- Increasing awareness on nutrition and health amongst school children.”

Prof H.K.Chaudhry, Vice-Chancellor told this project will enable in imparting nutrition and health education to school children of Himachal Pradesh. During the current year, the project will be implemented in six schools covering around 1000 school children and gradually more schools will be covered under this project. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of Dr.Anupama Sandal and Dr Rajni Modgil, Principal Investigators and their team. He told that this project is running in the University since 2013 in which 6000 school children have been made aware of the good nutrition and healthy life.

MoU was signed by Dr D.K. Vatsa, Director of Research of the University and Mr Harpratap Singh Sidhu, Corporate Manager, Nestle India Ltd,Tahilwal unit(Una) in the presence of Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor and Dr YS Dhaliwal, Dean, College of Community Science.

Expert Group Meeting on Agriculture at CSKHPAU

***Prof Ramesh Chand exhorts scientists to focus on increasing farmers' income***

 Palampur 8 October. A high level review meeting of Expert Group for Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Prof Ramesh Chand,Member, NITI Aayog, Govt of India, was held at CSK H.P.Agricultre University, today.The expert group has been constituted by Govt. of H.P. to prepare an ambitious plan for agriculture sector for the state. While addressing members and others, Shri Ramesh Chand said that candid approach to all issues is always fruitful.He said the expert group will work hard to brighten the future of farmers in the State. Prof Ramesh Chand said that harmonious working in the state was encouraging.He said that the farm institutions have fascinating things but all these were not reaching to all farmers.The skill of marketing was missing and scientists need to enhance it for transfer of relevant technology.Prof Ramesh Chand spoke on sustainability and environment issues while persuing research work.He said it was important for our future.He said that in future, on consumer side India will see clear divide on food front as elite people will be looking for appearance, taste,etc whereas a large class will be looking for available food.So the scientist will be required to work for masses and elite classes too.But attention should be focused on increasing the income of farmers. He said that some constraints are characteristics and scientists should learn to deal with it."Look for opportunities", he advised. Prof Ramesh Chand said that GIs on crops should be commercialized and varietal improvement should continue.Prof Ramesh Chand said that GIs on crops should be commercialized and varietal improvement should continue.He appreciated Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chaudhary for making positive difference in the University functioning.He said that the university has rich legacy and expressed the hope that it will attain great heights. Dr.S.K.Malhotra, Commissioner Agriculture and Horticulture, Govt of India, said that it worrisome that land under fallow is increasing.He discussed issue of absentee farmers and suggested that there should be concrete plan to motivate such farmers.He said that bio fertilizers should be promoted.He said micro irrigation area and nutrient use efficiency should be increased.He advised micro level planning and said that micro irrigation area and nutrient use efficiency should be increased. He also said that diversification is required.He discussed incentives and awards, branding and labelling of products, beekeeping, natural farming, etc

Dr Ajay Kumar Sharma, IAS, Secretary Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Horticulture told that during the budget speech of Chief Minister in the current year, the formation of expert group was announced.He thanked Shri Ramesh Chand for agreeing to head the expert group.He told that some sub groups have been assigned specific work.He expressed the hope that results will be encouraging. As a member of this expert group, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said that the University has worked on current approaches and future strategies for doubling the income of farmers.He said that availability of quality seed, feed and breed at the doorstep of farmers can help them in a big way.

Dr R.K.Pruthi,IAS, Director of Agriculture and Horticulture,H.P. , who is Member Secretary of the expert group also expressed his views.Some presentations were made on on major constraints and agro diversity in H.P., current approaches for doubling the income of farmers, strategy to address the concerns of small and marginal farmers through natural farming, etc.

Sh Naresh Thakur,MD.H.P.Agriculture Marketing Board, Dr Pardeep Sharma,Director Animal Husbandry,H.P. , Sh Satpal Mehta,Director Fisheries,H.P., University,Dr Rajeshwar Chandel,Executive Director PKKKY, University Statutory Officers,scientists and officers from the University and Departments of Agriculture,Animal Husbandry, Horticulutre also took part in the meeting.Some experts including Dr. Shiva Kumar,Head Agriculture,ITC attended the meeting through virtual mode.

7 Oct.Prof [Harinder Kumar Chaudhary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZV5uRgg155K_b1nEhhd7mMDoPKkIEzUmJeQUsDITsWpByvikgJmoM4MCE9UcOd2Mbu7EZXdKFci5jizrsuGmdRCDgarWUfNwlQVZI5zACBgAmR6P60P5nLOsrSRV_eVCBH2VT7uvrHkPRecJ2RUXIC3Ex7C2UYs5Db4hKHs0J-Sx27XOZ6WX5UPPZwpNUUYxhA&__tn__=-%5dK-R), Vice-Chancellor chaired a technical session on 'Innovative Breeding Approaches Enhancing Yield and Quality' during an International Conference on 'Future Challenges & Prospectus in Plant Breeding.' The Vice-Chancellor also presented a paper on 'Chromosome Elimination-An innovative tool for speed and precision breeding in Wheat' in the two days virtual conference organised jointly by the Indian Society of Plant Breeders and Tamil Nadu Agriculture University.

***CSK H.P. Agriculture University and Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute sign MOU***

Palampur 27 September.CSK H.P. Agriculture University and Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Teaching, Research and Technology Dissemination.

Prof H.K.Chaudhry, Vice-Chancellor told that his University and IGFRI, a premier institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), have thoroughly discussed fields of common research interests and allied activities between the two institutions. As per the MOU, both institutions will have long-term collaboration for the promotion of students’ teaching and quality research in cutting edge areas in accordance with the provisions contained in the ICAR Guidelines. This will facilitate joint participation in the Teaching, Research and Technology Dissemination. Prof Chaudhary said that the University will provide office space for the scientists working at IGFRI Regional Research Station, Palampur till it creates its own infrastructure. The IGFRI regional station will facilitate conducting research related to the thesis requirement of the University research students for M.Sc. and Ph.D degree programmes. IGFRI scientists will be associated in teaching  and guidance or research of the University students. Both institutions will make joint efforts for the dissemination and transfer of technologies related to fodder production, conservation, utilization and grassland management to the farmers and other agencies. There are details about Intellectual Property Rights, admissions, fees, etc also in the MOU.

The MOU was signed by Dr Amaresh Chandra, Director, IGFRI and Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor. Dr.T.R.Sharma, Deputy Director General and Dr.Sanjeev Gupta, Assistant Director General, ICAR were also present on this occasion.

Meeting on Intensification and sustenance of pulses in North Hill Zone of India at CSKHPAU

***A*** ***pulse revolution underway in India: Dr.T.R.Sharma, Deputy Director-General, ICAR***

Palampur 24 September.A brainstorming meetingon ‘Intensification and Sustenance of Pulses in North Hill Zone of India’ was held at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

The Chief Guest Dr T.R.Sharma, Deputy Director-General, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), while inaugurating the meeting, said that pulse revolution in the country was underway as this year the production has touched 25 million tons. He asked scientists to intensify work on developing pulses with high protein content, having traits like short duration and climate-resilient. “As taking care of crop production and crop protection measures can being five per cent jump in the crop yields so the profile of each pulse crop should be developed”, suggested Dr Sharma. He also spoke on the importance of developing research centre specific programmes and told that project monitoring and advisory committees system have been streamlined at the ICAR level. Similarly, the working of All India Coordinated Research Projects has been smoothed and strengthened. Dr Sharma told that 71 bio-fortified crop verities have been developed and 35 climate-resilient crop varieties have been dedicated to the nation. He suggested using new communication technology in preparing programmes and linkages with clear output and societal impact objectives.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said that inputs like quality seed, breed and feed at the doorsteps of farmers and facilities like storage, post-harvest processing and assured marketing were a must to enhance productivity and income of the farmers. He suggested strong multi-disciplinary inter and intra institution collaborations and linkages. He said that all institutes must have genetic resource network involving their research centres. He suggested free sharing of germplasm among institutes for the common good of all. Prof Chaudhary said that genetic resources of Himalayas should be brought to the public domain like branded pulses due to their peculiar taste, digestibility and quality. He promised to extend his University resources to other institutes for research work. . He said that major and minor crops should be given importance in research as per the need of the region. He said that he had collected 368 lines of Rajmash across the Himalayas and a popular variety Triloki Rajmash was released. He thanked ICAR for holding central varieties release committee meetings frequently.

Dr.S.K.Sharma, Chairman, Quinquennial Review Team on Pulses, observed that due to shortage of resources and manpower in farm universities and other research institutes, pulses should be prioritized state wise like Rajmash and Urdbean for J&K and H.P. and Urd bean and lentil for Uttrakhand.

Dr.N.P.Singh, Director, Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur elaborated about the challenges and opportunities in pulses research and development in Himalayan hills. He advocated increasing crop intensification for higher yields. Dr. Amrish Chandra, Director, Indian Grassland and Fodder Institute, Jhansi; Dr.Shiv Sewak, Project Coordinator, Pulses; Dr Sanjeev Gupta Assistant Director-General, ICAR, etc. also spoke in the subject. Presentation by research organizations from Kashmir, Jammu, Berthin, Shimla, Pantnagar, Tripura and Meghalaya were made by scientists. Dr.Aditya Partap, Organizing Secretary of the meeting, told that it was a hybrid meeting where besides scientists at Palampur, 80 other scientists from Northern hill states, northeastern states of the country and some foreign institutes joined online.

The Chief Guest released a booklet on Intellectual Property Act Policy Guidelines authored by Drs H.K.Chaudhary, Daizy Basandrai and Virender Kumar. All statutory officers, some progressive farmers, scientists and officers from the University and ICAR institutes also attended the meeting.

***CSKHPAU honours Dr T.R.Sharma, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research honoured***

Palampur 24 September. An alumnus of CSK H.P. Agriculture University Dr T.R.Sharma, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research was honored here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, while presenting a scroll of honour, shawl and Himachali cap to Dr.T.R.Sharma said that the University was proud of his immense contribution to the Indian agriculture and felt elated to honor a star alumnus. He is credited for founding several high tech farm institutes in the country besides developing some promising crop varieties. A student of M.Sc. Plant Pathology in 1990 batch at the University, Dr Sharma is recipient of several awards beginning with Young Scientist Award to prestigious Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Award, etc. He is fellow of all four national science and agriculture academies.He has guided 25 Ph.D students and written 180 research papers. Prof Chaudhary said that Dr Sharma has brought laurels to Himachal Pradesh and the University.

Dr T.R.Sharma, expressed his gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and the University for the honour. He said that his recognition was collective effort of his students and colleagues. It will act as stimulant for his future endeavors. He asked the scientists and students at Palampur not to think that they are sitting in a remote area but consider constraints as opportunities and work hard consistently for the useful breakthroughs in farming. He also remembered his guide and mentor Dr.B.M.Singh, former Dean, College of Agriculture. He congratulated the Vice-Chancellor for keeping an excellent academic atmosphere in the University and bringing a sea change in the environment and creating quality infrastructure for the staff, students and farmers.

*Programme to mark the Birthday of Hon’ble PM and Poshan Abhiyan evam Vriksharopan at CSKHPAU*

***Ladies need healthy and nutritious diet comprising millets: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 17 September. To commemorate the birthday of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and as a curtain raiser to the ‘International year of millets 2023’, a daylong programme on “ National campaign on ‘*Poshan Abhiyan evam Vrikshropan”* was organized at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

While chairing the programme, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor extended greetings on behalf of the whole University community to the Hon’ble Prime Minister. He said that farm ladies sacrifice their all comforts for their family and they should be educated about the importance of healthy and nutritious diet.

He said that ladies play predominant role in hill agriculture and the University has decided to organise ‘*Mahila Krishak Mela’* in the near future where ladies, self help group members, public representatives, etc will be invited from all over the state. He also spoke on the importance of millets, commonly known as ‘*Motta Annaj’* and said that traditional millet crops like amaranthus (*Seul*), buckwheat(*bhares*), *Bathua*, *kodra, kangni, bhares*, etc. should be made an essential part of our diet as theses were rich in nutrients and vitamins like iron, zinc, magnesium, potassium. etc.

Prof Chaudhary saluted ladies for their work efficiency and dedication to family and the society and exhorted male members of the family to take care of their female family members. He said that to give due importance to this special day, the University decided to invite public representative Smt.Monika Sharma Councillor, Municipal Corporation, Palampur as Chief Guest. The Chief Guest Smt Monika Sharma, in her address also underlined the importance of millets which were easy to grow and use. The Vice-Chancellor and Smt. Monika Sharma also distributed 150 fruit and other medicinal plants to all the participants.

Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education also highlighted the role of nutri-cereals in human health. Dean of Community Science College Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal and Head of Horticulture Department Dr S.K.Upadhyay delivered special lectures. Dr. Janardan Singh, Head of Organic Agriculture and Natural Farming-cum-Coordinator informed that the programme was jointly organized by his department in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension Education. Drs. Daizy Basandrai, Gopal Katna and Rakesh Kumar also addressed around 150 farm ladies from different villages surrounding Palampur and the university students.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor and participants attended through virtual mode a programme, “ Nutri-cereals multi-stakeholders and mega convention and *Poshan Vatika* and tree plantation campaign event for the international year of millets 2023 addressed by the Union Minister of Farmers’ Welfare and other dignitaries. KVKs also attended the programme.

***Historical Bee Research Station of CSKHPAU to be upgraded to Bee Heritage Farm of India***

Palampur 13 September. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to upgrade its historical Bee Research Station at Nagrota Bagwan to a Bee Heritage Farm of India. The University has submitted a mega project worth Rs. 6.20 crore to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for this purpose and is hopeful that it will be sanctioned soon so that work is initiated in the Golden Jubilee year of H.P. Statehood.

 Disclosing this, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor informed that this station was established in 1936 under Department of Agriculture, Punjab. It an important station for the information and technical knowhow for beekeeping and is pioneer for introducing exotic *Apis Mellifera* bee, commonly known as European Honey bee, in the country in 1964. Prof. H. K. Chaudhary believes that this heritage farm will be a role model for beekeeping in the country and will be equipped with all modern research and teaching facilities for the benefit of beekeepers from north-western Himalaya and other parts of India.

The Vice-Chancellor informed that scientists learnt about European honey bee species *Apis mellifera* whichproduce 5-10 times more honey as compared toour indigenous bee *A. cerana* and started import efforts and were successful in establishing this exotic bee in country in 1964 by Dr. A.S. Atwal and Sh. O.P. Sharma at this Station. They used inter-specific queen introduction technique which involved introduction of *A. mellifera* mated queens imported from various continents in de-queened colonies of *A. cerana*. This is the landmark contribution of this station and paved the way for scientific rearing of bees and making beekeeping a profitable venture in the country as several colonies were supplied by this station throughout the country. In 1986, the station also supplied *A.melilifera* colonies to Bhutan. The management techniques were standardized, colonies were multiplied and distributed to different agencies from 1975-1986.

At present, Himachal Pradesh has more than 84000 colonies of this exotic bee with annual production of 800-1200 MT of honey. At national level, about 3.5 million colonies of exotic and indigenous beesare maintained in traditional and modern bee hives producing over 120 thousand MT of honey with an export of 61.4 thousand tonnes worth Rs. 1.25 thousand crore. Migratory beekeeping during the year 1983 was vision and effort of the University that India witnessed amber revolution or *honey kranti* during 1990. Besides producing honey, honey bees are excellent pollinators, and pollination of crops by honeybees is most effective and cheapest method of increasing crop yields.

To achieve the mission of doubling farmers’ income by 2022, beekeeping holds considerable potential to meet the set targets. Prof Chaudhary says that the diverse flora in north-western Himalaya yields high valued unifloral and multifloral honey and provides ample opportunities in creating self-employment among educated youth.

NSS camp closing ceremony at COBS, CSKHPAU

***“Serve the society selflessly”; Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary exhorts the students***

Palampur 9 September. A seven days NSS camp concluded at the College of Basic Sciences at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

While distributing certificates to 43 NSS volunteers, Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, appreciated the good work by the volunteers and asked each one of them to serve the society with utmost devotion selflessly throughout life.

Prof Chaudhary said that NSS and NCC help the students to learn serving the nation and feel proud for their contributions, whatever small these may be. He said that all should make cleaning the home and surrounding an essential part of their routine. He asked the volunteers to help the village youngsters and others to keep their villages neat and clean. He said that a joint camp of all constituent colleges should be help to make any village a model. He said that a good beginning can be made from the campus which has more than 125 species of birds. “NSS should not be restricted to cleaning activity only”, advised Prof Chaudhary and asked the volunteers to think and work differently from the crowd and make their mark on the society. He asked them to identify different species of flora and fauna at the campus and publish a research paper on it.

 Dr.V.K.Gupta, Students’ Welfare Officer, told that most of the hostels were closed due to the prevailing situation and the volunteers have done measurable cleaning work in such areas. Dr.Anita Singh, Dean, COBS told that the camp was held at the initiative of the Vice-Chancellor as due to pandemic the college was seeking exemption to hold the camp which was turned down.

NSS programme officer Mr Kapil Sharma told that during the camp, the volunteers thoroughly cleaned the college premises and surroundings and also assisted in community activities.

The students welcomed the Vice-Chancellor and others with NSS song. They conducted the stage too. NSS volunteers Ms Aditi Bhuria and Shaveta also expressed their views.

The college scientists and students attended the function.

***CSKHPAU to get GI for red rice and other crops***

Palampur 9 September. CSK H.P. Agriculture University has recently submitted application for GI(Geographical Indication) registration of Japonica Red Rice of the state to the Geographical Indications Registry Office, Chennai.

This was disclosed by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor. He said that the University was also working on three projects on the aspect of GI tagging of Red Rice of the state, Karsog Kulthi and Chamba Chukh. He has directed the scientists to file at least fifty GI registration applications in this Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood. After getting GI, the farmers get national and international recognition for that particular crop or commodity which helps them to get highly remunerative price benefitting them financially.

Elaborating on red rice, he told that one of the many treasures of Himachal Pradesh is its red rice varieties. These include *Chhohartu* from Shimla district; *Sukara, Jhinjan* and *Karad* from Chamba district; *Jattu, Deval* and *Matali* from Kullu district; and *Desi Dhan*, *Kalizhini*, *Achhoo*, and *Begmi* from Kangra district grown in different parts of the state at different altitudes since times immemorial. Red kernelled rices command higher price, nutritionally superior, rich in iron and zinc and numerous trace elements and vitamins and in addition have high anti-oxidant properties. These red rice varieties belong to both *indica* and *japonica* sub-species. Prof H.K.Chaudhary told that unlike red rices of Kerala and other states, the red rices of H.P are adapted to cooler climates. In view of this, the University is making efforts to get GI for *Japonica* Red Rices adapted to areas above 1000m amsl in the State. In addition of being nutritive and having medicinal value, red rices possess many other special features. Red rice is also an important part of all religious ceremonies in Himachal Pradesh**.** *Chhohartu*, a farmers’ red rice variety grown in Chhohara Valley, Rohru (Shimla) is a part of cultural heritage of the area. Since times immemorial the paddy of this variety is gifted under different names on various occasions like marriages, religious ceremonies, child birth etc. The rice of this variety is served during community lunches and *yajnas*. The *Pichh,* excess water of thick consistency decanted after cooking of rice, of this red rice is considered very useful for pregnant ladies and children. Red rice is also used for making beverages in many areas of the state.

According to Prof H.K.Chaudhary his University has maintained more than 30 land races of red rice collected from different parts of the State. The University has released two improved varieties of red rice viz; HPR 2720 (*Palam Lal Dhan 1*) and HPR 2795(*Him Palam Lal Dhan 1*) with high iron and zinc content besides having tolerance to major diseases and pests. Prof. Chaudhary told that the University has got the ‘*Chhoartu Lal Dhan’* land race from Rohru registered from Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers Rights Authority at the national level.

The University has constituted task forces for GI registration of different crops, animal genetic resources and commodities of Himachal Pradesh like Red Rice, Basmati Rice, Rajmash (from Chamba, Bharmour, Barot, Kinnaur , Lahaul & Spiti and Seraj Areas ), Kulthi ( from Karsog, Nurpur, Sirmour and Shimla), Mash (from Chamba, Berthin and Sirmour ), White Honey, Ginger, Zimikand, Nadauni Mooli, Cucumber, Ghandiali, Foxtail Orchid (Rhynchostylis retusa), Gaddi dog, Spiti Pony, Tissa pony and pashmina , chigu goat, Poultry (Red Jungle Fowl), Products and Goods prepared by the college of Community Home Science, Pattu and Dohroo, Seabuckthorn, Kinnauri Chulli and Mori,etc. The Vice-Chancellor himself is chairman of a task force to get GI for Rajmash.

Teachers’ Day Celebrations at CSKHPAU

***Tough to become a good teacher: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 6 September. The Teachers’ Day was celebrated at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

While presiding over the function, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said the former President of India Dr.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the great teacher and philosopher continuous to inspire all. He told that it was only teachers who enlighten their students selflessly and their greatest joy is to see their students excel in life. The Vice-Chancellor said that the world has become very competitive now and all are under regular scrutiny. To become a good teacher is very tough and they have a big responsibility towards the students, the society and the nation.

Prof Chaudhary said that professional institutions like farm universities demand truthful research for the common good of society. One has to be true to the science and plan experiments in an innovative way having impact on the farmers’ welfare. He asked scientists to improve thinking and planning to compete at the national and international level. He said that the scientists should become leaders in some of the areas like temperate gasses, commodities present in mountains, gene sequences, molecular cytogenetics, etc. He asked all teachers to consider teachers’ day as an introspection time and improve themselves. He also asked the students to imbibe good virtues of their teachers and create a niche for themselves in this world. “Be different and depict yourself at the world level,” exhorted the Vice-Chancellor. He said that all should take it a challenge to take forward the vision and mission of the University.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Agriculture University Jammu Dr P.K.Sharma, Keynote speaker and Chief Guest, delivered a lecture on ‘The art of writing a research paper.’ He detailed important parameters of a good research papers like focus, data, simple writing style, small sentences, proper title, genuine author sequence, proper introduction, results, discussions, conclusions, grammatically correct language, etc. He said that agriculture research paper writing is an art and one must sharpen one’s skill to write a good quality research paper.

Dr Rishi Mahajan welcomed and thanked all.The students Chandan Thakur, Nidhi Sharma and Vishakha Pathania shared their experiences in the University and thanked teachers for their regular efforts to groom them. The University statutory officers, scientists and students attended the function.

***Training on Protected Cultivation concludes at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 28 August.A four days training on protected cultivation concluded at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

This was sixth training programme under ‘*Mukhymanti Nutan Polyhouse Priyojna’* of the total 52 such trainings sponsored by the State Department of Agriculture to the University. Twenty nine farmers from Una, Hamirpur, Solan, Bilaspur and Kullu districts took part in the training. Prof Madhumet Singh, Director of Extension Education presented certificates to the trainees and asked them to share the gained knowledge among other farmers of their area. He told that more than 150 farmers of the State has been trained in protected cultivation this year. Dr Lav Bhushan, training incharge also addressed the farmers. Some farmers like Shri Manoj Kumar, Vishal Sharma and Bhagwan Das thanked the University for the training.

***Virtual national training on organic and natural farming concludes at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 26 August.A three days virtual national training on organic and natural farming concluded at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

This training was jointly organized by the Directorate of Extension Education of the University and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. During the training various aspects related to crop, vegetable, fruit, fodder, dairy products and quality organic food production under organic and natural farming were discussed by the speakers. The visuals with experimental results of natural farming trials in the University were shared with the participants. It evoked great interest among all the participants as CSKHPAU is the very first University in the country to initiate research work on natural farming.

In the inaugural session Dr Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education-cum-Course Director emphasized the importance of quality food to avoid health hazards due to injudicious use of agro-chemicals in crop and animal husbandry. Dr Vishal Dogra, Course Coordinator told that there was immense response for the training from all over the country and this shows the relevance of this topic in current times. Dr B. Renuka Rani, Deputy Director, MANAGE said that in future also MANAGE will organize such trainings in collaboration with CSKHPAU.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has appreciated the Directorate of Extension Education for taking initiative to organise the virtual training and highlighting the importance of natural and organic farming.

In this training 13 specialized lectures were delivered by the faculty of university and other institutes. The training was attended by more than 200 extension functionaries from State department of agriculture and allied sectors, faculty of farm universities , State Agriculture Management and Training Institutes, NGOs, scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Krishi Vigyan Kendars from as many as 22 states of the country. An evaluation test was conducted at the end of training sessions and successful candidates will be given e-certificates by MANAGE, Hyderabad.

***CSKHPAU launches new digital services for the students and farmers: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 24 August. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University launched two new services for the students and farming community during the convocation held yesterday. Disclosing this, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that the facility of National Academic Depository (NAD) digilocker will provide access to the students for their authentic digital degrees and other academic documents. Newly updated website of the University includes dedicated Kisaan portal for transfer of technologies. Now, the farmers will be able to get scientific solutions to their crop, animal husbandry and related problems in simple Hindi on Kisaan Portal.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the NAD Digilocker ecosystem comprises academic institutions, students, verifying partners on NAD repository.The University has taken lead among farm varsities to publish the degrees on NAD Digilocker platform which will digitally empower the students and will help in making the institution paperless. The students can register themselves on the Digilocker and can access the Degree Certificates directly on their account and mobile phones just like Licence, Adhaar card, etc. The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents. He appreciated the National e-Governance Division and the Project team of Digilocker for their support in the implementation of this service in the University.

Prof H.K. Chaudhary said that the University has also updated its website by making it user friendly. The relevant academic, research and extension education information has been designed in an interactive and dynamic manner at par with international standards. As per the needs of National Education Policy 2020, the students will find it convenient to search the ongoing research programs and future dimensions. The website is bilingual and includes a dedicated Kisaan portal for transfer of technologies. The farmers can ask questions directly from the field and get fast and reliable solutions from the University experts. They may also upload the relevant photos along with their questions in Hindi or English on the portal. He said that the directions have been issued to resolve theses queries on priority by a dedicated group of experts. The scientists will be providing solutions either by a visit, if necessary or through telephone or whatsapp. On Kisaan Portal, short videos of success stories and agro technologies of the farmers across the state will also be made available. As per the need, the University will keep modifying the Kisaan Portal and its website.

**Hon’ble Governor and Hon’ble CM participate in Convocation of CSK H. P. Agriculture University**

 16th Convocation of Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University Palampur was held at the University Auditorium at Palampur in Kangra district today. Hon’ble Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar presided over the Convocation while Hon’ble Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

 While delivering his address, the Hon’ble Governor appealed to the young scientists and degree holders to become job givers instead of job seekers, for which they should move towards self-employment. Their knowledge should benefit the society and the agricultural community in particular. He added that apart from the academic contribution, the contribution should also remain in the agriculture sector of the state. He said that youth were the assets of the country and should contribute towards nation building activities. He said that the nation could develop only when youth were focused, disciplined and growth oriented and urged them to inculcate good values like discipline, patriotism, sincerity and devotion.

 Shri Arlekar said that innovation through research and technology would be helpful in self-dependence of the farming community at large. While congratulating the gold medal winners, all degree recipients and esteemed alumni, the Governor said that the sapling planted in the form of this university by former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar on November 1, 1978 today had become a center of high learning in the country. He said that the vision given by Shanta Kumar needs to be taken forward and it was our responsibility to contribute in this direction.

 He said that the university was doing excellent work in the field of education, research and dissemination. He said that last year, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ranked this university 14th in the ranking of all agricultural universities and equivalent agricultural institutions in the country, for which he applauded the university authority. He advised them to work more so that this university could attain the highest ranking in the country.
  “I would especially say to the students who have obtained graduation and post-graduation degrees that they should work with dedication towards society, nation and state. You have to make good use of the education and knowledge given by this university”, said Governor.

While addressing the Convocation, Hon’ble Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said that Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar H.P. Agriculture University was one of the leading Universities in agricultural research and education in the Himalayan States of the country.  He said that about 90 percent of the population of Himachal Pradesh lives in rural areas with agriculture as main occupation. The research in agriculture becomes all the more important in strengthening the economy of the State. Thus, one cannot even think of development of the State without development of the rural areas. Keeping in view, the contribution of agriculture, the State Government has launched various schemes to improve productivity, generate employment and increase family income, he added.

 Shri Jai Ram Thakur said that even during the Corona pandemic, the support provided by the agriculture sector was immense. He said that the world economy was adversely affected, but the farming community ensured that firm support was provided to the dwindling economy of the country.The nation was fortunate to have a strong leadership in form of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to successfully bail out the country from this crisis. He said that despite all odds the Prime Minister ensured that the country becomes self-sustainable in essentials such as PPE kits, ventilators and now even vaccine. He said that today the country was successfully running the biggest vaccination campaign of the world.

 Hon’ble Chief Minister said that the Prime Minister was concerned about the welfare of the farming communities of the country and has started Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna to provide financial assistance to the farmers particularly during the pandemic. As many as 9.32 lakh farmers of the State have been provided financial assistance of Rs. 1350 crore under this scheme.  He said that the State Government was implementing Prakritik Kheti, Khushal Kisan' scheme to increase the income of farmers without chemicals and with less investment.  The JICA Project has been implemented in all the districts of the State, which will increase the area under fruits and vegetables.  He said that the State Government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Khet Sanrakshan Yojana, for protection of crops from monkeys, wild animals and stray cattle.  He said that the State has entered 51st year of Statehood and suggested the University to organize an event to showcase the journey of the State in the field of agriculture sector.

Hon’ble Chief Minister said that research  on agricultural production techniques, different crop varieties, land and water management, use and conservation of biological resources, water storage, disease and pest control techniques for different areas was vital not only to ensure optimum use of our natural resources and increase crop yield, but also strengthen the economy of the farmers. He said that this University has emerged as a premier of agriculture University in the country and credit of this goes to the hard work and dedication of the teaching and non-teaching staff and students of this University. He also wished the medal and award winning students a very bright and successful future.

Hon’ble Governor and Hon’ble Chief Minister also dedicated University Digi-locker and updated website of the University.

Book ‘Ricebean: Exploiting the nutritional potential of an underutilized legume’ written by Dr. Rajan Katoch, book ‘Pests of Fruit and Plantation Crops’ written by R.S. Chandel, book ‘Maize-Golden Grain of Himachal Pradesh’ written by Dr R.K. Raju and Combined Report of the University were also released on the occasion.

 Earlier, the Hon’ble Governor and the Hon’ble Chief Minister dedicated the Harit VVIP guest house constructed in the campus by spending an amount of Rs 1.13 crore.
 Former Hon’ble Chief Minister Shanta Kumar said that he was fortunate that this University was established about 43 year ago when he was the Chief Minister of the State and during all these years, this University has created a special niche for itself amongst the Agriculture Universities of the Country. He said that it was due to the hard-work, toil and research of the scientists of the Agriculture Universities that today India was self-sustainable in food grains production and capable of providing free ration to about 80 crore people of the country during the pandemic. He said that devotion to duty was no sacrifice but a mere show of our existence, thus we should live for others and for the society to make out existence fruitful.
 H.P. Vidhan Sabha Hon’ble Speaker Vipin Singh Parmar while congratulating the medal winning students and the students who were provided degrees, congratulated them as their hard work and dedication have borne fruits. He said that even during the Corona pandemic, the economy of the State could sustain due to the sound base provided by the agriculture sector. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a vision to double the farmers' income of the country by the year 2022. He said that to achieve this objective, the role of agriculture scientists was vital. He said that this University was one of the premier University of Agriculture in the country.

Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Harinder Kumar Chaudhary welcomed the Governor, Chief Minister and other dignitaries present on the occasion. He said that as many as 393 students were being awarded degrees during this convocation including 262 graduate, 110 post graduate and 21 Ph.Ds. He said that eight students would be awarded University Gold Medals whereas two alumni Nand Lal Sharma and Tilak Raj Sharma would be honoured on the occasion. He also detailed various research and academic works being carried out by the University. He said that the University would also start registering 51 indigenous unique products/commodities of traditional crops of Himachal with various national agencies from this golden jubilee year.

MLAs Mulk Raj Premi and Ravinder Kumar, Chairman Woolfed Trilok Kapoor Chairman MILKFED Nihal Chand Sharma, former MLA Praveen Kumar, Vice Chancellor Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Forestry and Horticulture Nauni Prof. Parwinder Kaushal, CMD SJVNL Nand Lal Sharma, Professors and students of the University and parents of the award winning were present on the occasion among others.

Press Conference of the Vice-Chancellor

**The Governor to preside over; Chief Minister Chief Guest in CSKHPAU convocation on 23 August: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary**

Palampur 3 August. CSK H.P. Agriculture University will organise its 16th convocation on 23 August. This was disclosed by Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, during a Press Conference, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Chancellor of the University has given his consent to hold the Convocation and will also preside over this important academic ceremony. Shri Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister will be the Chief Guest and Shri Shanta Kumar, former Chief Minister credited with establishing this University in November 1978 will be the esteemed Guest of Honour. He told that Shri Virender Kanwar, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Shri Vipin Singh Parmar, Speaker, H.P.Vidhan Sabha will also grace the Convocation as Guests of Honour.

Prof Chaudhary informed that among 393 degree recipients, 262 graduates of four constituent colleges will be awarded degrees and 110 candidates will be awarded degrees in Masters’ programmes in Agriculture, Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Home Science and Basic Science. In doctoral progammes, 21 candidates will receive their degrees. Eight students will be awarded University Gold Medals.

The Vice-Chancellor said that preparations for the Convocation are in full swing and Covid-19 instructions will be followed strictly. Live streaming of the ceremony will be done enabling the students and parents to watch the Convocation who are unable to attend. The University will also launch its updated user friendly website having a Kisan Portal in Hindi.

Shri Sandeep Sharma, HAS, Registrar and Dr.Hirday Paul Singh, Joint Director (Information & PR) were present in the Press Conference attended by around twenty Media persons.

***Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU, exhorts farmers to grow specialized crops***

Palampur 3 August. Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University has asked the farmers to take advantage of their specialized crops to take lead in earning money and name. He was addressing a group of 35 red rice farmers from Chamba district during their training-cum-interaction programme at Rice and Wheat Research Station of the University at Malan today.

 Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that the people in metropolis have understood the importance of red rice so it was in demand. He asked the young farmers to learn more about the ‘Karad’ red rice and conserve it. He said that it was important to conserve and propagate traditional crop varieties of Chamba district. He expressed his happiness that administrative officers of the district were taking interest in agriculture development in the district. Prof Chaudhary said that he always felt blessed to meet farmers in their fields. He asked farmers to get in touch with the university and its research and extension centres for their farm related issues.

 Shri Bachan Sing, SDM, Bhatiya, Mrs. Sunyana Sharma, District Tourism Development Officer detailed about various government schemes and agro-tourism.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research, Dr.Kuldeep Dhiman, Deputy Director Agriculture Chamba and Dr Jeet Singh, Deputy Director Agriculture, Palampur, Dr.Ajay Srivastava, Scientist Incharge of the Rice and Wheat Station, Drs.S.P.Dixt,Daizy Basandrai,A.D.Bindra, Sachin Upmanyu, etc also expressed their views.

***Training for internal committee on ‘Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 31 July. A training programme for internal complaints committee (ICC) was held at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

The Chief Guest Dr. Daisy Thakur, Chairperson, H.P.State Commission for Women underlined the importance of the ‘Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.’ She said that the members of ICC must be aware about the provisions of this act which ensures equality and safe working environment to the women staff. She elaborated about the major rules, regulations and provisions of this act and asked the members to maintain absolute confidentiality when they receive and process any complaint. She told that the commission was creating awareness about the act as women were nor much aware about their rights at workplace.

Guest of Honour Shri Sandeep Sood, HAS, Registrar, said that the respect for women should be inculcated at the family level so that we consider our all colleagues, including female staff, as our family members and give them due respect and dignity to work. He informed that the University was providing all opportunities to its female students and staff to pursue their goals without any restrictions. The University was providing dignity and safety to all.

Dr.Vedna Kumar, Chairperson, ICC, told that at present there was no pending complaint in with her from the University staff. The committee comprises nine members from the different colleges and offices representing all teaching and non-teaching staff with two outside members also. Dr.Anjali Sood, District Attorney Shri Sanjeev Rana also expressed their views.

Shri Anuj Verma, Assistant District Attorney, HP State Commission for Women conducted the training attended by Drs.Sudheer Rana, Ashok Panda, Daisy Rani, Usha Rana, Anuradha Sharma, Anju Bala, Ravi Kant Sharma, etc.

Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean. Dr. GC Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences and Dr.Hirday Paul Singh, Jt.Director (Information & PR) and some students were present in the inaugural ceremony.

Honouring Ceremony at CSKHPAU

***Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary honours two progressive farmers and three KVKs***

Palampur 27 July. Progressive farmers Shri Hariman Sharma and Shri Sanjay Kumar were honored in a ‘*Samman Samaroh’* (honoring ceremony) by CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, while decorating both farmers with a certificate, shawl and cap, said that he was happy that his recommendation for prestigious national level ‘*Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Puruskar’* for innovations to   Shri Hariman Sharma from village Paniyala (Bilaspur) and another recommendation for ‘*Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antodaya Krishi Puruskar’* for outstanding performance to Shri Sanjay Kumar from village Palhuta (Mandi) were dully honored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research awards (ICAR). Both farmers shared Rs. One Lakh prize each with two other farmers from other states.

The Vice-Chancellor said that both farmers were suitably recognized by the University as University's *Krishi Doot* (Agricultural Ambassadors) and their photographs with citations were displayed in the Statehood Golden Jubilee Farmers’ Gallery inaugurated in the University in January, this year. They are the embodiment of motivation to farmers of Himachal Pradesh. He expressed the hope that these national awards by the ICAR will also encourage other progressive farmers to take up the University technology on a massive scale.

The Vice-Chancellor also honored three *Krishi Vigyan Kendras*(KVK) of the University for bagging awards in the Zonal Workshop of ICAR, held recently. Programme Coordinator(PC) Dr. Suman Kumar and his team from KVK, Berthin were awarded for bagging ‘Best KVK Award’ and ‘Second Presentation Award’ among all KVKs in H.P. On behalf of PC Dr. Surender Kumar Thakur; Dr Luv Bhushan and KVK team from Lahaul & Spiti were awarded for remaining ‘Second Best KVK’ among all KVKs in H.P. and PC Dr.Sanjay Sharma and his team from KVK, Kangra were awarded for getting ‘Best Presentation Award’ in the State.

Prof. Chaudhary said that he was duty bound and felt blessed to work tirelessly for the welfare of farmers. He will endeavor to get ‘best university award to CSK HPAU’ among all farm varsities in the country. The first step for it was to make all plans farmer centric. Several efforts have been initiated to get recognition for specialized and specific hill crops as the hill state cannot compete with plains for production of major crops of those states. He asked all staff members to excel in their given jobs to advance the university mandate and rank.

Both farmers expressed their gratitude to the University KVKs and scientists for their regular guidance enabling them to make remarkable progress in farming. They exhorted all farmers to get guidance from the University to increase their yields and income. Programme Coordinators of KVKs also thanked the Vice-Chancellor for honoring them.

Dr Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, told that the acceptance of the University technology by farming community has proved its worth time and again. He honored Shri Bishan Das Chaudhary, father of the Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary, for gracing the occasion despite his advance age.

 Dr D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research; Dr. Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Science; Dr. R.K.Kataria, Dean, College of Agriculture and Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal, Dean, College of Community Science also congratulated the farmers.

All Statutory Officers, PCs of all University KVKs, Head of Departments, scientists and some progressive farmers were present in the ‘*Samman Samaroh*.’

***CSKHPAU NCC cadets visit Shaheed Capt. Saurabh Kalia home***

Palampur 26 July. To commemorate the Kargil Vijay Diwas, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University sent NCC cadets of the University to the home of Shaheed Capt.Saurabh Kalia at Palampur. They paid their tributes to Capt Kalia, who was an alumnus of the University and the first martyr in the Kargil war.

The parents of Capt Kalia appreciated this gesture by the University NCC cadets. Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that the nation was proud of its martyrs and the University cadets will be sent to the families of martyrs of this area to get inspiration and learn about their supreme sacrifices for the nation.

He also appreciated NCC officer Dr.Ankur Sharma and Dr Nishant Verma.

***CSKHPAU veterinary scientists organize animal infertility treatment camps in Spiti valley***

Palampur 20 July.A team of veterinary scientists from CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University organized seven infertility treatment camps in different parts of Spiti Sub-division of District Lahaul & Spiti from 14-20 July.

The camps were organized in at villages Guling, Sagnam, Tashigung, Gette, Kibber, Kaza and Chichong situated between the altitude of 12000 -15300 feet height above mean sea level. Tashigung village is world's highest polling station at 15,256 feet . The camps were organised in collaboration with the State Department of Animal Husbandry under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) project, entitled “Investigation and management of infertility in bovines of H.P.with special reference to high altitude tribal areas”, to investigate the status of infertility in bovines reared in tribal areas of H.P.

Prof. Madhumeet Singh, team leader, told that around 150 cows and *Churi* (crossbred of Yak and Cows) were examined and treated in these camps, with the main emphasis to record reproductive abnormalities in milch animals reared by the farmers in Tribal areas. The scientists collected blood samples to study their minerals, biochemical and hormonal profile and also genital discharge samples for detailed diagnosis of uterine infections. Faecal samples were also collected to study the parasitic load in animals in this area and their relationship with infertility. Free treatment was provided to the animals.Prof. Madhumeet Singh, Director Extension Education and head of the Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics told that this department is rendering specialized services to the farmers in different parts of the state for treatment of various reproductive disorders with an aim to reduce the incidence of infertility.

Prof Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, while appreciating the scientists for serving the farmers in remote and less accessible tribal areas under adverse weather and pandemic conditions, told that during the last 8 years, scientists from this department have organized 287 infertility treatment camps under RKVY projects in diverse parts of the State, including more than 125 camps in tribal and other very remote locations. Area wise mapping of reproductive ailments through clinic-gynaecological examination, nutritional deficiencies through blood investigations, parasitic infestation responsible for reproduction problems and microflora (bacteria and fungi) responsible for uterine infections is being done. He said that the dedication of scientists was worth emulating for young scientists. The Vice-Chancellor also interacted on phone with some of the farmers of Spiti.

Besides Prof. Madhumeet Singh, the team members included Dr.Pravesh Kumar and Mr. Vijay Rana from the Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics

Vice-Chancellor’s recommendations honoured by the ICAR

***Two H.P. farmers   got national award on the recommendations of Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 17 July. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agricultural University has extended his greeting to two progressive farmers from the State who were awarded on the occasion of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) foundation day yesterday.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary had recommended the name of  Shri Hariman Sharma from village Panyala (Bilaspur) for the prestigious national level ‘*Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Puruskar’* for his innovations in his recommendation  letter in early February, this year. Shri Sharma has shared this Rs. One lakh award with another farmer from Bihar. Another recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor was for Shri Sanjay Kumar from village Plauhta (Mandi) for the ‘*Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antodaya Krishi Puruskar’* to recognize his outstanding performance . Shri Sanjay has also shared this Rs. One lakh award with another farmer from Gujarat.

The Vice-Chancellor said that both farmers were duly recognized by the University as University's Agricultural Ambassadors (*Krishi Doot*) and their photographs with citations were displayed in the Statehood Golden Jubilee Farmer's Gallery inaugurated in the University in January, this year. They are the epitome of inspiration to farmers of the state. He added that this national level recognition by the ICAR will also motivate other progressive farmers to adopt the scientific technology developed by the University and propagated among farmers by *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* and the State Deptt. of Agriculture.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary also expressed his gratitude to the ICAR for honoring his recommendations for these  hard-working farmers from Himachal Pradesh. Both farmers have thanked the University and Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary for recommending their name to ICAR enabling them to get this rare national honour.

ICAR Foundation Day Celebrations

***350 saplings of fruit trees planted in the Golden Jubilee Nutrition Garden at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 16 July. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University commemorated the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) foundation day by planting 350 saplings of fruit trees in the Golden Jubilee Nutrition Garden here today.

Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudahry, Vice-Chancellor, after planting a sapling of medicinal value plant *Harad* , addressed the scientists and students and conveyed greeting to the ICAR for its commendable work in the last 92 years. He underlined the importance of planting trees and exhorted all to plant at least two trees in their home or surroundings. He said that Himachal Pradesh has several species of trees like Fig, Tooni, Khirik and Beul etc. which are grown on bunds in the villages. He appreciated that 350 saplings of fruit trees such as Malta, *Mousambi*, Mandarine, *Kagzi* lime, Grapefruit, Sweet lime, *Galgal*, *Baramasi* lemon, Guava, Litchi, Mango, Fig, *Jamun* and trees of medicinal value such as *Harad, Bhera,* Aonla, *Lasora, Tejpatta* etc were planted today. He announced that university will introduce a course for its students from the ensuing academic session where they will have to plant two saplings and take care of these plantations during their stay in the University. They will be given marks and certificates based on their tree plantation and care. He applauded the whole staff for working tirelessly and helping him to take forward the university.

Later, the Vice-Chancellor also attended the ICAR foundation day programme through virtual mode.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research told that the theme of the programme was *‘Her Merh per Perh’*. Dr. SK Upadhyay , Head, Deptt. of Horticulture & Agroforestry informed that a program was also organized in Band Bihar village where 150 trees of different Agroforestry species like *Reetha, Tooni, Amla* and Silver oak were planted by the farmers on their individual lands and also on the community land.

Statutory officers, head of the Departments, scientists, non-teaching staff and post graduate students attended the programme at the University.

The Vice-Chancellor’s weeklong Review Meeting at Dr G.C.Negi COVAS

***CSKHPAU to institute excellence in research award for young scientists: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 3 July. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to institute ‘Vice-Chancellor’s Best Department Award’ and ‘Vice-Chancellor’s excellence award for early research in career award’.

After wrapping up his weeklong review of all 18 departments and interacting with all scientists working in Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, announced that two awards to develop competitive spirit among 40 departments in the University and to encourage young scientists to excel in their initial five years professional career, will be instituted. The Vice-Chancellor said that excellent work was done in the collage and it must reach the livestock keepers and farmers in an easy to understand written and visual form during the current Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood.

Prof Chaudhary expressed his satisfaction that a good number of young scientists have joined the college during the last one year and exhorted them to work in collaboration with national and international institutes, win fellowships and awards help farmers and others to take up Starups and develop economically viable and useful technologies.

The Vice-Chancellor said that many pockets in the State have unique problems which require focussed research and out of box thinking can produce wonderful results. He said that each scientist must have research project to the tune of Rs.10 lakh or more and every eligible teacher should guide at least one student in post graduate research. “For systematic treatment of animal disease, the scientist may also study old scriptures, *Vedas*, *Shastras* and consult old farmers to gain traditional knowledge and document it.” He also suggested establishing herbal garden to utilize plants and provide knowledge to the students.

Prof Chaudhary said that the disease forecasting system in valleys and other areas need to be developed and important recommendations for all field veterinary hospitals and farmers should be developed as the University and farmers have high expectations from COVAS. He said that enriching meadows and pastures with improved fodder and grasses and developing supplements of proteins and minerals for migratory sheep and goat will increase their production.

He said that COVAS has gained respect and prestige among all veterinary colleges in the country and the University will extend all support in its endeavours for international recognition.

Dean Dr Mandeep Sharma, Director of Research Dr D.K.Vatsa, Director Extension Education Dr Madhumeet Singh and Students’ Welfare Officer Dr.V.K.Gupta also thanked the Vice-Chancellor for taking keen interest in the college activities and freely interacting with the students and all staff members.

***Webinar on National Statistics Day-2021 at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 29 June. To celebrate ‘National Statistics Day-2021’, a webinar was organized at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

Chief Guest Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, discussed various statistical techniques to improve research in the field of agriculture and allied sciences. He exhorted the youngsters to understand the importance of statistics and its role in day to day life. Prof Chaudhary recalled the contributions of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, on whose birth anniversary this day is celebrated.

Guest of honor and keynote speaker Prof. Narinder Kumar from Deptt. of Statistics, Panjab University, Chandigarh spoke on the evolution of statistics from the beginning of civilization to modern era.

Prof. Anita Singh, Dean College of Basic Sciences, Prof. Sharda Singh, Head, Department of Physical Sciences and Languages, Mr. Arun Kumar and Dr. Banti Kumar also participated in the webinar attended by around 250 students and research scholars.

***Thirteen crop varieties for farmers by CSKHAPAU scientists***

Palampur 25 June. Thirteen crop varieties developed by CSK H.P. Agriculture University have been released for cultivation in Himachal Pradesh. This was disclosed by Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, here today.

The newly developed and released wheat variety HPW 373 (Him Palam Gehun 3) has been recommended for late sown rainfed conditions in low and mid hills of Himachal Pradesh. It has good *chapatti* making quality parameters coupled with high degree of resistance against yellow rust and leaf rust coupled with high yield potential of 28.0 – 32.0 quintal per hectare. Barley variety HBL 804(Him Palam Jau 2) is a dual purpose, 6 rowed, hulled barley variety, suitable for timely sown rainfed conditions in low and mid hills of Himachal Pradesh. It has high degree of resistance to stripe and brown rusts and have average green fodder yield of 25-30 q/ha and grain yield of 20-25 q/ha. The variety matures in about 170-185 days. The soybean variety Him Palam Hara Soya-1((Himso-1685) has been recommended for rainfed conditions in mid-hill zone of H.P. It has average seed yield 20-22q/ha; average oil content 20.10 percent; average protein content 30.6 percent and is highly resistant against frogeye leaf spot, pod blight, bacterial pustule and brown spot diseases. Mustard variety Trombay Him Palam Mustard-1 has been recommended for timely sown, irrigated conditions in low and mid-hill areas of H.P. It has average seed yield 11.2q/ha; average oil content 39.9 percent and is moderately susceptible reaction against *Alternaria* blight at leaf stage.

Other than these cereal and oil seed varieties, nine vegetable crop varieties have also been released. These include two varieties of garden pea Him Palam Matar-1 and Him Palam Matar-2, one variety of edible pod pea Him Palam Meethi Phali-2, two varieties of Chilli Him Palam Mirch-1 and Him Palam Mirch-2, Parthenocarpic cucumber Him Palam Kheera-1, cherry tomato variety Him Palam Cherry yellow, onion variety Him Palam Shweta and radish variety Him Palam Mooli-1

The Vice-Chancellor has expressed the hope that the State farmers will adopt the newly developed and released varieties. These varieties will certainly increase their harvests and income. He has appreciated Dr. Vijay Rana, Late Dr Naval Kishore and Drs. Vedna Kumari, Viveka ,Akhilesh Sharma, Sonia Sood, Parveen Sharma and Sanjay Chadha for developing these varieties for the farmers of Himachal Pradesh.

***International Yoga Day at CSK H.P. Agriculture University***

Palampur 21 June. International Yoga Day was celebrated at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Prof [Harinder Kumar Chaudhary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXJ28OjZGdbAga3MHfDsj9QMEMH0ZnHZ-IO4Vgim33CKGkFi3H6JnFQYiE_fnQRrYYtIVbx6NBpBa1HV_r6of0xqUqpEVFhXRJV6EqCko9gRb7JO7BdjWNUZ0sEEIg0umoREvLs_kdX-_R3WBd9VeaS1TUbuKDQYMb5PmrZCM8ZjvJ28ydxsCO1f80Ylv_M9EQ&__tn__=-%5dK-R), Vice-Chancellor, after attending the hour long session, said that Yoga has, again, proved its importance and relevance during the pandemic. All those who practice it daily know well that it has been able to keep physical and mental health in positive shape. Yoga helps one to move from the state of stress to strength so all should make it an essential part of their daily routine. Prof Chaudhary wished excellent health to all staff members and students.

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the Registrar and SWO for regularly arranging Yoga session and also thanked yoga teacher Ms.Sneh. Statutory officers and some staff members were present on the occasion and the University community participated in it through online mode.

***Shri Virender Kanwar exhorts scientists and farm officers to make H.P. self reliant in seeds***

Palampur 17 June. Shri Virender Kanwar, Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Govt. of H.P. has exhorted the scientists and farm officers to make the state self reliant on seed requirements of major crops. The Minister was chairing a meeting of scientists and officers at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

Shri Kanwar said that progressive farmers should be involved in massive seed production programme and efforts should be made to make Himachal Pradesh self sufficient in its seed requirements to save resources and have check on quality. He informed that there was a boon in agriculture and horticulture during the pandemic as a large number of people have adopted farming after returning to their roots from big cities. He said that industrialization propelled migration from villages to cities and some people considered farming inferior and now youngsters want to join petty government jobs. Such people should be given different farming models so that they gladly adopt agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, etc.

He recalled the times when farmers used to grow cereal and pulses , rear milch cattle and other animals but they abandoned such integrated system of farming due to green revolution. He also underlined the need to check unauthorised sale and quality of insecticides, pesticides, animal feed and other farm inputs. Shri Kanwar said that that only that research is worth which is useful to the farming community. He also advised the University to make serious efforts for becoming self reliant by enhancing domestic income He suggested adopting limited number of farmers in each Panchayat and training them to adopt natural farming or other models of farming for more income and safe food production.

Shri Kanwar appreciated the University for developing and releasing thirteen crop varieties recently.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, detailed major achievements in academic, research and extension education activities. He said that the University was committed to work relentlessly for the socio-economic development of the farming community with quality human resources development, need based research and transferring the useful technology to the nook and corner of the State. He also informed about new research endeavours like recent release of 13 crop varieties and efforts to register 51 technologies in the Golden Jubilee year of the State, work on producing only female calves, work on *Pahari* cow, conservation of genetic resources and creation of seed gene bank, new MoUs, etc. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to the Govt. of H.P. for constant support and sought funds to the tune of Rs.4.50 crore for the compound wall of the University.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar welcomed the Hon’ble Minister, Smt Meena Kanwar and other dignitaries.

Hon’ble Minister released compendium on ‘Fertility management in cows of Himachal Pradesh’ authored by Drs. Madhumeet Singh, Parvesh Kumar and Akshay Sharma and ‘Dynamic Agricultural Scenario in H.P.-stories of promising rural Agri-preneures’ by Drs. Y.P.Thakur Desh Raj Chaudhary, Lab Bhushan and Deepika Sud.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated research projects and infrastructure worth Rs.1.23 crore including a project on conservation and propagation of *Gaddi* dogs worth Rs.78 lakh, layer poultry house worth Rs. 20 lakh and hydroponic unit worth Rs.25 lakh. The Minister visited natural farming unit and veterinary clinics.

Dr Ajay Sharma, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture),Shri Rakesh Kanwar, IAS, Special Secretary (Agriculture & Finance) and Secretary to Governor, Shri Naresh Thakur, HAS, Director Agriculture, Dr Ajmer Dogra, Director Animal Husbandry, Dr Rajeshwar Chandel, Executive Director, SPNF, Dr.J.S.Rana, Chief Advisor JICA and some other senior officers from the Govt. of H.P. and Statutory Officers from the University were present on the occasion.

***High level meeting on enhancing synergy between farmers’ development departments and institutions at CSK HP Agriculture University***

Palampur 16 June. To take stock of the various activities at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University and enhancing coordination between various farmers’ development departments and institutions, an interaction meeting was held here today. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, Dr Ajay Sharma, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), Shri Rakesh Kanwar, IAS, Special Secretary (Agriculture & Finance) and Secretary to Governor, Shri Naresh Thakur, HAS, Director Agriculture, Dr Rajeshwar Chandel, Executive Director, SPNF, and some other senior officers from the Govt. of H.P. and Statutory Officers from the University took part in the daylong meeting.

While chairing the meeting, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that smart agriculture is answer to several issues of the farming community. He detailed major academic, research and extension education activities and said that though pandemic has been able to delay but not dampen his spirit to extend all useful technologies to the farmers. He disclosed that in the recent past some highly qualified youngsters have been motivated to adopt scientific farming after their job loss. The University has moved fast to sign MoUs for pubic private partnerships and initiating steps to establish centers of some national institutes in the state. He detailed steps for registration of 51 products of H.P. under Geographic Indicators. Prof Chaudhary discussed research work on natural and organic agriculture and revival of research work on fisheries, Indian panther hound, heritage bee farm, centers of excellence on sheep and goat, etc. The Vice-Chancellor also sought government support to fill up approved essential teaching and non-teachings positions to fulfill the mandate at a faster pace.

Dr Ajay Sharma, IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), underlined the need to preserve, conserve and propagate seeds of traditional crop varieties of the State. He asked the University to provide accurate data about the change in cropping pattern, productivity, etc. through its geo-informatics centre, involving students in remote sensing based and other research projects, propagation of bamboo through tissue culture, etc. and sought information about diversification and intensification models, etc. He emphasized active collaboration between the University and State Department of Agriculture and other development departments for better project formulation, implementation and swift reach to the famers with useful technology. Dr Sharma suggested replication of proven technology and crops in a particular area to other districts.

Shri Rakesh Kanwar, IAS, Special Secretary (Agriculture & Finance) and Shri Naresh Thakur, HAS, Director Agriculture also gave suggestions for better collaboration for the benefit of farmers.

Some Heads of department made presentations on development of seed based and area specific seed and crop intensification and diversification models, multiplication of the certified seed involving farmers, geo-tagging of seed production models, compatibility plan for conversion of *pahari* indigenous cow to better yielding, natural farming models, appropriate mechanization tools, DNA labs at district levels, etc.

 Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar welcomed all. The high level team visited molecular cyto-genetics and Tissue Culture lab, centre for geo-informatics research and training, department of horticulture and agro-forestry, Golden Jubilee Nutrition Garden, etc. where the concerned scientists detailed research work.

***CSKHPAU to conduct test for JOA (IT) on 7 July***

Palampur 15 June. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University will conduct written screening test for the post of Junior Office Assistant (IT) on 21 July. According to Shri Pankaj Sharma,HAS. Registrar, the screening test for 50 posts of JOA(IT) will be conducted in Kangra, Chamba, Hamirpur and Mandi districts from 11.00 AM to 12.30 PM on 21 July. The call letters to 10082 eligible candidates are being sent on their mailing address.

***CSKHPAU Scientists to frequently visit villages in the neighborhood***

Palampur 14 June.CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University scientists will be visiting villages in the immediate vicinity of the campus more frequently to motivate the farmers to adopt integrated farm technology. This was disclosed by Prof, [Harinder Kumar Chaudhary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZWpc7clMditKgfEGb7vmdHyuFzpnClD38o7tb717R6vW1NBIOSocuqdOxdCwFrKBQjatBpgJSu_i3EqrwASl6xb4RK3xCn39keWv69T3Tif9MUNAcxpW29ut9AWkwWDaDaNTRKl0yhUvEoweGljb2QC&__tn__=-%5dK-R), Vice-Chancellor, during his maiden visit to the Tanda, Pandtehar, Banuri, and some other villages in the surroundings of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor while interacting with progressive farmers said that he has got feedback that some farmers were not able to cultivate their fields as wild and stray cattle were damaging crops. So to motivate such and other farmers he will be frequently visiting villages in the neighborhood of the University. He asked farmers not to leave land uncultivated and seek the help of the scientists for technology and take advantage of several government initiatives and schemes for farm inputs. He suggested they adopt integrated farming for rich dividends. “There is ample scope for organic and natural farming with many crops which are not damaged by wild animals like monkeys so farmers may come forward to grow such crops to get income from their farmland left fallow fearing damage by stray and wild animals”, opined Prof Chaudhary.

Prof Chaudhary also advised the farmers to frequently visit the University and treat it as a temple of knowledge. He appreciated some farmers for preserving seeds of traditional crop varieties.

Shri Ravinder Singh Pathania, a nonagenarian, recalled the times when the College of Agriculture was established in 1966 and scientists used to visit nearby villages with farm inputs to motivate the villagers to adopt farming. He profusely thanked Prof Chaudhary for the new initiative. Sh. Vinod Pathania, Sh.Manoj Nayetal, Sh.Ramesh Chand, and some other farmers agreed to the advice of the Vice-Chancellor and decided to put the fallow land under use with useful crops like soybean, turmeric, ginger, zimikand, collocasia, chilli, okra, etc. He directed the scientists to provide soybean seeds from this very season for demonstration. The Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dean College of Agriculture and some head of departments.

***CSKHPAU Veterinary Scientists organize animal infertility treatment camps in Lahaul***

Palampur 12 June A team of veterinary scientists from CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University organized six infertility treatment camps in different parts of Lahaul Sub-division of District Lahaul & Spiti from 7-11 June. The camps were organized in collaboration with the State Department of Animal Husbandry at villages Trilokinath, Bardang, Jahlma, Kirting, Gondhla and Sissu under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) project, entitled “Investigation and management of infertility in bovines of Himachal Pradesh with special reference to high altitude tribal areas”, to investigate the status of infertility in bovines reared in tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh.

Prof. Madhumeet Singh, team leader, told that around 100 cows were examined and treated in these camps, with the main emphasis to record reproductive abnormalities in milch animals reared by the farmers in Tribal areas. The scientists collected blood samples to study their minerals, biochemical and hormonal profile and also genital discharge samples for detailed diagnosis of uterine infections. Faecal samples were also collected to study the parasitic load in animals in this area and their relationship with infertility. Free medicines were distributed to the farmers.

During the visit of this team, Prof .[Harinder Kumar Chaudhary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZWfpivDYAZnS5KWzxbpPs2E5O6Ix7fuIIwLOjKiG8XktgrY6I8WLFEN_5DAp80hHbgGThXfZkxhmPKVMGYqmxzR0snqRPHGdfAGSgYi2mZRr0UYnJHEQEFYYSRMUI3Tqm2b7dMgbfLzh5sN7bl_d4gDgLurZdzvGXy825Ft_O_A9eimB0ulPehXWehTAtVXvfk&__tn__=-%5dK-R), Vice-Chancellor, held virtual interactions with some progressive farmers like Mool Raj Thakur from Trioknath. He appreciated the hard-working farmers of the area and advised them to adopt natural and organic farming at Udaipur and other areas of this tribal district as it has great potential.

While complimenting Prof. Madhumeet Singh, Director Extension Education and head of the Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics for serving the tribal farmers under the prevailing extraordinary situation, the Vice-Chancellor told that this department is rendering specialized services to the farmers in different parts of the state for treatment of various reproductive disorders with an aim to reduce the incidence of infertility. For the last 8 years, scientists from the department have organized 280 infertility treatment camps under RKVY projects in diverse parts of the State, including around 125 camps in tribal and other very remote locations. Area wise mapping of reproductive ailments through clinic-gynaecological examination, nutritional deficiencies through blood investigations, parasitic infestation responsible for reproduction problems and microflora (bacteria and fungi) responsible for uterine infections is being done.

Besides Prof. Madhumeet Singh, the team members included Dr.Pravesh Kumar and Mr. Vijay Rana from the Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

***CSKHPAU to strengthen NCC activities: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 11 June. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to strengthen NCC activities in the near future. This was disclosed by Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary during his discussions with Brig Rajeev Thakur, Group Commander, NCC through virtual mode today.

The Vice-Chancellor told that some major initiatives to give impetus to NCC in the University have been taken this year. These include doubling the University NCC unit strength from 100 to 200, hoisting the NCC flag along with the Tricolor and the University Flag in the campus, etc.

 Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, informed that NCC was introduced in the College of Agriculture in 1966 and a good number of students from the University have joined and continue to join armed forces almost every year and serve the motherland. He said that currently equal number of girl and boy cadets have enrolled in the NCC unit and were bringing glory to the institute by regularly qualifying ‘C’ and ‘B’ certificates. In the recent past, 27 cadets got ‘C’ certificates and 35 cadets got ‘B’ certificates. Most of the qualified cadets were girls who got ‘A’ grades in the examination. The Vice-Chancellor said that all students in his University understand well the importance of the NCC motto of ‘Unity and Discipline.’

The Vice-Chancellor invited Brig Rajeev Thakur to campus and interact with NCC cadets. Dr.Ankur Sharma, NCC officer was present during the virtual meeting.

World Environment Day

***CSK H.P. Agriculture University to make it mandatory for the students to plant trees***

***: Prof.*** [***H.K.Chaudhary***](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXukcvaKHZTQKSrezvmh20oJA9-7LNGy15Xg9WLF_gwBG7dXNlLJ663gGxuT6urugU5Ub7zSiz8Yen_eYgfG4quKNQcj5YAkBwwcprCxgR3uWcBn3XAh23f5Syngd1_qoUNTcpgUvCTKKm1eUgC3Zgp&__tn__=-%5dK-R)***, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 5 June. The world environment day was celebrated at CSK H.P. Agriculture University through virtual mode today.

Speaking as a Chief Guest Prof. [H.K.Chaudhary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXukcvaKHZTQKSrezvmh20oJA9-7LNGy15Xg9WLF_gwBG7dXNlLJ663gGxuT6urugU5Ub7zSiz8Yen_eYgfG4quKNQcj5YAkBwwcprCxgR3uWcBn3XAh23f5Syngd1_qoUNTcpgUvCTKKm1eUgC3Zgp&__tn__=-%5dK-R), Vice-Chancellor, announced that from the ensuing academic session, the University will introduce a course on environment science where it will be compulsory for each student to plant and take care of at least two plants during his or her stay at the campus. The students will be awarded grades at the end of their degree programme based on the performance of their plants.

The Vice-Chancellor said that Mother Nature has been worshiped in India since ages and plants had been an integral part of all religious and other important ceremonies. “God gave a beautifully decorated earth to us but human greed has badly bruised it resulting in catastrophe where man has been compelled to purchase oxygen for survival”, said Prof Chaudhary. He opined that the students right from the nursery classes to highest degree programme should be sensitized about the nature and should be taken to forest areas for ‘forest therapy’ so that they connect to nature and care for it throughout the life. He also discussed the issues related to carbon credits and its importance in reducing, removing and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions for the healthy environment. He also underlined the importance of judicious planning for plantations so that region specific approved plantations are done by the concerned industry, institution, community or individuals. The Vice-Chancellor said that there should be least disturbance to centers of diversity and micro-centers for keeping doors of evolutionary paths open. The Vice-Chancellor said everyone should understand ones responsibility for the conservation, preservation and propagation of healthy environment. He said that it is vital to restore the damage to ecosystems and biodiversity by reimagining and recreating it for the sake of humanity.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary remembered and paid his compliments to the incredible contributions of the renowned environmentalists like Kinkri Devi, forest man of India Jadav Payeng, waterman Rajender Singh, tree man Yoganathan, Padam Vibhushan Sundar Lala Bahuguna etc and asked the younger generation to imbibe their virtues. said that climate change has started adversely affecting crop and animal production.

Guest of Honour Dr. S. S. Samant, Director, Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla opined that ecosystem restoration can provide enhanced biodiversity outcomes as well as improve human well-beings in degraded landscapes. He said that ecological restoration has inherent capacity to provide people with the opportunity not only to repair ecological damage, but also to improve the human condition.

Dr. Hemant K Gupta, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, H.P. underlined the stepwise importance of ecological restoration and involving the stakeholders. He said that there is a need to adopt a strategy of adaptive ecosystem research and adaptive ecosystem management. He also detailed the efforts of the forest department in ecosystem restoration.

Dr.Anita Singh, Dean, College of Basic Sciences, Dr RG Upadhyay and Dr Radhika Shamra said that ecological restoration will be a key element for conservation and sustainable development.

Webinar on World Milk Day

***Need to brand and promote Himalayan Cow Milk: Prof.*** [***H.K.Chaudhary***](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXukcvaKHZTQKSrezvmh20oJA9-7LNGy15Xg9WLF_gwBG7dXNlLJ663gGxuT6urugU5Ub7zSiz8Yen_eYgfG4quKNQcj5YAkBwwcprCxgR3uWcBn3XAh23f5Syngd1_qoUNTcpgUvCTKKm1eUgC3Zgp&__tn__=-%5dK-R)***, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 1 June. “The milk produced in hills of the State is rich in taste and aroma having huge potential to be branded and promoted as healthy ‘Himalayan Cow Milk’ said Prof. [H.K.Chaudhary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/206022836265/user/100013025737385/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXukcvaKHZTQKSrezvmh20oJA9-7LNGy15Xg9WLF_gwBG7dXNlLJ663gGxuT6urugU5Ub7zSiz8Yen_eYgfG4quKNQcj5YAkBwwcprCxgR3uWcBn3XAh23f5Syngd1_qoUNTcpgUvCTKKm1eUgC3Zgp&__tn__=-%5dK-R), Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University during a webinar on ‘World Milk Day’ today.

Speaking as a Chief Guest, the Vice-Chancellor said that most of the farmers in hilly areas of state rear animals on naturally growing seasonal pastures and wild vegetations which impart unique aroma and health benefits to the milk in these areas. The milk produced under these conditions is likely to be different from stall fed animals in plains. He told that the University has contributed much for the growth of dairy sector in the state by adopting a holistic approach of integrating research and extension work on animal production.

Prof Chaudhary said that since fodder production is a major factor for sustainable and economical milk production, his University has released 17 improved fodder varieties. Sufficient quantity of seed and seedlings of forage crops were being supplied to farmers and stakeholders. The University has done research on cost effective feed formulations and was supplying different feed formulations and area specific mineral supplements.

The Vice-Chancellor said that training and extension in dairy farming is a major thrust of the University benefitting thousands of farmers. He informed that the University was evaluating the performance of sex sorted semen which will lead to the birth of only female calves. This will help to reduce the problem of male calves and stray animals in near future. He thanked HP Milkfed for agreeing to open its outlet in the University.

Guest of honour Sh Nihal Chand Sharma, Chairman HP Milkfed, said that the Dairy sector has an important role to play in the livelihood generation in H.P. Presently the state has a population of about 18 lakh cattle and 06 lakh buffalo and is producing about 15.31 lakh tones of milk. The per capita availability of milk in the state is 612 gram per day which is better than national average of 407gram per day.

Dr A K Srivastava, Member Agriculture Scientist Recruitment Board, as keynote speaker highlighted the theme of this year’s world milk day, ‘Sustainability in the dairy sector along with empowering the environment, nutrition and socio-economics’. He underlined the need to educate the masses about the benefits of milk and dairy products. He said that dairy supports the livelihood of one billion people around the globe. Dr.Rajbir Singh, Director, Agriculture Technology Assessment and Refinement Institute said that the country was largest producer of milk in the world. Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, COVAS, Dr P.K.Dogra, Head of the Department and Dr.Rakesh Thakur also spoke on the importance of World Milk Day. The webinar was organised by the Department of Livestock Production Management. Some Krishi Vigyan Kendras also organised webinars involving progressive dairy farmers of their respective districts.

MoU on sexed semen signed between CSKHPKV and Genus ABS India

***H.P. farmers to get the option to have only female calves through artificial insemination: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor,CSKHAPU***

Palampur 21 April.The farmers of Himachal Pradesh engaged in cattle rearing and the dairy industry may get an option to have only female calves from their cows. CSK H.P. Agriculture University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Genus ABS India Private Limited, Pune on the use of sexed semen for genetic gain in cattle of Himachal Pradesh, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, told that the new research project holds an immense value in genetic up-gradation of the exotic as well as indigenous breed of cattle being reared in H.P. At the same time, it will help in managing the male stray bulls by reproducing superior progeny of female calves through artificial insemination (A.I.). He said that rapid farm mechanization has undermined the utility of bulls hence bull calves are not seen in use in farming. So, the farmers are neglecting them and many of the male calves die in the first month of their life and others end up as abandoned. Prof. Chaudhary said that it was a very unique project scientifically as it will produce results about important parameters like milk production and genetic potential in the progeny.

He said that the University is known for its quality research benefiting the farming community. He expressed the hope that this high-impact research in the department of veterinary gynaecology for the enhancement of livestock production efficiency will produce results benefiting dairy farmers of the state. He suggested that PG students of the University be involved in the labs of the eighty-year-old GABS India Ltd.

Dr. Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, told that this is the first-ever organized study being undertaken regarding the use of sexed semen in the State. It will be operated in two phases over a period of 18 months. In the first phase 100 farmers rearing Jersey cows and Sahiwal, an indigenous breed of cows will be benefitted from the project to be carried out at the University. As the sex of calves will be selected at the time of A.I., so the stray cattle menace can also be tackled easily.

On behalf of the University Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research, Dr. Akshay Sharma, Principal Investigator, and Dr. Pravesh Kumar, Co-Principal Investigator of the project from the department of veterinary gynaecology, and on behalf of the Genus ABS India Private Limited Dr. Arvind Gautam, Managing Director, and Shri Rahul Gupta, Head Operations, signed the MoU through virtual mode. Dr. Gautam expressed the hope that the project results will bring prosperity to the farmers. He said that the company will allow the University students to work in state-of-the-art labs and come out with cutting edge technologies.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar was also present during the MoU signing ceremony.

Water Quality and Testing Lab inaugurated at CSKHPAU

**Let the slogan ‘*Swachh Neer, Swasth Shreer’* reverberate among the people of State to rejuvenate water bodies**

Palampur 20 April. “All peoples, whatever their stage of development and social and economic condition, have the right to have access to drinking water in quantities and of a quality equal to their basic needs”, opined Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor was expressing his views after inaugurating Water Quality and Testing lab facility in the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology in the University. Prof Chauduary underlined the importance of safe quality water in the protection of human health and well-being. He appreciated that the Rotary Club and Farm Technocrat Forum, Palampur have joined hands to help the University in water testing facility and involving local people in the new initiative. He urged that the water quality in the Palampur and immediate surrounding areas be tested and water profiling be done so that the residents are made aware about the importance of clean drinking water. The findings and recommendations of research scientists should be shared with people, stakeholders and policy makers for proper management of water resources and for curtailing deterioration of water quality in the region. The technical advisory for treatment of water to make it drinkable should also be provided.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the slogan, “ *Swachh Neer, Swasth Shreer* (Clean water, Healthy Body) should reverberate among the people of the State to rejuvenate water bodies. He also spoke on the importance of water conservation and maintenance of water sources. He said that there was time when people used to drink water directly from the source as people used to treat water very sacred and kept areas around water sources neat and clean. Now the human greed has polluted our traditional water sources like natural water springs, rivers, etc. The Vice-Chancellor also appreciated the humanitarian efforts and services of the Rotary Club all over the world.

Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Science, told that the rapid urbanization and industrialization has affected the physico-chemical parameters and biological attributes of the ground and surface water in Himachal Pradesh. The occurrence of various kinds of pollutants contaminating most of the drinking water sources is an emerging issue in the state.

Dr A.K.Panda, Head, Department of Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology told that water testing has been going on earlier but with the support of Rotary Club and FTF, service will reach more users. Dr Adarsh Kumar, President, Rotray Club, Palampur told that the club will be supported by Farm Technocrat Forum in ensuring safety of drinking water in the Palam valley. The common man will be provided the facility of getting the drinking water samples tested from lab for physicochemical and microbiological quality. He also provided 100 masks and sanitisers to the University dairy workers. Dr B.C.Awasthy, President, Farm Technocrat Forum, said that his forum will extend liberal financial help to the University in this new endeavor.

Besides, the University scientists, members of Rotary Club and FTF also attended the function.

***CSKHPAU to resolve problems of Gaddi farmers in rearing sheep, goats, and dogs on priority: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 18 April. “CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University is committed to scientifically study the problems of Gaddi farmers in rearing sheep, goats, and dogs and resolve these on priority” assured Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, while interacting with a progressive Gaddi farmer, here today. The Vice-Chancellor, during his regular visit to the fodder production farm of the Department of Livestock Farm Complex, met Shri Barfi Ram who was camping there in a transit camp along with his flock of 450 Gaddi goats on way to Lahaul.

The Vice-Chancellor was happy to learn that the flock was adopted by the Department of Livestock Farm Complex under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Gaddi Goats improvement. Prof Chaudhary said that as the pastures were shrinking so it was tough for the Gaddi community to rear sheep and goats. He informed that the University has proven technology to rejuvenate pasture and meadows with improved grasses and was providing it to the department of forests, NGOs and farmers.

Sh. Barfi Ram informed that the technical assistance and guidance by the University scientists have been able to increase the production potential and to reduce the kid and lamb mortality rate. The entire flock has been vaccinated today and at proper intervals which helps in disease control.

The Vice-Chancellor, while appreciating Dr.P.K.Dogra, Head of the department, and his team asked them to increase fodder production by cultivating the entire farm area for the preparation of silage and feeding green fodder to the dairy animals. Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar; Er. Vikas Sood, Estate Officer, and other scientists were present on the occasion.

Orientation workshop on online teaching at COA

***CSKHPAU has taken effective steps to implement New Education Policy: Prof H.K.Chaudahry,VC***

Palampur 17 April. To train the teachers in utilizing various online platforms for online teaching, an

orientation workshop was organized at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said that in the prevailing situation when there were disruptions in regular classes, relevance of online legal teaching platforms like MS Teams where more than 100 participants can join together without loss of data should be utilized properly. He said that as a teacher, he has been using this platform successfully during lockdown last year and afterwards. He said that the University has taken several effective steps to implement New Education Policy 2020 and online teaching, smart class rooms, creation of Information Communication Technology Cell, award of degrees through Digi Locker, etc were some of the steps taken for its implementation. He said that digitization of the University was underway which will enable hassle free communication within and among different organs of the University like Research Stations, *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* situated throughout the state.

Dr R.K.Kataria, Dean,College of Agriculture said that the training has been organized to remove doubts and enhance the skill of users. He said that all students have been provided with login ids for joining MS Teams. Only registered students can join a particular class by using the code provided by the concerned teacher. This will avoid unauthorized persons to have access and create any disturbance in the system. Hence training was necessary.

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated Dr.R.K.Kataria,Dean College of Agriculture for the initiative and Dr Shivani Katoch, Shri Kapil Sharma and Shri Vaibhav Kalia from the ICT cell for imparting training.

Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary expresses gratitude to ICAR

***Virtual Class Room and Agri Diksha Web Channel facility launched at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 16 April. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University got distinction to be part of 18 selected farm universities in the country where Virtual Class Room and Agri Diksha Web Channel facility was launched today. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture, Farmers Welfare & Rural Development, Food Processing Industry and Panchayati Raj virtually inaugurated and launched these twin facilities.

Guests of Honour Sh. Parshottam Rupla, Minsters of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Dr.Tarlochan Mahapatra, Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture(ICAR), Shri. Sanjay K Singh, Secretary, ICAR, Dr R.C. Agrawal Deputy Director General ,ICAR, Prabhat Kumar, National Coordinator, Dr R Prasad, Director Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, and Dr. Sudeep National Principal Investigator also expressed their views during the virtual inaugural ceremony.
 Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, while expressing his gratitude to the Govt. of India for providing this state of the art ultra modern facility with advanced technology, said that it will prove a boon to students and farmers of this hill state. Prof. Chaudhary told that the virtual class room and Agri-Diksha web channel facility will strengthen the Agricultural Education through Information Communication Technology and help students through virtual video capture. He said during the current prevailing situation due to pandemic, the new facility will enable to students and teachers to remain in touch with each other as it happens in classroom. Similarly, the farmers sitting in far flung areas can be approached in virtual mode. It being interactive is a revolutionary step for students and researchers too for providing strong platform for future agriculture. The scientists can get inputs and guidance from national and international institutes. The Vice-Chancellor said that Agri Diksha Web Channel facility will also be utilized by the State Agriculture and other departments engaged in the welfare of farmers.

He directed all Deans to upload quality lectures on the virtual class room in a specific time frame.

Dr. Ranbir Singh Rana, Nodal Officer, told that the new state of art facilities were funded and established under Indian Council of Agricultural Research and & World Bank funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project. During the virtual inaugural ceremony, all
 statutory officers were also present.

Maiden meeting with SCA at CSKHPAU

***“Excel in life”, exhorts Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary to the students***

Palampur 12 April. “The students will be provided with all requisite quality facilities so that they excel in life”, this was announced by Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

During his maiden meeting with the representatives of five Students’ Central Associations of the constituent colleges, the Vice-Chancellor said a large number of world class facilities have been envisaged and work has also been initiated so that the University clients-the students and farmers- are able to utilize their capabilities to the optimum level. The Vice-Chancellor said that a high level meeting with SCA members will be held twice in a semester and all genuine issues and problems of the students will be resolved on priority. He directed wardens to daily visit all hostels and resolve day to day trivial issues. Similarly, the Deans and Directors should also frequently make surprise visits to the hostels and other student activity areas like library, sports complex, gymnasium, etc. He expected the students to follow the rules and regulations scrupulously and asked them to be respectful towards their teachers, managements and follow the rich values and culture for which this University is known all over the country. Prof Chaudhary also asked them to bring laurels to the University with working hard smartly. He said that battery operated vehicles will be introduced in the University to facilitate better transportation to the students and staff in the wide spread campus.

Prof Chaudhary disclosed that the University is in the process of fast digitization and using Information Technology for serving the clients in an effective manner. He told that the University website is getting a facelift to make it user-friendly and social media use is being increased to serve the clients with useful information. He also spoke on the status of the National Academic Depository for degree dissemination through Digilocker App. He told that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-based academic management system will be included in the university academic management system. The Vice-Chancellor also discussed the status of a blended model of teaching and virtual interaction via different platforms and future plans as per New Education Policy. Prof H.K.Chaudhary also discussed issues like online counseling, admissions through national level tests, etc. The Vice-Chancellor also detailed other recent efforts of the University for the welfare of students.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar, informed the students about major laws related to drugs, traffic violation, etc and asked them to be careful about their safety within and outside the campus. He told that University security system has been adequately strengthened and security personnel will be provided with headgear cameras soon. Dr.V.K.Gupta, Students’ Welfare Officer, also elaborated about the new proposed facilities in hostels and under “*Khelo India*” campaign, etc. All the SCA representatives detailed all major issues and problems and asked the authorities to stop the entry of un-authorized persons in the University campus.

Deans Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dr.Satish Pal Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal and Dr Anita Singh, Directors Dr.D.K.Vatsa and Dr. Madhumeet Singh,Librarian Dr Suresh Gautam and Estate Officer Er.Vikas Sood also attended the meeting.

***CSKHPAU to extend mobile advisory services to the Gaddi farmers during migration: Vice Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 9 April. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has told that his University was planning to extend mobile advisory services to the gadddis during migration. He was interacting with goat farmers after distribution of 19 superior Gaddi breeding bucks to 19 different progressive goat framers of the state.

Professor H.K. Chaudhary said that these breeding bucks are being provided to the farmers with the objectives to bring about overall breed improvement of the existing Gaddi goats under migratory production system. He told that the scientists of the Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Dr.G C Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (COVAS) have raised these bucks after two stages of selection and scientific management. They are free from any disease which can be transmitted to progeny through the bucks causing heavy economic losses to the farmers. He advised them to fully utilize the potential of these breeding bucks because these superior bucks will pass on desired production traits in the progeny and ultimately will improve the income of farmers. He also congratulated the project team for their hard work under migratory field conditions for the benefit of tribal people.

The Vice-Chancellortold that Gaddi goat meat was of high quality as the goats feed on wild vegetation in high altitude areas free from any chemical use in such grazing lands. He asked the scientists to help the Gaddi nomads in marketing of quality meat. The Vice-Chancellor also elaborated about various welfare schemes of the Govt for Gaddi farmers and said that an elaborated programme on Gaddi farmers will be organised during the Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood.

Dr. Mandeep Sharma, Dean, COVAS emphasized the utility of the project to the farmers. Dr. M.M. Singh, Director Extension Education, highlighted the role of breeding bucks for improving the overall productivity of flock Dr. P.K. Dogra, Head of the Department Livestock Farm Complex told that the ongoing All India Coordinated Research Project on Goat Improvement is being implemented under the umbrella of Central Institute for Research on Goats at Makhdoom, Mathura.Till date more than 250 superior breeding bucks have been provided to the farmers. He told that more than 1600 pure Gaddi goats were being monitored under the project. The project was being implemented under the migratory field conditions by providing strategic breeding, feeding and health control inputs.

Dr Sandeep Mishra, Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry and project team members Drs Nishant Verma, Principal Investigator, Ankaj Thakur, Madhu Suman and Praveen Sharma were also present on this occasion.

**Prof Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor chairs Anti Ragging Committee Meeting at CSKHPAU**

Palampur 9 April. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor chaired a University level anti-ragging committee meeting at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his satisfaction that the students have maintained the glorious tradition of keeping the campus ragging free for the last several years. He asked all concerned to maintain this rich tradition meticulously with alertness and vigil. He informed the members that all required measures have been taken to prevent ragging in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor told that as per the legal and statutory requirements, the Students' Welfare Officer has been designated as Nodal Officer of Anti-ragging Cell and requisite information about anti-ragging activities have been wieldy publicised including regular updating on the university website. There is University level and College level anti-ragging committee entrusted with the responsibility to ensure prevention of any ragging related incidents in the campus. In addition to this, monitoring cell on ragging has been made functional and a committee for promotion and monitoring of inter-action has been constituted in addition to anti-ragging squad and anti-ragging women squad at the University level. Such committees have also been formed at college and hostel level. While expressing his satisfaction of not getting any adverse feedback about the incidents of ragging, he advised the students to avail all helpline numbers in case of any need.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary also advised the senior students to guide the new students in academic matters. He got independent feedback from the new students, their parents and other members.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, Registrar detailed about the contents of anti-ragging law. Dr.Amit Sharma, Deputy Superintendent of Police asked students to approach police in case of any anti-ragging incident takes place.

Deans of the constituent colleges, Students Welfare Officer, Librarian, Joint Director (Information & Public Relations), President, Non-teaching employees union and some parents of newly admitted students attended the meeting.

Sh Ram Lal Markanda, Minister of Technical Education as Chief Guest at RRS, Kukumseri

***CSKHPAU organizes Farmer-Scientist Interface at Udaipur, L&S***

Palampur 8 April. Regional Research Station of CSK H.P. Agriculture University organised a Farmer-Scientist interface at Udaipur in Lahaul & Spiti.

Shri Ram Lal Markanda, Minister of Technical Education, as Chief Guest, addressed around 300 farmers and distributed around 7000 plants of apple and other stone fruits, 20 quintal seed of pea and vegetable crops and 120 farm implements. He asked the farmers to utilize the inputs for increasing their farm income. While appreciating the University for its commendable work in tribal areas, he asked the scientists to regularly visit the farmers to supervise their farm operations and providing valuable advice. He asked farmers to explore the possibility of linking tourism with their farms.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, in his video address, appreciated the hard working farmers of twin valleys of Lahaul and Spiti, which he called ‘golden valleys’ for farming. He said that due to climate change, this area has bright future in apple, European vegetables, Rajmash, etc and the University will provide timely technical advice to the farming community. Recalling his over five years stay in the valley, the Vice-Chancellor told that he was able to give *Saptdhara*, a winter wheat variety, *Triloki Rajmash* variety and some crop varieties to the farmers of Himachal Pradesh. He said that during Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood, the University has planned some programmes for Lahaul and Spiti.

Dr.Vinod Sharma, Associate Director of the Station and Dr.Pankaj Chopra elaborated about major activities and asked the farmers to remain in touch with the station. Farmers actively participated in question-answer session during the interface. Scientists of the station and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kukumseri and Shri R.K.Thakur, SDM, Udaipur also participated in the programme.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-IVNVJBsE\_UY7i9xWMYvlaN4fLxybW\_h/view?usp=drivesdk

***Natural farming has great potential in some crops: Prof H.K.Chaudhary,VC, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 6 April A review meeting on Natural Farming was organized at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, while chairing the meeting told that natural farming (NF) has great potential in traditional crops, millets, minor millets, pulses, some vegetable and other crops. Some farmers are excited to adopt this type of farming as they see good future in it. He said that *Prakritik Kheti Khushahal Scheme* was becoming popular among farmers*.* The Vice-Chancellor informed that scientific evaluation of NF was underway in his university and three years data will be available next year. The Vice-Chancellor said that university ‘Package of Practices’ have been advocating using farm yard manure(FYM) in addition to balanced use of chemical fertilizers but many farmers have stopped using FYM adversely affecting soil health.

He said that minor millets, pulses and some other traditional crops like buckwheat do not require any chemical fertilizer so such crops should be advocated under NF. He also advocated growing pulses which also do not need many fertilizers. “We should move in an integrated way for the benefit of farming community of the state”, he suggested. He said that organic matter lying in the mountain soils can be utilized for NF. The Vice-Chancellor also elaborated about some concrete proposal to galvanise academic research and extension activities to raise the status of the university to international level. He told that 51 programmes have been planned to commemorate Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood which include *Swarn Jayanti Mahil Krishak Mela*.

 Shri Rakesh Kanwar, IAS, State Project Director, Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) project, said that the university was doing excellent work for the Himalayan region. He said that the scientists need to guide the farming community on NF also. He told that 1.20 lakh farmers have started practising NF in various crops all over the state. Since some farmers were doing excellent work on it so the researchers and students can study it in the fields. Shri Kanwar said that soil quality and health, water conservation, etc has changed much after green revolution but many exciting things are happening in the farmers’ fields and suggested alternative model like NF.

He disclosed that it was the intervention of Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor in the pre-budget meeting that for the first time Rs. 5.00 crore has been granted as budget grant to both farm universities for research purposed. He asked the scientists to show the results so that this grant keeps on increasing every year. He said that the Govt has introduced *Swaran Jayanti Beej Smvardhan Yojna* and the university should help in conservation of seeds of traditional crop varieties. He expected university to come out with comprehensive farmer oriented policy framework to enhance the income of the farmers.

Shri Pawnesh Sharma, Additional Chief Conservator of Forests and Dr.Rajeshwar Chandel, Executive Director, SPNF, also expressed their views. Shri Pankaj Sharma, Registrar; Shri Gurmeet Singh, Comptroller; Dr. Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr.Satish Pal, Dean Post Graduate Studies, Dr Suresh Gautam, Librarian and some heads and scientists also attended the meeting.

SAC of KVK, Dhaulakuan(Sirmour)

***Farm technology will be made available at farmers’ doorstep: Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor,CSKHPAU***

Palampur 24 March. CSK  Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University continued its newly initiated tradition of organizing a Scientific Advisory Committee meeting amidst farmers as Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dhaulakuan(Sirmour) held its programme in Kanshipur village today.

Sitting on the ground, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor chaired the meeting and later addressed the farmers in an interaction programme. He said that he is determined to bring university research work and technology to the farmers’ doorstep in nook and corner of Himachal Pradesh. In such programmes, besides extension specialists of the concerned KVK, Deans, Directors, head of departments and scientists of various departments participate. They freely interact with the farmers, listen to their farm related issues and answer to their questions related to agriculture, veterinary science, home science, etc.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke on the importance of animal husbandry and university initiatives in preservation and conservation of local breeds. He discussed problems of farm produce marketing in remote and less accessible areas and assured the farmers to take up such issues with the government. Prof Chaudhary said that his university has taken several initiatives to make its policies and programmes farmer centric. Contributions of progressive farmers have been highlighted in a Golden Jubilee Farmers’ Gallery in the university and all KVKs have also displayed photographs of such farmers in their premises. He said that real brand ambassadors of the university research and technology were such farmers as they share it with fellow farmers and help them increase their yields and income. He highlighted the rich agro-diversity in the state and university efforts to get geographical indicators for traditional crops of different regions.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor inaugurated an exhibition of farm produce and appreciated the work by NGOs for women empowerment. He also honoured 18 progressive farmers of the Sirmour district including Kundan Singh Shastri, Ram Bhaj Chauhan, Rakesh Kumar, Chaman Lal, Ravi Swarup, Harjit Singh, Piyusha, etc. Prof Chaudhary also planted a sapling of ‘*Chandan*’ at KVK premises.

Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, said that due to high variation in altitude varying from 400 meters at Paonta Saheb to 3700 meters at Chuhardhar, agriculture was much diversified in Sirmour district enabling farmers to produce a variety of agriculture and horticulture crops.He also elaborated about various extension education related activities Deans Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dr.R.K.Kataria and Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal informed the participants about the academic and other activities of their colleges. Heads and some scientists also interacted with farmers and many of their questions were also answered in the ‘Question-Answer Session.’

Dr.Sukhdev Singh Paliyal, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Dhaulakuan detailed major activities and future plans.Some progressive farmers also expressed their views and expressed gratitude to Prof H. K Chauhdary for giving due honour to them.

District Officers from the departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Industry, Banks , etc also participated in the programme. Some retired staffers of the university also joined the interaction.

**Campus placement of five students of CSKHPAU**

Palampur 23 March. IDBI Bank has selected Medini Raj, Ayushi Sharma, Bhanu Sharma, Gunjan Kondal and Nitin Chandel, all students of CSK H.P. Agriculture University as Assistant Managers through a rigorous selection process as 34 students participated in the selection process.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has congratulated the selected students, their parents and teachers.

International Women Day Celebrations at CSKHPAU

***Women have innate leadership qualities: Ms Indu Goswami, Member Parliament***

Palampur 8 March***.***In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood, International Women Day was celebrated at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University with enthusiasm and gaiety today.

While addressing the University staff and students, Chief Guest Ms Indu Goswami, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), extended greeting to all on the occasion. She narrated the history and status of women in India. She said that Indians pay respects to mother earth and goddess but we need to ponder over the matter beginning from the ancient times to the present situation. In some parts of the country, large scale discrimination continues against women despite the fact that some Indian women have achieved much worldwide.

The chief guest said that women reservation has been able to empower the women in Himachal Pradesh. Ms Indu Goswami said that women are creators so cannot be considered weak. They have innate leadership qualities. She advised ladies to empower other ladies in their surroundings The Chief Guest also elaborated some useful schemes of Govt of India and Govt of H.P. especially for the women and asked all ladies to avail these. She asked enlightened ladies to provide direction and effective leadership to society. She exhorted young girls to join politics and improve the political dialogue and clean it if they find some flaws in it.

While presiding over the function Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, paid his deep gratitude to women. He said that mother earth was giving life to humanity. He also remembered his late mother Smt. Tripta Devi and acknowledged the contributions of his wife Dr Parveen Lata in his career growth. The Vice-Chancellor said that even after celebrating international women day for the last one-century discrimination against women continues. He said that there is a need that all ladies maintain good relations among themselves also and there be no discrimination between daughter and daughter-in-law. He also remembered some young achievers of H.P. like youngest Zila Parishad Chairperson Muskan, Ms Geeta printed in Who calendar for playing a pivotal role in vaccination, Army officer Shveta, etc. and asked the students to imbibe their grit and determination to become achievers and helping to change the destiny of the state and nation.

Dr.Yadwinder Singh Dhaliwal, Dean, College of Community Science, in his welcome address, detailed about major achievements of his 30 years old institution.

Ms.Jyoti Sharma Bhardwaj, Director, Gunjan NGO, Dharmashala, delivered a special talk on “ Women in leadership: achieving an equal future in Covid-19.”

The Chief Guest honoured University first lady Dr.(Mrs.) Parveen Lata Chaudhary and an alumnus of the University Dr. Swati Gupta, HAS, Assistant Commissioner. She also presented mementoes to some NGO representatives like Ms Deena, Suresh Lata Awasthy and Damini Mishra. She also honoured university health centre lady staff Dr. Anjana Tuli, Dr. Priyanka Rana and Kanchan and other university lady staff members Panna Chodan, Sanjana, Simro Devi, Sudarshana Devi, Hema , Soma, Usha Devi, Urmila, Sunila Devi, Salochna, Ayodhya Devi, Rattan Devi, Nirmal , Pushpa Devi, Lata devi, Neelam kumarai Raj rani, Lalita Devi, Kamlesh kumara, Disha , Sarita Devi, Pooja, Rani, Pataso, Ajnjali, Pinni Devi, Mamta, Pooja Kumari, Rita, Saroj Bala, Sunita Singh, Varsha, Vanita and Poona Devi. Some research staff members of the college Aruna Rana, Satya Bhama, Archna Sharma, Goldy Chopra and Anju Kapur and Archna Sood were also honoured.

Some publications were also released to mark the occasion. Drs. Ranjana Verma and Sapna Gautam also expressed their views.

In addition to University, Statutory officers and all women staff members attended the celebrations. All covid-19 related precautions and SoPs were followed during the programme.

***Vice-Chancellor Prof. H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor lays foundation stone of Rs. 45 lakh Students’ Centre***

Palampur 08 March. “The college of agriculture in CSK H.P. Agriculture University will have a world class students’ centre within next 100 days”, declared Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, after laying the foundation stone of this centre worth Rs. 45 lakh, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary said that he had a blazing dream to provide world class facilities in the University and he was committed to realize it with his all might. “Whenever I visited any top foreign university I always thought to I am fully committed to help the students to excel in academics and other areas with whatever I can”, said Prof Chaudhary.

The Vice-Chancellor asked the students to create congenial environment for attaining an international status to the University by bagging large number of fellowships and scholarships. He told that many students’ friendly decisions have been taken recently including enhancing the scholarship and fellowship amounts. They have been asked to create awareness about the university and new technology in nook and corner of the state for which they will be suitably rewarded. He said that some International collaboration were in offing and today’s students were future scientists. He asked them to publish their research work in international journals and bring name and fame to alma mater with new innovations. He also asked them to give due respect to their teachers and follow rules and regulations.

Dr.R.K.Katraria, Dean, College of Agriculture thanked the Vice-Chancellor for sanctioning many facilities worth Rs. 71 lakh including musical fountain, upgraded canteen, etc. He told that the new students’ centre will have eight shops for documentation work, cafeteria, juice bar; daily needs shop, ATM, etc. and will be open for 24x7.

Er.Vikas Sood, Estate Officer assured the Vice-Chancellor to make students’ centre functional within 100 days.

Dr.Suresh Upadhyay and Mr. Tarun Kapur, third year student also spoke on the occasion. All statutory officers, heads, scientists and students were present on the occasion.

***CSKHAPU & CCSHAU to sign MoU for student and faculty***

***Exchange :Prof. H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 06 March. CSK H.P. Agriculture University and CCS Haryana Agricultural University (HAU) have decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for students’ and faculty exchange. This was announced by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that his University has strength and edge in many areas like High-Tech Molecular Cytogenetics and tissue culture, double haploidy breeding, organic and natural farming, horticulture, bee keeping, shitake mushroom, micro propagation techniques, climate change and animal vector born diseases, veterinary ophthalmology, veterinary diagnostic imaging etc and HAU has excellence in several research areas and also in agricultural business incubation, extension education especially in seed village programme, etc. The proposed MoU will do well to the farmers and students of both states and will be a step towards empowering them with right knowledge and technology. He said that as per the new education policy such collaborations were mandatory for the higher education institutes.

Prof Chaudhary said that it was agriculture which saved economy during pandemic and many highly qualified youngsters who lost jobs in the last one year were approaching him to adopt farming. He has directed all Krishi Vigya Kendras to extend all technical support to such people. He exhorted farm scientists to work with a mission to bring bread on the table of hungry and share their knowledge liberally considering all human race as one.

Dr.A.K.Chhbara, Dean, College of Agriculture, HAU, delivered a talk on “Flower to DNA- evolution of contemporary plant breeding.” He dedicated his website authorstream.com with 645 uploads and two crore views to Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor and also handed over all high quality power point presentations in a pen drive to him. He also briefed about the major achievements of HAU.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research; Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education; Dr.Satish Paul, Dean, Post Graduate Studies, heads, scientists and students attended the programme.

Media Visit to COVAS

***Veterinary Clinical Complex to be made a centre of excellence: Prof. H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 04 March. “Veterinary Clinical Complex in Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences(COVAS) in the University will be made a centre of excellence”, informed Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University while interacting with media persons, here today.

 The Vice-Chancellor said that Advanced Veterinary Multispecialty Complex in the COVAS was known for providing specialized and super specialized multispecialty public - outreach clinical services to the sick and ailing animals from all over the State. Efforts have been initiated to make it a Centre of Excellence by augmenting more technical and other facilities. Prof. Chaudhary appreciated the scientists and students who were providing services to farmers in the areas of Animal Reproduction, Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Surgery. Uninterrupted clinical services were offered even during the COVID pandemic.He said that a prompt treatment is often preceded by equally effective diagnostic laboratory services in the College Clinics extended by the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary Parasitology and Veterinary Pathology. Prof Chaudhary told that shortly a veterinary medical outlet will be set up in the COVAS to provide medicines at discounted rates. Some facilities for the farmers, bringing their animals for the treatment, will also be provided

Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, told that the Veterinary Clinical Complex has 17 experts and specialists and Internees, Postgraduates and Ph.D - students from different departments form an integral part of the process of animal care and clinical assistance. In addition, the undergraduate students of 3rd and 4th year of B.V.Sc. & A.H also have access to the clinical practice. He told that during the financial year 2020-21, a total of 8500 cases of small and large animals were treated by various clinical departments. Approximately 6000 clinical samples were also processed for diagnosis of various ailments in the clinical diagnostic laboratory of this department. More than 1000 animals were treated for various diseases.

Prof. Pankaj Sood, Head, Veterinary Clinical Complex, informed that besides, direct clinical services, number of consultancies are also provided regularly to the veterinarians from the State Animal Husbandry Department and the farmers across the State. Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, Drs.Desh Raj and Adarsh Kumar were also present during the visit. The media persons interacted with scientists, students and farmers also.

National Science Day Celebrations in COBS

***Science, technology & innovations have contributed much for the welfare of mankind: Prof. H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 26 February. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University has said that the science, technology and innovations have contributed tremendously for the welfare of mankind.

The Vice-Chancellor was addressing students and scientists after inaugurating National Science Day celebrations in the College of Basic Sciences(COBS) in the University, here today. The Vice-Chancellor said that the science has elevated the standards of life to great height and asked the students and scientists to apply science with wisdom in their day-to-day life for future innovations. He said that Noble laureate Dr. Chander Shekhar Venkataraman, on his birth anniversary this week is celebrated in the country, was a role model for all and we should try to imbibe his virtues to inculcate scientific temperament. He told that the university will be inviting top scientists including noble laureates in future so that the students and scientists may get opportunities to interact with them.

Dr. (Mrs.) Anita Singh, Dean, College of Basic Science, Dr. Sharda Singh, Coordinator and Dr.Ranbir Singh Rana, covenor also expressed their views. Prof. OSK Shastri from Central University, H.P. delivered a special lecture.

Around fifty students from the College of Basic Science participated in various competitions to mark the occasion. In declamation contest Samrit Sharma got first prize and Vanshika got second prize, in poster making Kareena Verma got first prize and Nikita secured second prize. Two consolation prizes went to Khushi and Rashika Parmar. In quiz competition, team of Sahil Bharti and Pallavi Thakur got first position, team of Mitali Patial and Pallavi got second position and in the power point presentation. Akriti got first position and Aryan Sood stood Second .Statutory officers and heads of department were also present on the occasion.

Golden Jubilee farmer-scientists interaction & KVK SAC at Mohal(Kullu)

***Vice-Chancellor Prof. H.K.Chaudhary asks farmers to adopt climate smart agriculture***

Palampur 22 February. “Farmers need to accept the challenges due to climate change and adopt climate smart agriculture”, advised Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University while addressing farmers during an interaction programme and chairing a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra(KVK), Bajaura at Mohal near Kullu, today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that his University was empowering the farmers to accept the new challenges thrown open by climate change and advising them to adopt strategies like using crop varieties which are suited to adverse climate conditions, better use of resources and raising crops and animals in the regions where they grow the best. He said that scientists can help the farmers in formulating suitable strategies for climate resilient agro practices and technologies. He said that during pandemic, agriculture has proved that it was backbone of the Indian economy. He appreciated the Kullu farmers for crop diversification, off season vegetable production, nursery raising and fruit production. “The progressive farmers are increasing their income by adopting enterprises like bee-keeping, mushroom cultivation and poultry and other farmers should also come forward to emulate them and adopt integrated farming system to generate additional income”, opined Prof H.K.Chaudhary. He also underlined the importance of cold water fish as a delicacy and the University efforts to study its adaptability in pond conditions.

The Vice-Chancellor also inaugurated an exhibition of farm produce and honored 16 progressive farmers of the district Kullu with a Kulu cap and citation.

Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, spoke on the importance of animal husbandry, major problems of the cattle and need to increase animal production. He highlighted extension education activities and asked farmers to solve their farming and animal husbandry related problems by contacting KVK scientists. Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, College of Veterinary Science, Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research and Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal, Dean, College of Community Science also addressed the farmers.

Dr.K.C.Sharma, Programme Coordinator, detailed major achievements and future plans of his KVK. Progressive farmers also expressed their opinion. During farmer-scientists interaction, scientists from the University answered questions of farmers.

Besides Ishra Thakur, Pardhan, Mohal Panchayat and Rajesh Thakur, BDC Member,district level officers from the state departments of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, industry, banks, etc also participated in SAC and farmer-scientist interaction programme.

The famers who were honoured by the Vice-Chancellor included Veena Bharti, Thakur Dass, Het Ram, Narinder Kumar, Promila Devi, Phoola Devi, Anita Negi, Jaswant Singh, Krishan Sen, Ishra Devi, Mamta Sharma, Kala Devi, Umesh Sood,,Tedhi Singh Negi,Aruna Dogra and Banta Ram.

Golden Jubilee farmer-scientists interaction & KVK SAC at Sundarnagar

***CSKHAPU to take many initiatives for Mandi farmers: Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 20 February. To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University organized a Farmer-Scientist interaction at village Manjhrot, near Sundarnagar in Mandi district.

While addressing the farmers, officers and scientists, Chief Guest Shri Vinod Kumar, MLA, Nachan, while appreciating the new approach of the University to reach farmers in the village, asked the University to solve the farm related problems on priority so that farmers may increase their income. He distributed certificate to progressive farmers and also distributed blankets to some needy farm families sponsored by IFFCO.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told that the University has decided to organize 51 programmes at main campus and all outstations of the University to celebrate 50 years of H.P. Statehood. He declared that a regional centre of the Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur will be opened in Mandi district besides establishing a community radio station for disseminating farm information among farmers. He told that the University has initiated efforts to get geographical indicators for the traditional crops of the district like Karsog *kulthi* and *rajmash*, Mehri Dhar garlic and Byala basmati so that farmers may get higher price of their produce.

Dr.N.K.Badhan, Director of Agriculture, H.P. also elaborated about various government schemes for the benefit of farmers.

Earlier, Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, chaired the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra(KVK), Mandi and assured farmers to extend all help from the KVK. He informed about some new steps in the University to highlight the contributions of progressive farmers of the State and sought their feedback to improve the University working for effective delivery of useful technology.

Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, while elaborating about various extension education activities told that skill component has been added in all training programmes so that farmers may start their farm based avocations. He asked farmers to remain in touch with the scientists. Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research and Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal, Dean, College of Community Science detailed research and academic activities of the University.

Dr.Pankaj Sood, Programme Coordinator, told about the activities of his KVK and proposed action plan for the ensuing crop seasons. Dr.R.K.Raju, and other members of the SAC, also expressed their views. Progressive farmers Parma Ram Chaudhary, Kundan Lal, Sanjay Kumar, Kalpana Sharma and Maya Devi also expressed their opinion. During farmer-scientists interaction, Drs. Sudheer Rana, S.K.Upadhyay G.D. Sharma, V.K. Sharma, all heads of the departments and other scientists from the University answered questions of farmers.

SAC of KVK, Berthin held in a village

***Scientists can come close to farmers by reaching out to them in their farms: Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor,CSKHPAU***

Palampur 18 February. CSK  Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University today started a new tradition in its 42 years history by organizing a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting in a village amidst farmers. True to his words, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor sat on the ground to chair SAC of Krishi Vigyan Kendra(KVK), Berthin( Bilaspur) at Fagog village in the Jandhuta block in the house of progressive farmer Bharat Bhushan. He said that scientists can come close to the hearts of farmers by reaching out to them in their farms and not sitting pretty in their offices.

The Vice-Chancellor said that to commemorate Golden Jubilee of H.P.Statehood, farmer-scientist interactions have been started in villages from today and it was his dream to discuss all farmer issues sitting with farmers in their farms or homes. He was committed to provide all technological assistance to each and every farmer of the State. The Vice-Chancellor also elaborated about the new initiatives where farmer has become a centre of all plans in his University. He also inaugurated an exhibition of farm produce by the local farmers. Prof Chaudhary also honoured some progressive farmers and called them brand ambassadors of the University for spreading useful farm knowledge among other farmers of their area.

Dr.Rajbir Singh, Director, Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Ludhiana assured full technical and financial support for the transfer of technology among farmers at district level.

Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education, told that during Golden Jubilee of the Statehood, more than 3000 farmers will be trained by the University at Palampur and all KVKs. He also asked the farmers to maintain a live link with the scientists and farm officers for timely farm inputs and advise.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research asked farmers to adopt University developed crop varieties and technologies. Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dean, College of Agriculture, underlined the importance of farm education.

Dr.Suman Kumar, Programme Coordinator, detailed about the activities of his KVK and proposed action plan for the ensuing crop seasons. Progressive farmers and officers from the state departments of agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, fishery, banks, etc also actively participated in the meeting.

During farmer-scientists interaction, Drs. Sudheer Rana, Rakesh Kapila, Akhilesh Sharma, S.K.Upadhyay and Sangita Sood, all heads of the departments from the University answered questions of farmers. Muskan, Chairperson, Zila Parishad, Bilaspur and other elected members of Panchayati Raj institutions welcomed the unique initiative of the University to organize programme in the village sitting with farmers of the district.

*Basant Panchami celebrations in the CSKHAPU*

*Let’s work together with dedication, hard work and zeal: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSKHPAU*

Palampur 16 February. On the auspicious occasion of *Basant Panchami*, Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK  Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, performed *Pooja* of goddess *Saraswati* today.

Later, addressing the statutory officers, staff and students, Prof Chaudhary said *Maa Saraswati* is the goddess of knowledge, wisdom, creative arts, language, learning and purity. He sought blessing of the goddess for taking forward the University in all spheres of academics, research and extension education. The Vice-Chancellor said that he is determined to transform CSKHPAU to an international level University and asked all to work with complete dedication, hard work and zeal.

He also asked students to seek blessings of *Maa Saraswati* regularly. Prof H.K.Chaudhary also greeted all on the occasion of *Basant Panchami*.

Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dean, College of Agriculture and other statutory officers also offered their respects to the goddess in the premises of COA. Sweets were distributed to all present on the occasion.

***Golden Jubilee Beekeepers Fair  to be organized soon: Prof H.K.Chaudhary,VC, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 13 February. CSK  Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University will organise a ‘Golden Jubilee Beekeepers Fair’ soon. This was disclosed by Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, while addressing the trainees on the conclusion of Beekeeping Training Programme, here today.

Prof Chaudhary said that avocations like bee keeping provide an additional source of income and some professional bee keepers of the state were role model to others as they have been utilizing rich flora to produce quality honey fetching very good price. He said that due to mixed  flora like locally available ‘*bana’ ‘gandla’ ‘basuti’, ‘safeda’, ‘tahli’ and  ‘tooni*’, honey of district Kangra was unique in taste, quality and medicinal value. He asked the trainees to spread the knowledge gained in the training among other farmers also.

The Vice-Chancellor said that his University and the State Department of Horticulture will jointly organise a state level fair of bee-keepers to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of H.P. Statehood at Bee Keeping Research Station, Nagrota Bagwan. He asked them to keep in touch with this research station to solve their all problems related to bee-keeping. The Vice-Chancellor also distributed certificates to 50 trainees.

Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education told that this six days training was sponsored by the State Department of Horticulture. After the gradual improvement in the pandemic situation, a large number of trainings have been planned observing all SoPs.  He also elaborated about other extension activities.

Dr.Desh Raj Chaudhary, Professor;  Shri Kamalsheel Negi, Deputy Director Horticulture;  Shri  Ajay Sangrai, Bee Keeping Development Officer and Shri Neeraj Sharma, Horticulture Development Officer were also present on the occasion.

***Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, expresses grief on the sad demise of Shri Sujan Singh Pathania***

Palampur 12 February 2021. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has expressed grief at the demise of Shri Sujan Singh Pathania, former Agriculture Minister, H.P. The Vice-Chancellor recalled his contributions and concern for the development of agriculture and said that he was keen that traditional crop varieties be conserved.

Two minutes silence was observed in the memory of departed soul during a meeting of university statutory officers.

**Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancerllor asks farmers to optimize the utilization of farm resources**

Palampur 11 February. On his way back from Shimla to Palampur, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor visited KVK, Sundarnagar today. He interacted with the 35 farmer trainees and asked them to adopt new technology developed by the University. The Vice-Chancellor said that it was imperative to adopt farm mechanization and optimize the utilization of all farm resources to increase farm income. He also advocated balanced use of fertilizers and increased use of organic manures and fertilizers. He also informed them about the new initiatives for farmers and invited them to visit the University.

Dr.Pankaj Sood, Programme Coordinator, told that farmers were undergoing NABARD sponsored training on mushroom cultivation from 8-12 February.

***Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, expresses grief on the sad demise of Shri Sujan Singh Pathania***

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***Hon'ble CM inaugurates Golden Jubilee Nutrition Garden at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 7 February. Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur today inaugurated the ‘Golden Jubilee Nutrition Garden’ at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University under Rs.19 crore environment sustainability plan concept of CAAST-NAHEP project entitled ‘Protected Agriculture and Natural Farming’ to motivate the people to adopt gardening in a systematic manner in a small piece of land. The Chief Minister said that these gardens would ensure access to a healthy diet and adequate macro and micronutrients to the people at their door steps. These gardens would also help in strengthening food security and improve income generation and livelihood. These gardens would also play a significant role towards environmental sustainability by taking care of the natural resources of the area.

Shri Jai Ram Thakur said that this concept of a nutritional garden would also ensure the involvement of students in environmental sustainability by making them technically aware of various fruits and medicinal plants. He said that this garden would cover an area of 3250 square meters and include various food species as well as medicinal and aromatic plants. In the first phase 21 plants each of apple, peach, plum, apricot, pomegranate, and persimmon have been proposed to the planted in this winter season, and later planting of other fruit species as well as medicinal aromatic plants would be planted as per their planting season, he added.

The Chief Minister appreciated the discipline among the staff and students and asked all to work together to serve the farming community of the State.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Ministers, and MLAs and detailed various academic, research, and extension activities of the University. He told that the University will organize 51 programs to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Statehood at the main campus, KVKs, and Research Stations. He said that all-out efforts will be made to give international status to the University.

Hon'ble Speaker, HP Vidhan Sabha Shri Vipin Singh Parmar, Industries Minister Bikram Singh, MLAs Ravinder Dhiman, and Mulk Raj Premi, former MLAs Praveen Sharma and Dulo Ram, Chairman Wool Federation Trilok Kapoor District BJP president Hari Dutt Sharma were also present on the occasion among others.

***Hum Sab Bharatiya Hain: NCC Flag starts fluttering high at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 04 February. Along with the Tricolor and the University Flag, NCC flag was hoisted at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, after performing the NCC flag hoisting and unfurling ceremony, addressed the statutory officers, head of departments, non-teaching staff and NCC cadets. He said that NCC was introduced after the establishment of College of Agriculture in 1966 and he felt elated and privileged to hoist it after 54 years after the introduction of NCC in the institution.

The Vice-Chancellor said that now onwards, the NCC flag will keep reminding the importance of NCC motto of ‘Unity and Discipline’ to the University staff and all visitors. NCC song “*Hum Sab Bharatiya Hain, Hum Sab Bharatiya Hain Apni Manzil Ek Hai*…” will keep resonating in the air of campus.

He expressed his satisfaction that equal number of girl and boy cadets have enrolled in the NCC unit of the University and were bringing glory to the institute by regularly qualifying ‘C’ and ‘B’ certificates. Some of them have also joined armed forces too. The Vice-Chancellor said that it was a matter of pride the NCC authorities have doubled the University NCC unit strength from 100 to 200, recently. He also appreciated 27 cadets who got ‘C’ certificates and 35 cadets who got ‘B’ certificates and was happy that most of the qualified cadets were girls who got ‘A’ grades in the examination.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor was received by well dressed NCC Cadets at the Flag Hoisting Stand. Lt. Col B.S.Khandwa,NCC commanding officer 5 HP Company Dharamshala, Col.(Retd.) D.K.S.Chauhan and Dr.Ankur Sharma, NCC officer were also present in the brief but impressive ceremony.

***Farmer trainings resume at CSK H.P. Agriculture University***

Palampur 1 February. After a gap of almost ten months, training programs for the farmers resumed at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Last year, due to announcement of lockdown in the last week of March, ongoing trainings were abruptly closed. Now, with the improvement in the pandemic situation and guidelines of the government, the University resumed trainings following all SoPs.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, has expressed his happiness on the resumption of trainings and appreciated the Directorate of Extension Education and *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* as training programmes were essential component of transfer of new farm technology to the farmers. He said that under ‘*Mukhymantri Nutan Polyhouse Pariyojna’*, fifty trainings on protected cultivation of vegetable crops will be organized for 1500 farmers of the State in the next twelve months. In addition around fifty trainings on various aspects of agriculture, animal husbandry, mushroom cultivation, poultry, etc will also be organized at the University, besides a number of trainings have also been planned for all eight KVKs.

He said that the University will also start organizing all farm related activities among farmers in their villages and farms. The University has already decided to hold Scientific Advisory Committee meetings of KVKs at the doorstep of farmers, this month.

Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education told that a batch of 25 farm ladies was attending a six days vocational training on integrated farming with specialization in commercial vegetable production. It has been sponsored by SJVN Ltd. During the inaugural ceremony Drs. Madhumeet Singh, Hirday Paul Singh, D.R.Chaudhary, Vishal Dogra and Luv Bhushan were also present.

72nd Republic Day celebrations at CSKHAPU

***Students’ stipend to be enhanced considerably: Vice-Chancellor Prof. H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 26 January.The Republic Day was celebrated with gaiety and enthusiasm at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, unfurled the National Flag and took a salute from the NCC contingent of the University. He also inspected the impressive parade by NCC cadets.

Later, while addressing the University community, the Vice-Chancellor remembered the national leaders who adopted the constitution on this day in 1950. He paid glowing tributes to national heroes like Kartar Singh Sarabha and Wazir Singh Pathania who sacrificed their lives for the nation. Prof Chaudhary said that his University was moving forward in the service of the farming community of Himachal Pradesh. He said that he has pledged to work in an unbiased manner to revolutionize the working and converting the University into a truly international one.

Prof Chaudhary appreciated the students for their dedication, hard work, and excellence. He dedicated the celebrations to the students and assured them of all facilities to widen their horizons. He told that student scholarships have been enhanced considerably; in many cases to double from the existing amount. He said that students’ strengths will be fully integrated into the working of the institution by providing the opportunity of “Earning while learning.’ “Each and every Ph.D. scholar will be encouraged for teaching assignments and will be suitably paid for it”, declared Dr. H.K.Chaudhary. Prof H.K.Chaudhary asked the students to create awareness about the university and its technology in their areas and get paid for it. He promised to resolve all students' issues on priority and asked them to walk with him at a fast pace so that their future is galvanized.

He informed that the NCC authorities have doubled the University NCC unit strength from 100 to 200, last week. He also appreciated 27 cadets who got ‘C’ certificates and 35 cadets who got ‘B’ certificates and was happy that most of the qualified cadets were girls who got ‘A’ grades in the examination.

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated Dr.Vipin Kumar Gupta, Students’ Welfare Officer, and Dr.Ankur Sharma, NCC officer for the impressive parade.

Patriotic songs were sung and sweets were distributed among all statutory officers, heads of department, scientists, non-teaching staff, and students present in the celebrations.

Progressive Farmers' Photo Gallery at CSKHAPU: Programme on Golden Jubilee of Statehood of H.P.

***Farmers will be first and foremost in University plans: Vice-Chancellor Prof. H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 25 January.In a rare and unique gesture towards the farming community, “Progressive Farmers' Photo Gallery” was inaugurated in CSK H.P. Agriculture University to mark the Golden Jubilee of Statehood of Himachal Pradesh, here today.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, in the presence of progressive farmers, university statutory officers, and scientists, asked Smt. Suman Lata, a progressive farm lady from Siholpuri (Shahpur, Kangra) to inaugurate the photo gallery in the University museum.

Later, while addressing them and scientists, Prof Chaudhary said that initially photographs with achievements of 32 farmers from all over the state, including seven farm ladies have been displayed but the number will increase as the farmers get more recognition at the international, national, or state level. He said that the University Krishi Vigyan Kendras will also display such photos on their premises. He told that innovative farmers and all those farmers who learn, adopt and spread the University technology among other farmers will be suitably got awarded at the State level.

Prof.Chaudhary said that in his plans ‘farmers will be first and everything will come next’ and it has, already, been decided that all University policies will be farmer-centric.

The Vice-Chancellor also elaborated the major achievements of the University after Himachal Pradesh attained full statehood and declared that during this Golden Jubilee year, the University will organize function at its all KVKs and research stations. He said that besides policies and programmes of the State Government, his University has contributed tremendously to make the state self-sufficient on the food front as more than 80 per cent area under wheat and paddy was under the improved varieties developed by his University. If the state has earned awards in farming at the national level it was also due to the relevant technologies developed here. He said that each and every area of H.P. was unique in its agro-diversity and the University will preserve, conserve and propagate it scientifically after getting geographical indicators for the traditional crops. He also spoke on the importance of striking a balance between modern farming and natural farming. He said that his teachers were like sages who have spread the light of farm education and produced more than 8600 graduates, postgraduates and doctorates who have brought great name and fame to alma mater and state by occupying prestigious positions world over.

Prof.Chaudhary also expressed his gratitude to the Governor and Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for their support to take forward the University and remembered the contributions of all former Vice-Chancellors and staff also. The Vice-Chancellor honoured 20 progressive farmers with a citation, shawl, and Himachali cap. He said they were brand ambassadors of the University to extend the technology to the nook and corner of every district. He sought the cooperation of all to propel growth at high speed to serve the clients more effectively.

Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, elaborated on the progress of the state during the last fifty years. Shri. Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar, said that it was a historic day to celebrate the golden jubilee of the statehood of Himachal Pradesh. He asked all to work hard for the progress of this hill state. Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Director of Extension Education also expressed his views.

Some progressive farmers namely Ajay Rattan, Prem Lal Nadda Jagdish Kumar, Smt. Prem Lata, Bharat Bhushan, Hariman Sharma, Thakur Dass, Narinder Kumar, Jalim Singh, Chander Kant, Smt Suman Lata, Parma Ram, Sanjay Kumar, Pancham Parmar, Smt Sudesh Kumari, Rakesh Kumar, Chaman Lal, Sarbjit Singh, Smt Kiran Rana and Suresh Kumar also spoke on the occasion and expressed their happiness for the honor bestowed on them. They thanked the Vice-Chancellor to recognize their work and directly communicating to them for effective feedback. Dr. Suresh Upadhyay conducted the stage.

All statutory officers, heads of department, and all scientists at the main campus also attended the function. The Vice-Chancellor also interacted with the press on the occasion.

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Patriotic songs were sung and sweets were distributed among all statutory officers, heads of department, scientists, non-teaching staff, and students present in the celebrations.

Mobile Application on ‘Secrets of Elegance’ launched

***CSKHPAU to launch its mobile App soon: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 18 January. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University, launched a mobile App, ‘Secrets of Elegance’, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that to take forward the government initiative on ‘vocal for local’, the traditional knowledge and available plants with medicinal properties can come handy to spread the useful information among masses. He recalled the use of Indian soap nut tree( *Reetha*) for hair care and turmeric in skin care since ages in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh and advocated the use of such traditional items in maintaining good health and good looks.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his happiness on the ‘Mobile Application on Secrets of Elegance’ which will enable the user to have easy access and availability on beauty care ideas which were easily available in every kitchen. He expressed the hope that with the help of this App , women along with their household works will take care of their beauty without spending money and wasting time. He asked the Mobile App. developer Dr Raj Pathania, Professor and Head, Deptt. of Human Development, College of Community Science to add features in this App. for the use of men also.

He also directed the newly created cell on information technology to launch a mobile application on the University for the benefit of farmers, students and others.

Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal, Dean of the College of Community Science, told that the Mobile App has been developed under CM Start UP Scheme. Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research; Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, COVAS; Dr.(Mrs.) Jatinder Kishatwaria and some other scientists were present on the occasion.

College of Agriculture abuzz with activities as classes start after ten months

***“Feel the joy of learning with new facilities in updated and upgraded systems at CSKHPAU” Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor asks students***

Palampur 18 January. Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University, said that many students’ related positive decisions have been taken and the students will feel the joy of learning with new facilities in updated and upgraded systems. He was interacting with the students of third year class of B.Sc. Hons. Agriculture after formal regular classes commenced in the College of Agriculture after ten months, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor asked that the students to immediately take control of their farm practicals and begin the session with a positive approach. For competitive examinations and good career opportunities, exact knowledge and competence was required which students can assimilate easily during regular classes. He told that many student many facilities for the students and staff were in offing to give an international look to the University. He declared that all classes in all the constituent colleges

will be opened in a phased manner. The Vice-Chancellor said that campus life has no substitute and all precautions will be observed to take care of the students to insure their safety. Already, all staff has been screened for the pandemic and strict vigil will continue. He asked the students to follow Covid-19 related strict protocol and help the administration in smooth resumption of the academic activities. Already, some Post Graduate students have resumed their research work and the students of B.V.Sc. & A.H. fourth year have also joined regular classes.

Dr.R.K.Katraria, Dean, College of Agriculture told that the interaction session has been arranged to build confidence and security among students. He said that online classes and examinations were held under extra ordinary situation due to pandemic but these were no substitute to regular classes. All pandemic related precautions will be observed in the colleges and hostels. The Dean said that it was a matter of great joy that a former student of his college Prof H.K.Chaudhary, now occupying the august position of Vice-Chancellor and was interacting with the students.

Dr.V.K.Gupta, Students’ Welfare Officer, Dr.Hirday Paul Singh, Jt. Director Public Relations and some teachers were present during the interaction session. Some students also thanked the administration for starting the regular classes.

***CSKHPAU to extend professional help in the socio-economic development of Chamba farmers: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 16 January.CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University will extend its professional and technical services in the socio-economic development of farmers in Chamba district. This was decided in a virtual meeting of Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor with Shri D.C.Rana, IAS Deputy Commissioner, Chamba today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that as per the detailed discussions and assurance of all support from the district administration, the University will revamp its research and extension activities in Chamba district through its Research Station, Salooni. Initially, two research and extension project proposals will be jointly executed by the University and district administration, Chamba and line departments of the district. These include, "Strategies for increasing lavender production to enhance livelihood security in the economically backward district Chamba of Himachal Pradesh" and " Strengthening livelihood security through mainstreaming farmers’ varieties of rajmash, mash and kulthi in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh."

The Vice-Chancellor said that Salooni, Tissa, Bharmour, and Pangi valleys have an immense scope of Lavender cultivation due to favorable climate and its aromatic oil is in great demand. These valleys will be declared as “Lavender Valleys”. This will attract agro-tourism and generate employment opportunities thereby increasing the income of the farmers. He said that rajmash, mash and kulthi of Bharmour and Holi regions are famous for their attractive color, peculiar aroma, organoleptic taste, easy cooking quality, and digestibility and are always in huge demand. After purification, the Farmers’ Varieties of these pulses will be given protection by registering these with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority of India (PPV&FRA). Already the University has helped the farmers with the registration of three farmers’ varieties of maize namely ‘*Hachhi Kukri’, ‘Ratti’ and ‘Chitkanu’* of Bhandal Panchayat of Chamba district with PPV&FRA. The Panchayat was awarded National Plant Genome Saviour Community Award worth Rs. 10.00 lakh. Now, the effort will be made to get the registration of farmers’ pulse varieties of this district. For getting geographical indicators (GI) for
Chamba *Rajmash*, *Kulthi,* and *Mash*, the University will extend its help through a GI Taskforce and will also involve Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment so that farmers get recurring financial benefits.

Prof Chaudhary said that all research and extension activities will be carried out in participatory mode by involving local farmers and communities. All efforts will be made to attract and retain youth in agriculture. Shri D.C.Rana, Deputy Commissioner appreciated the initiative of the University and assured to provide all help of the district administration in this endeavor. Director of Research Dr. DK Vats, Director of Extension Education Dr. Madhumeet Singh, Dr. S.P. Dixt, Dr. Jai Dev, Dr. Anil Kumar, Ms. Kiran Bhadana, IAS, SDM, Salooni, and Senior Officers of the line departments of Chamba district participated in this virtual meeting.

***Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, inaugurates virtual class room worth Rs.20 lakh at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 13 January. Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor inaugurated an ultra modern virtual class room facility here today. He said that under the prevailing pandemic and adverse circumstances, it will prove boon for the students sitting in the safe and cosy environs of their homes. They will no more miss classes and will also attend virtual practical too. This platform will emphatically focus on teaching and learning.

The Vice-Chancellor said that that virtual class room facility was very much a part of New Education Policy which his university intends to implement from the next academic session. He said that the new facility will be a boon for multidisciplinary approach where the University can act as an umbrella organisation where colleges of one or two districts can be affiliated with it to award degrees by sharing the resources and facilities. It will be useful for the tribal area also. He said that initially all the constituent colleges will record their best lectures which will be consolidated at ICAR level for uploading on YouTube. He told that besides the students, the university will utilize the new facility for launching several online certificate courses for the farmers and other interested clients. He directed the scientists to prepare material for online lectures on natural farming, bee-keeping, goat and sheep rearing, bee-keeping, mushroom cultivation, seed production, fishery, etc. on priority. Prof Chaudhary told that the University will also add language lab with Sanskrit as an important subject. He said that it was imperative to study Sanskrit to learn and read *Vedas*, *Shastras* and other old scriptures to learn about the medicinal, herbal and other plants.

. The virtual class room facility has been supported by the National Agricultural Higher Education Project. The class room is equipped with latest gadgets and facilities like visualizer, digital white board, etc worth Rs. 20 lakh. The Vice-Chancellor said that it was an idea of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and expressed his gratitude to Dr T. Mohapatra, Director General, ICAR and Dr.R.C.Aggarwal, Deputy Director General, ICAR for extending the support to the University for creating this facility.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research; Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dean College of Agriculture, Dr.Satish Paul, Dean Post Graduate Studies, Dr.Suresh Kumar, Librarian, Dr.Ranbir Rana, Principal Investigator of NHAEP, Dr.V.K.Sharma, Head, Soil Science and Mr.Kapil Sharma were present on the occasion.

***CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University effectively manage Covid-19***

Palampur 8 January. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has made successful efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the campus by effectively implementing all government instructions from time to time. Beginning March, last year, all advisories, orders and instructions to contain the spread of the pandemic were followed completely resulting in bare minimum cases in the campus.

First corona positive case was discovered in the College of Basic Sciences in mid December and the administration was quick to order University health centre to start extensive screening of all staff. Among the 1176 employees and staff screened for flu like symptoms, four cases were found positive on testing. Then, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer, Kangra, RT-PCR Covid-19 testing camps were organised beginning 19 December. Among the 1319 staff and students tested, only nine were found Covid positive and were isolated in the dedicated Covid care area in the University. They were provided requisite support and medications.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary Vice Chancellor has appreciated the staff and students for strictly following health expert advisories enabling the University to manage the pandemic effectively. He has also appreciated the Senior Medical Officer Dr. ( Mrs.) Anjana Tuli and her staff for providing good health care services during the pandemic.

 ***CSKHPAU to display pics of progressive farmers***

Palampur 6 January. In an innovative move, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to display photographs of progressive farmers in its premises.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary Vice Chancellor has ordered that the selected progressive farmers adopting the new technology and spreading it among fellow farmers of the area be identified and their photographs with a brief biographical sketch be displayed in the premises of Directorate of Extension Education and farmers’ hostel at the campus. All *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* have been directed to display photographs of progressive farmers of their respective districts.

The University has, already, initiated a tradition where progressive farmers are honored in the main programmes. In the recent past, twenty progressive farmers from different districts of the State were honoured by the Vice-Chancellor during Farm Officers’ Workshop on 27 October, last year. The Vice-Chancellor has also directed the staff to hold major farmer oriented extension activities among them in their farms or their villages. It has also been decided that innovative farmers and all those farmers who learn, adopt and spread the university technology among other farmers will be suitably got awarded at the State level.

**Covid-19 testing begins at CSK H.P. Agriculture University**

 Palampur 22 December. Concerned with the Covid-19 related developments in and around the University, the administration, in active collaboration with State Health Department has initiated testing of all staff and students at the main campus at University Health Centre w.e.f. 19 December. Initially, the students staying at hostels have been tested with negative reports(with the Grace of God) conveyed today. The university has adopted all advisories and SOPs in its day to day functioning. The Vice-Chancellor has also instructed all Officers to adopt and implement Govt. advisories so that students, residents, and staff stays safe and protective during the existing tough times. The administration has assured all help to all staff members and the students.

***ICT cell office inaugurated at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 4 January. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary Vice Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, inaugurated the new office of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Cell, here today. This cell has been entrusted with the responsibility to promote online teaching and examination via e-learning technologies.

Prof Chaudhary said that the new cell will help the university in implementing new education policy and will also extend assistance in digitization of the campus. There is proposal to implement an e-office system and maintain the students’ record through Digi-Locker system where the new cell will play an active role. He said that the whole paper based processes will be digitized and there is proposal for paperless administration. Efforts have been initiated to disseminate the transcripts and degrees to the students in online mode through mobile. This will be hassle free system where the students will be able to receive their degrees sitting at home. The ICT cell will also maintain various activities pertaining to digital resources in the university and shall also be presenting a new look feature rich interactive website of the University soon.

All statutory officers and members of ICT cell comprising Professor Incharge Dr. Shivani Katoch, Sh. Vaibhav Kalia, Sh. Kapil Sharma, and Sh. Kunal Sood were present on the occasion.

***Prof. H.K.Chaudhary asks staff to work relentlessly for the bright future of farmers***

Palampur 01 January.CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University will implement the new education policy from the next academic session and by March this year; an e-office system to bring transparency and efficiency in the working will be implemented. This was announced by Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor while addressing the University community on the occasion of New Year through virtual mode, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the students’ record will be maintained and degrees will be awarded through Digi Locker and ICT cell has already been created for the purpose. He said that 46 positions of teaching and non-teaching staff have been filled up after his joining almost four months back and the process has been initiated to fill up 120 such posts. The University was duty-bound to educate youngsters and increase the income of hill farmers, conserve and scientifically utilize immense natural resources and genetically improve crops, medicinal and aromatic plants. He said that innovative changes, improvement in agricultural marketing, crop diversification and modernization were on his agenda to make agricultural attractive for the young farmers.

Prof Chaudhary exhorted each scientist to bring innovation in research as per the geographical conditions and needs of a particular area and bring new research projects for the betterment of hill farmers. He also advocated national and international collaborations for quality research, exposure of students, transfer of new farm technology and useful information at the doorsteps of the farming community. “We cannot afford to sit in offices, following strictly covid-19 related protocol the extension specialists should start reaching out to farmers immediately”, advised Vice-Chancellor.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary informed that University vision document was under process and steps have been initiated to provide new facilities to the students and staff and give international status to the University besides making campus clean, green and smart. He said that all staff members need to work with competence, dedication and zeal at the main campus and all research and extension centres for the bright future of farm education, research and extension education. Feedback about their work will be got every month and all those students and staff members whose performance is found outstanding will be honoured. He expressed the hope that the University will achieve success in its all endeavours in the mandates areas and committed himself to serve the ‘mother institute’ with unflagging zest.

The Vice-Chancellor also expressed his gratitude to the Governor and the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh for imposing their faith in him and giving him the opportunity to serve the farming community.

***CSK H.P. Agriculture University introduces induction training programme for its staff***

Palampur 29 December.Taking a lead among many farm universities, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to initiate induction training programmes for its newly recruited staff. Disclosing it here today, Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor told that directions have been issued to organise training programmes for the newly recruited teaching and non-teaching employees to enable them to acquaint them with their job responsibilities so that they may acquire knowledge, understanding and skill in their particular field of expertise. He said that such trainings will make the staff more productive and efficient. Besides interacting on the roles and responsibilities of each employee, expectations of the University from them will also be discussed. The training programme will create awareness on agricultural education system in India, act and statutes of the university, RTI act, office procedures, use of ICT tools, media protocol, academic, financial and other service rules in the University.

Similarly, it has been decided to provide on-the-job trainings to the existing teaching and non-teaching employees so that they are kept abreast with the changes in the rules, regulations and procedures in the system. The Vice-Chancellor asserted that periodical trainings will enhance the knowledge of the employees enabling them to imbibe a sense of responsibility in the discharge of their duties and to increase their efficiency in work. Such induction trainings have been made mandatory for the newly recruited staff.

Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary informed that Human Resource Development and Placement Centre will organize a 10 days induction training programme to newly recruited 22 teaching and 23 non-teaching employees shortly.

**Golden Jubilee Forage Garden inaugurated at CSK H.P. Agriculture University**

Palampur 22 December.‘Golden Jubilee Forage Garden’ was inaugurated at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University here today. While inaugurating the garden through virtual mode, Dr T. Mohapatra, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), asked all farm universities to develop fodder production development, forage seed production plans and fodder production-based entrepreneurship in consultation with Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi.

Speaking as a Guest of Honour Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to the ICAR for planning forage gardens in farm universities to commemorate golden jubilee year of the ‘All India Coordinated Research Project on Forage Crops and Utilization (AICRP-FCU) which was established in 1970. The Vice-Chancellor said that the forage garden established by Dr Naveen Kumar, Officer In charge and associated scientists will certainly help farmers, students and other stakeholders to get them acquainted with various forage crops, their improved varieties, production and protection technologies for further utilization at their end according to their needs and requirements.

Prof Chaudhary said that the centre has also its strength in the forage seed and root slips production having wider adaptability. The forage varieties and technologies developed by the centre have also found their place in J&K, Uttarakhand, Punjab and North-East part of the country. AICRP (Forage Crops and Utilisation ) Palampur centre has been awarded “Best Centre Award” during the year 2017 for its contribution towards Forage Resources Development in Himachal Pradesh.tate and dairy contributes about 35 to 55 per cent of the family income. He told that since its inception, AICRP (FCU) programmes have been focusing for the improvement, development and management of forage resources with a view to bridging the gap between demand and supply of forage in the state. This centre has developed high yielding 18 varieties of different fodder crops, grasses and fodder legumes.s.

The Vice-Chancellor said that all crops have emerged from grasses hence 'Grasses First Crops Next' slogan should get pragmatic shape. Importance of livestock for livelihood security of people demands utmost attention of the scientific community towards grasses and forages. He suggested inclusion of ‘ *Doob grass’*, ‘*Kusha grass*’ and ‘ *Cogon (Chhij) gras*s’ in the forage garden. He said that crop farming, animal husbandry and pastoralism are intimately integrated in the state and dairy contributes about 35 to 55 per cent of the family income. He told that since its inception, AICRP (FCU) programmes have been focusing for the improvement, development and management of forage resources with a view to bridging the gap between demand and supply of forage in the state. This centre has developed high yielding 18 varieties of different fodder crops, grasses and fodder legumes.

Dr.T.R.Sharma, Deputy Director-General), ICAR expressed his happiness that scientifically designed “Golden Jubilee Forage Gardens” comprising more than 50 improved high yielding varieties of annual and perennial crops have been successfully established in 50 farm institutes in the country despite the adversities posed by Covid19 pandemic. Dr A.K.Roy, Project Coordinator and many other scientists associated with the project also expressed their views.

**Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSK HPAU, exhorts youth to become successful entrepreneurs**

 Palampur 21 December. Prof H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor CSK H.P. Agriculture University, has exhorted the farm students and youth to take benefit of various government schemes to become successful entrepreneurs.

While participating in an online sensitization workshop on “Opportunities for development of agri-entrepreneurship and start-ups under the central sector schemes” organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Vice-Chancellor said that a massive effort has been initiated both by the Govt. of India and Govt of H.P. to provide incentives to our youth to motivate, train and give adequate financial help enabling them to become successful entrepreneurs. Under the prevailing situation when job opportunities have become scarce due to pandemic, the students and other youngsters need to seize such opportunities and become job providers to many others.

Prof Chaudhary also elaborated about the efforts of his University in promoting innovations and agri-preneurship in agriculture under RKVY RAFTAAR scheme of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Chief Minister’s Start-up scheme. He told that the University was incubating 21 Start-ups for developing business models and prototypes from their innovative ideas and 12 Start-ups for scaling up their innovative business models. Since major schemes were related to agriculture, fishery and food processing so the University has consciously made efforts to strengthen such areas with requisite manpower and infrastructure. The Vice-Chancellor told that new positions in all colleges and departments like food technology and fishery have been filled up and have also been advertised recently.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary also expressed his views on the efforts of the University to register the farmers with Farmer Producer Organization, spreading the word ‘Vocal for local’ and motivating the local producers to sell their farm produce at the university main campus and KVK counters as certified produce, Linkage of Geographical Indicators with FPO, exploring the possibilities of saving the germplasm of cold-water trout in the Himalayan region, etc which aim socio-economic development of the farming community of Himachal Pradesh. The Vice-Chancellor also discussed creating a competitive spirit amongst the graduates undertaking experiential learning programs by introducing awards at the national level. While discussing the problems of tribal areas and other hard areas of Himachal Pradesh, he desired some relaxation in the limits fixed for applying in such new schemes.

Earlier, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Agriculture Minister, interacted with the students and discussed schemes like Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, Farmers Producer Organization, Cluster-Based Business Organization, Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprise Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-processing, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna , etc.

The University students, faculty and officers also participated in the online workshop.

**Covid-19 testing begins at CSK H.P. Agriculture University**

 Palampur 22 December. Concerned with the Covid-19 related developments in and around the University, the administration, in active collaboration with State Health Department has initiated testing of all staff and students at the main campus at University Health Centre w.e.f. 19 December. Initially, the students staying at hostels have been tested with negative reports(with the Grace of God) conveyed today. The university has adopted all advisories and SOPs in its day to day functioning. The Vice-Chancellor has also instructed all Officers to adopt and implement Govt. advisories so that students, residents, and staff stays safe and protective during the existing tough times. The administration has assured all help to all staff members and the students.

***Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, launches webpage of NCC unit of CSKHPAU***

 Palampur 12 December. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University launched webpage of University NCC unit, here today.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor said that it was a farsighted decision of the leadership of the nation to create NCC which has proved its worth from time to time during the war and peace. The slogan of ‘ Unity and Discipline’ has percolated down well among the student community of the nation and a large number of students have enrolled in NCC units and imbibed nationalism, discipline, and many such virtues. He expressed his satisfaction that equal number of girl and boy cadets have enrolled in the NCC unit of the University and were bringing glory to the institute by regularly qualifying ‘C’ and ‘B’ certificates. Some of them have also joined armed forces too.

Prof Chaudhary, while launching the webpage, expressed the hope that study material on the page will help the cadets and promised to regularly contribute in it.He said that besides, the National Flag and the University Flag, NCC flag will also fly high in the campus.

Guest of honour Col. D.K.S.Chauhan, Commanding Officer, 5 H.P. Company, Dharamshala, appreciated the University cadets for their discipline, behavior and achievements. He said that it was his idea to launch NCC web pages in the institutions.

Dr.Satish Paul, Students’ Welfare Officer welcomed all and Dr.Ankur Sharma, NCC officer, detailed about the NCC activities in the University.

Besides, Dr.(Mrs.) Sangita Chauhan, wife of Col. DKS Chauhan, the University statutory officers also attended the brief ceremony organized observing all Covid-19 related precautions.

***ICAR accredits CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University with 'A' grade till 2023***

 Palampur 12 December. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has accredited CSK Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University with ‘A’ grade.

According to Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, the fresh accreditation till March 2023 will improve the prestige and recognition of this hill farm University. He said that the faculty and non-teaching staff deserve appreciation for putting in hard work to fulfil the mandate in academics, research and extension activities. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Chancellor of the University Shri Bandaru Dattatreya for his incessant guidance and encouragement along with generous support of the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur. He also thanked the ICAR and other funding agencies for helping the University in maintaining consistency in its performance.

Being expert in adeptly handling various international collaborations and having rich experience of working with the developed world, Prof Chaudhary is committed to utilizing his expertise in connecting this mountain institution with various premier institutions across the globe. It will widen the horizon of the agricultural sciences and create unique opportunities for the faculty and mountain students to move with high precision cutting edge research.

The Vice-Chancellor said that some new initiatives have been taken to bring excellence in academics, accelerate need-based research and add skill component in all extension education programmes. Already, steps have been taken to involve farmers in major programmes of the University with due recognition to progressive farmers. He said that he is looking forward to improvement in the COVID situation so that the scientists and extension staff may visit farmers at their doorsteps and all farmer oriented programmes are also organized on their farms. Strenuous efforts are afoot to make the Farm Varsity a Green Clean Campus.

The ICAR peer review team minutely studies the self-study report submitted by the University and later verifies all parameters including academic achievements by the students, experiential learning programmes, laboratories, veterinary clinics, etc. The ‘Certificate of Accreditation’ by the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board of the ICAR was received recently by the University.

***CSKHPAU to form a task force to deal with the problem of stray animals at its campus***

Palampur 11 December. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to form a task force to effectively deal with the problem of stray animals at its campus.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HPAS, Registrar told that since the university campus is wide spread so miscreants push the stray animals in the boundary causing multiple problems. Many students have reported to the administration that their experimental farms have been grazed and damaged by such animals causing delay in their research work. Such animals also damage farms, flower beds and create unhygienic conditions in the campus known for its greenery and cleanliness. Hostile stray bulls also pose a risk to staff and residents at the campus. The administration has alerted its security wing and has installed some security gadgets to record the movements of such miscreants which push stray animals in the campus. It has been decided to take strict action against such elements. The administration has also sought the cooperation of all concerned, especially the residents of surrounding areas to help the university in ending stray cattle menace in and around the campus.

The Registrar said that besides taking up the matter with the local administration, the task force on stray cattle will also take requisite action on the issue.

**CSKHAPU administration cautions public against fraudsters**

Palampur 11 December. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has cautioned its staff, all concerned and the general masses against fake email ids created by the miscreants in the name of the Vice-Chancellor.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HPAS, Registrar told that it has come to the notice of administration that some miscreants are sending emails to the university employees and others seeking favours in the name of the Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary from a fake email account. He has asked all concerned not to fall in the trap by fraudsters. He has suggested that only the official contact numbers including emails of the Vice-Chancellor and other officers as given on the official website of the University ([www.hillagric.ac.in](http://www.hillagric.ac.in)) be used for communication.

The Registrar told that the administration is also taking appropriate legal action on this matter.

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***Need to attract youth to agriculture: Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 3 December. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has called for attracting youngsters to agriculture. While chairing an online 'Interaction workshop on Agriculture Education  Awareness, scope and opportunities  in field' by the College of Agriculture, the Vice-Chancellor said that it was farm education where maximum scholarships and grants were provided by the government and it was providing ample opportunities to the farm graduates. He highlighted the key features of new education policy which will further strengthen and sharpen the skill component in agricultural education. Prof Chaudhary said that there was need to renovate farm education to face the emerging challenges.

The Vice-Chancellor said that a massive awareness campaign should be launched to create awareness about farm education to attract meritorious students in farm education. He said that stronger links among schools, colleges, universities and other places should be established. The Vice-Chancellor also emphasised that enrolment in farm university should be by zeal which can be achieved by introducing farm education in schools. He said that a blended model of learning by integrating digital medium of education with existing system will enhance the proficiency of students. “By establishing forward looking innovative mechanism for human resource development and promotion of entrepreneurship competitions for innovative young entrepreneurs, education in agriculture and allied sectors can be modernised”, opined Prof. Chaudhary..

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary informed that new education policy envisages adding additional disciplines in the existing agricultural subjects to make it more lucrative. There is need to develop synergy among different disciplines to enhance proficiency of human resources. Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dean, College of Agriculture and Head of the Departments also took part in discussions.

Earlier,Prof H.K.Chaudhary was Chief Guest in another online programme on the ‘Agriculture Education Day’ by CCS Haryana Agriculture University. He gratefully remembered the immense contribution of first President of India Bharat Ratna Dr Rajender Prasad, on whose birth anniversary this programme was organized by all farm universities and institutions in the country today.

***67 CSK HAPU students qualify national level competitive examinations***

Palampur 21 November. Sixty seven students of CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University have qualified various national level competitive examinations, recently.

As per the information available to date, five students have qualified SRF examination, 35 students have qualified JRF examination, five students have qualified management tests of prestigious management institutes, nine students have qualified all India entrance examination for admission to agricultural courses (AIEEA) and 11 students have passed entrance examinations by Forest Research Institute, Punjab Agricultural University and other farm universities. Two students have also qualified GATE. JRF, SRF and AIEEA are conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Among the qualified students, 36 students belong to College of Agriculture, 18 students belong to the College of Community Science and 13 students belong to Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences. Among the top ten positions, Mr. Tarun Sharma secured seventh all India rank in Agronomy, Ms. Ishita secured eighth rank in Veterinary Sciences and Ms.Alisha secured ninth rank in animal sciences stream in ICAR JRF examination 2020.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has congratulated these meritorious students for bringing laurels to the University and their respective colleges. The Vice-Chancellor also appreciated the concerned teachers for their guidance and motivation to these students and said that efforts will be made so that more number of students may qualify such examinations in the future.

***CSKHAPU KVKs need to play dynamic role to serve farmers efficiently: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC***

Palampur 12 November. Krishi Vigyan Kendras(KVKs) of CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University need to re-orient their programmes to make these more farmer friendly. This direction was issued by Prof. H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor, during a review meeting with all programme coordinators of KVKs, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that KVKs were windows of the University at district level and need to play an effective role to reach out to the farming community across the entire Himachal Pradesh. The University technology should percolate down to the ground level so that it was useful to farmers. He said that progressive farmers in different farm occupations which were torch bearer to many others, should be honoured by KVKs. Similarly, each KVK must identify district speciality to differentiate it from other KVKs. He asked KVK, Una to expand its seed hub activities to other districts through respective KVKs so that benefits reach more number of farmers to improve pulse production in the State.

Prof Chaudhary said that efforts have, already, been initiated to strengthen KVKs with posting of subject matter specialists and supporting staff. He announced to fill all vacant positions in KVKs in a phased manner. The Vice-Chancellor also directed KVKs for a major facelift with proper sign boards, LED lights, etc.

Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education said that working efficiency and strategies need more focussed approach to serve the farmers. He detailed major issues of KVKs. Programme Coordinators also provided feedback about major problems and presented progress reports.

***PG Entrance Test conducted at CSK H.P. Agriculture University***

Palampur 11 November.CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University Entrance Test for Post Graduate Programmes viz. M.Sc. Agriculture and [M.V.Sc](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fb.v.sc%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2qTwx7F2bxGOPB1-6JqeABCTm3F5c-ANPGRfawms-3U1-swj-phXnh_Vw&h=AT0vkF5hyFCubz1Ci_29-sizGjYZ0N3ZQRyJAP5w93HK_dSNISJ8HqHuUGLhc8-B3-mZ5GFH7Ja9Ska2RH3XrxA9OnYSL6zSlLjnGWdx8tFX8hbg08X6dMjZVQz6n7A29bWDtXJsq4Rn71FMUA). & A.H. was conducted smoothly today.

According to Dr.[Mandeep](https://www.facebook.com/dinesh.k.vatsa?fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDB4vB5F7QjObTODTAf54aEJCK4cg87Ecx2wKLBemiRxaZzsfuoPiL84VBz41L9gfBtWEjHxudoWqZT&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group) Sharma, Coordinator for this test, 357 candidates appeared in the test at 07 centers at the main campus of the University. 215 candidates were found absent from among the 572 candidates. The standard operating procedures for examination on account of COVID-19 were followed strictly. All centers were sanitized before and after the test.

Prof. [Harinder Kumar Chaudhary](https://www.facebook.com/harinderkumar.chaudhary?fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARAYnXp7XhOzRP3n3L0By2rnrOZO5CpbrGzHiLGFAK7-c3fxpz7iF_aP5wxBUnYRibAUDITuF5SG6qYw&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), Vice-Chancellor, visited all the centers and expressed his satisfaction at the arrangements. Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar, also accompanied the Vice-Chancellor.

***Campus beautification work initiated at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 09 November. The campus beautification work was initiated at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

While interacting with the University Officers and other staff present on the occasion, Prof. H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor, said that in order to beautify the University campus, the weeds, fodder grass and unwanted bushes growing on the University land should be eradicated. He announced the creation of ‘Weed Eradication Work Force’ to exclusively work round the year.  The Vice-Chancellor ordered that this work force will work under the control of the Estate Officer who will be assisted by the expert scientists for carrying out the beautification and landscaping work. He asked Deans, Directors and other officers to send detailed beautification proposals to him at the earliest.

The Vice-Chancellor also directed to supply the grass to the University dairy farm for feeding to the livestock. He said that surplus grass should be used in silage or hay making and feeding the livestock during scarcity period.

Sh. Pankaj Sharma, Registrar; Sh Gurmeet Singh, Comptroller; Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research; Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Dean Post Graduate Studies; Er.Vikas Sood, Estate Officer; Dr. R.K.Kataria, Dean College of Agriculture and Dr.Satish Paul, Librarian were also present on the occasion.

***To propel research work on pulses, H.P. to get IIPR Regional Centre: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 07 November. A regional centre of Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur, in collaboration with CSK H.P. Agriculture University will be established in Himachal Pradesh. This was decided in a meeting chaired by Prof Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor and attended by Dr.N.P.Singh, Director, IIPS and others today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that till the establishment of regional centre, the University will offer its infrastructure, land and other facilities at its Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and Research Stations at Sundarnagar in Mandi district and Kukumseri in Lahaul-Spiti district so that crop cafeteria of major pulse crops were established at the earliest. He said that the state was grossly deficient in pulses and with the new centre, research and extension work on pulses will get impetus. The Vice-Chancellor said that *rajmash, urd, moongbean*, chickpea, lentil, cowpea. *Mash*, *kulthi* etc. were important pulses crops of the State but had not got adequate attention.

Dr.N.P.Singh said that regional centre will cater to all north hill states and IIPR will start nursery raising work in this very season at the facilities offered by the University.

One

***“One District, One Medicinal Plant” concept to be introduced in KVKs***

In another meeting with the officers of National Medicinal Plant Board(NMPB), Union Ministry of AYUSH; Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor said that his University will try to popularize the concept of “One District, One Medicinal Plant” , beginning with Krishi Vigyan Kendras situated in different districts of the State. He said that the University in collaboration with other stakeholders will submit a comprehensive proposal on medicinal plants to the Board to propel research and conservation work on theses valuable plants. He said that the University will also submit a n roadmap on seabuckthorn development in high altitude Himalayas. He advised the scientists to work for the release of seabuckthorn variety at the national level and simultaneously work for the introduction and cultivation of exotic Russian varieties. It can help the local youth in improving their economy. Even the Prime Minister has emphasized the importance of seabuckthorn.

Dr. J.L.N.Shastri, Chief Executive Officer, NMPB, assured of extending all possible support to the University in carrying out these projects. He empathized the need to involve local small entrepreneurs.

Dr.S.K.Sharma, Member, University Board of Management, Dr.Y.P. Thakur, Director of Extension Education, Dr.Ramesh Kataria, Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr.Aditya Parkash, Principal Scientists from IIPR, Dr. R.S.Chadel, Dr.J.D.Sharma, Dr.Arun Chandan, Dr.Suresh Upadhyaya, Dr.Virender Singh, Dr.Poonam, Dr.R.G.Upadhyaya, Dr.Suman Kumar, etc. also attended the meetings.

***Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary orders more facilities for the students and staff***

Palampur 6 November. Some more facilities for the students and staff are in offing at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University.

While chairing a meeting of University statutory officers and others, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor issued directions for creating some facilities at the priority including a quality canteen in each constituent college and a centralized cafeteria for the staff. He said that the University main entrance will also get facelift with provision of a tuck shop with availability of university souvenirs for the staff, students and visitors. He said that he was determined to give an international look to this leading hill farm varsity by improving existing facilities and adding more services for the mandated areas of academics, research and extension education. He asked the Deans to explore possibility of engaging all those willing Ph.D scholars who have passed oral comprehensive examination for assigning duties to conduct practical classes with some honorarium.

The Vice-Chancellor asked the estate organisations to initiate painting work of all major office buildings and residential colonies, besides minor repair jobs. He said that planning, implementing and monitoring system will be strengthened in the University.

Prof H.K. Chaudhary said that efforts have been made to keep campus clean and green under Green Initiative of the Govt. In addition to installing solar panels on the main buildings, water harvesting system is being strengthened. The University will also launch its updated new website. He asked to explore possibilities of providing transport facilities for the students and staff from the main campus to the city and vice-versa in consultation with concerned authorities.

He emphasized discipline and punctuality for all regular and contractual staff and told that twenty ex-servicemen security staff members have been employed and night paroling of the campus has been started.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor inaugurated drivers’ room adjoining administrative block.

**CSKHPAU ET Admit cards available for Download**

Palampur 03 November. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University Entrance Examination for Undergraduate Programme viz. B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture and [B.V.Sc](http://b.v.sc/). & A.H. is scheduled to be held on 08 November. The University has allotted exam venues and Roll Numbers to all the valid candidates. The University has advised the applicants to download fresh admit cards from the University website ( [http://hillagric.ac.in](http://hillagric.ac.in/) ). The previous admit cards downloaded prior to 2 November are not valid. All the candidates have to download fresh admit cards. The candidates should reach their allotted exam centre at 8.00AM on the exam day. The candidates have been advised to follow the standard operating procedures for examination on account of COVID-19 which are available on the University Website. The self-declaration form which has been provided alongwith the admit card should be submitted at the time of the examination to the officials present there.

Farm Officers’ Workshop on Rabi Crops at CSKHPAU

***Farmers learning, adopting and spreading University technology to be awarded: Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 27 October. A state level Agriculture Officers’ Workshop on Rabi crops was organised at CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

While inaugurating the workshop, Chief Guest Prof H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor, declared that innovative farmers and all those farmers who learn adopt and spread the university technology among other farmers will be suitably awarded. While appreciating the hardworking hill farmers, he told that a large number of farmers will be involved and invited in such workshops and other programmes in future. The University will organise farmer related programmes among their farms.

The Vice-Chancellor asked the farmers to sow only university developed or approved crop varieties only to avoid any loss at later stage. Prof. Chaudhary said that collective efforts of the scientists and farm officers will enable the farmers to reap rich dividend of technologies. He told that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned a project worth Rs. Rs 94 lakh for tribal areas. The farmers of Lahaul & Spiti will be provided around 3000 wheel hoes under this project. He told that that the University has sent proposal to the ICAR to establish four new Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the State. He appreciated the scientists for presenting proposals on new crop varieties and giving recommendations on rye grass.

Dr.N.K.Badhan, Director of Agriculture, H.P. elaborated about arrangements of farm inputs like seeds, fertilizers, etc for the Rabi crops. He also discussed in details various government schemes worth Rs. 650 crore to enhance farm production and asked the farmers to make use of such plans. He told that 4 lakh farmers were engaged in vegetable production. He said that 82700 quintal high quality seed of wheat having resistance to yellow rust will be made available to the farmers.

Dr.D.K.Vatsa, Director of Research, told that four varieties of cereals, pulses and fodder crops developed by the university have been released at the national level and 16 varieties have been recommended to the State Variety Release Committee. The University produced 1800 Kg nucleus seed, 56400 Kg breeder seed and 31150 Kg foundation seed of different crops in 2019-20.Eight production technologies have been approved for the farmers.

Dr. Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education, elaborated about major achievements in extension education. He told that despite pandemic, the University and its Krishi Vigyan Kendras continued their training programmes benefitting around 8000 farmers. Six lakh messages were transmitted to the farmers through electronic and social media platforms.

 Dr.R.K.Kataria, Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr.Suresh Kumar and Dr.Ravinder Singh Rana also expressed their views. Dr. Daulat Ram Raju, Additional Director of Agriculture, H.P., Dr.D.K.Awasthy, Project Director ATMA, Deputy Directors, university scientists and around twenty progressive farmers like Sunka Ram, Sunita Devi and Parma Ram Chaudhary from Mandi, Manjeet Singh and Mohinder Tohra from Una, Ajay Ratan and Jagdish Chand from Bilaspur, Jaswant Singh and T.S.Negi from Kullu, Baljeet Sandhu and Ramesh Kumar from Hamirpur, etc also actively took part in the workshop. They were also honoured by the Vice-Chancellor. Six quintal breeder seed of improved wheat variety was also given to six progressive farmers of Kangra. Issues like seed multiplications, enhancing farmers’ income, natural farming, new agro chemicals and bio pesticides to replace the banned agro-chemicals, etc were deliberated at length.

The Chief Guest also released some extension education publications including revised Package of Practices on *Rabi* and *Kharif* crops.All Covid-19 related norms were observed during the workshop.

Pic caption: A view of the dais, audience, breeder seed to the farmers by the Vice-Chancellor

***CSKHPAU planning to organize Global Organic Village Festival: Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 26 October. Prof H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University has disclosed that his University was planning to organize a ‘Global Organic (GO) Village Festival’ at Palampur.

While chairing a meeting attended by Shri Trilok Kapoor, Chairman, H.P. Wool Federation, Dr. Hero San, sustainability scientist from Japan, Deans, Directors and scientists from the University and officers from the different development departments of the H.P., the Vice-Chancellor said that self sustainable organic farms for food, energy, water and shelter from a single source were need of the hour as these were safe. He said that GO village festival can strengthen the efforts of the government in increasing the income of farmers by showcasing such useful technologies to them and other stakeholders. Prof Chaudhary said that his University will make efforts to involve other stakeholders and was planning to organize a ‘GO Village Festival’ at Palampur, in the near future.

Prof Chaudhary said that H.P. was full of diversity and the farmers were very intelligent. They are aware about integrated farming and do not waste time. The farmers of tribal areas were changing crops according to the climate change. Some progressive farmers were responding to the market needs and some interventions from the University research and extension centers have helped them much. He said that the university will invite progressive farmers to listen to them and understand their rich experience and directions have been issued to the scientists to spend time at farmers’ fields to learn their real problems. He told that a Geographical Indications (GI) groups for different commodities have been formed in the University to protect our agricultural heritage.

Shri Trilok Kapoor told that farmers and live stock keepers need technologies to make them self sustainable. He asked all concerned to help the farming community to increase their income. He discussed the issues of sheep and goat farmers. He said that the university research and technology will be helpful to the farmers. He said that GO village will bring top farm scientists and business tycoons to Palampur.

Dr. Hero San made a presentation on climate smart agriculture to increase farm productions. He suggested vertical farming systems and use of modern technologies to meet the increasing needs of safe food. He underlined the need to discover the secrets of hidden sustainability. Issues like setting up of organic compost from biomass processing, packaging with international standard for export, chevon and meat marketing, goat milk and sheep wool marketing, logistics center and packaging.etc were discussed in detail.

Local officers from the State Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forest also attended the meeting and took part in the deliberations.

Pic caption: The Vice-Chancellor chairing the meeting and participants

***Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSKHPAU exhorts the farmers of neighbouring states to imbibe H.P farmers straw management model to save the environment***

Palampur 23 October. Prof H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University has exhorted the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and other states to adopt straw management model of Himahcal Pradesh farmers to utilize it efficiently and save the environment. The Vice-Chancellor said that there has not been even a single case of paddy straw burning or stubble burning reported in the state since long. The farming community had developed and utilized technologies to utilize this bio-resource scientifically. Now, his university has identified and developed some scientific interventions for better utilization of paddy straw which included use of straw in animal feed.

Prof Chaudhary said that the university has recommended various ways and means to utilize this valuable available by-product of rice cultivation in animal feeding. H.P. is deficient in dry and green fodder. Most of the fodder in the form of wheat straw or paddy straw is purchased from Punjab and Haryana. It is stored and fed to animals during scarcity period. Scientific investigation has revealed that paddy straw has oxalate and silica anti-nutritional factors which restricts its utilization in dairy cattle feeding. These anti nutritional factors can be lowered by some of physical and chemical methods. It can be converted into nutritious fodder by making total mix ration or complete feed blocks or by enriching these with urea molasses treatment. A balanced and complete feed can be prepared by incorporating concentrates to increase its nutritive value and utilise this source more judiciously. The research conducted in the university revealed that the paddy straw can be mixed efficiently with horticulture by products like apple pomace, strawberry pomace or citrus pomace or discarded fruits to make a nutritive and palatable haylage which can be stored for long time and fed to animals during lean period.

Prof Chaudhary said that traditionally, most of the paddy straw is used to feed unproductive animal like bulls and male calves, etc. Since buffaloes have high fibre digesting ability as compared to cow so it is also fed to these animals. Paddy straw is also used in packing of fruits and other delicate agricultural and horticultural produces. All the surplus material is diverted for this cottage industry. In villages of the state, it is also used to make mats, ropes and mixed with mud to make paste to be used in construction of sheds as well as plastering walls. This traditional wisdom of farmers is also saving the environment degradation which other states are facing due to burning of paddy straw.

The Vice-Chancellor told that as the demand of organic fertilizer is increasing hence it is being compensated by composting paddy straw and paddy stubbles. It takes around 45 days to prepare compost from paddy straw. This compost increases crop yield by four to nine percent. It is also used in the preparation of vermicompost by adding earthworms culture thus making a value added fertilizers with increased nutrient concentration.

He told that paddy straw can be used as a source of raw material for number of cottage industry units like energy source in brick kiln, raw material in paper industry and packaging industry of fruits and vegetables, compost preparation unit with inoculation of beneficial cultures of bacteria, fungi and organic nutrients and minerals, handicraft industry for making mats, hats, ropes or house hold traditional material, as a sound absorbing material for the preparation of straw board and roof thatching of tourist lodge or traditional houses.

Prof Chaudhary said that the problem of environment pollution due to burning of straw needs attention of all stake holders and his university was willing to extend all help to end this menace.

***The Vice-Chancellor congratulates newly nominated members to CSKHAPU Senate***

Palampur 19 October. Prof H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor has extended his greetings to Shri Ravinder Kumar and Shri Arun Kumar, both MLAs, for their nomination to the Senate of CSK H.P. Agriculture University by the Speaker, H.P.Vidhan Sabha.

The Vice-Chancellor said that Hon’ble Governor, H.P. and Chancellor of the University is Chairman of the Senate The Senate reviews policies and programmes and guides in development of the University. Prof Chaudhary said that the rich experience of both MLAs will be useful to this august body.

Scientific Advisory Committee meeting at KVK, Kukumseri

**Conserve traditional crop, medicinal and aromatic plant varieties in L&S: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CAKHPAU**

Palampur 16 October. There is need to conserve traditional crop, medicinal and aromatic plant varieties in Lahaul & Spiti, said Prof H.K.Chaudahry Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University, while chairing the scientific advisory committee meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kukumseri in Lahaul & Spiti.

The Vice-Chancellor said that research and extension activities in the remote and tribal areas will be adequately strengthened. Appreciating the hard working farmers and farm ladies in less accessible and tough areas of the State, the Vice-Chancellor told that two subject matter specialists have been posted recently in the KVK, Kukumseri in addition to fresh appointments of supporting staff. He directed the staff to organise their major extension activities in the villages in consultation with the progressive farmers. Since farmers of the area were also growing exotic vegetables, the Vice-Chancellor advised that the University released crop varieties be used by the farmers. He asked the scientists to test high quality hybrids of private companies grown by farmers. “Such hybrids can be included in package of practises later”, opined Prof Chaudahry. He also asked the scientists to conserve traditional knowledge by recording the information from experienced farmers.

Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education, said that despite tough terrain, the farmers of Lahaul & Spiti were innovative and progressive, The opening of Atal Tunnel will facilitate better marketing facilities for the farmers of this district.

Dr.Luv Bhusahn, Extension Specialist presented the progress report and proposed future activities. Dr.Vinod Sharma, Associate Director, Regional Research Station and progressive farmer members also actively took part in the proceedings. District level officers from the development departments including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, etc. also participated in the meeting.

***CSK H.P. Agriculture University reopens admissions and fixes entrance test dates***

Palampur 16 October. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has re-opened the admissions to various academic programmes of the University and has also fixed entrance test dates.

According to Prof H.K.Chaudahry, Vice-Chancellor, the Govt. of H.P. has approved the University proposal to increase 10 percent of the total number of seats in various academic programmes. These will be kept reserved over and above specifically for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) candidates without disturbing the present intake capacity. Last date for receipt of online and offline application forms is 26 October for all degree programmes for all categories, including EWS. For applicants from the tribal area, last date for receipt of offline applications for merit based admissions is 2 November. The candidates who have already applied to the programmes of this University for the Academic Year 2020-21 need not apply again. But the candidates who have already applied to the Entrance Test Based Admissions can make the necessary corrections, modification, etc. by the last date.The candidates and students have been advised to visit the University website for further details like eligibility, qualifications, the procedure to apply for the programs, number of seats, mode of admission, important dates, etc.

The University has also fixed Entrance Test-2020(ET-2020) dates. The dates of ET 2020 for B.V.Sc. & A.H. and B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture will be 8 November and for M.Sc. Agriculture and M.V.Sc. programmes will be 11 November. The entrance tests with all pandemic related precautions will be conducted on the scheduled dates from 10.00 AM to 01.00 PM.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary said that due to prolonged lockdown and pandemic, he has been receiving requests through emails, phones and several parents also met him in person informing that many applicants could not apply earlier due to net connectivity problems in their villages. He said that reopened admission process was a golden opportunity to all those who could not apply to the various academic programs of the University due to one reason or the other.

***CSKHPAU postpones Entrance Test-2020***

Palampur 7 October. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has postponed Entrance Test-2020(ET-2020) for B.V.Sc. & A.H. and B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture scheduled to be held on 10 October due to administrative reasons. The University has also postponed ET-2020 for M.Sc. Agriculture and M.V.Sc. programs scheduled to be held on 18 October. Similarly, dates of counselling for ET based and Merit-based admissions have been postponed till further orders. Fresh dates for conducting the ET-2020 and counselling for admissions to all undergraduate and post graduate programmes including merit based admissions of the University will be announced soon. The candidates and students have been advised to regularly visit the University website for relevant information about entrance tests and counselling dates.

***Efficient food supply management can reduce post harvest losses: Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, VC***

Palampur 5 October. A training on the job role, “Food supply chain management for field assistants’ concluded at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today.

While distributing participation certificates to the trainees, Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said that supply chain management persons play a crucial role in making available safe and wholesome food from producers to the consumers. He said that the producers are economically benefitted due to the efficient supply chain management. The Vice-Chancellor said that the importance of this sector has been amply proved during the lockdown as the local producers kept making available the food material to the consumers in time. He said that efficient management can help in reducing the enormous post harvest losses thereby of improving the food security of the nation.

Prof Chaudhary asked the trainees to spread the gained knowledge in their villages and form cooperative societies or groups for marketing. He also advised them to maintain high quality for their farm produce and other products to gain credibility and preserve the traditional knowledge of traditional food items. He said that the University will also invite experts from banks, marketing and officers from the State Deptt of Agriculture in such trainings in future.

Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director Extension Education, informed that the training was sponsored by Agriculture Skill Council of India. The 200 hours were devoted in professionally training twenty participants from all over the state. Dr.Y.S.Dhaliwal, Dean, Community Science College, told that the training was started in March but was abruptly discontinued due to the pandemic. Now, the remaining period has been completed successfully.

Dr.Anupama Sandal, Training Coordinator, told that the participants were imparted practical training on various aspects of food supply chain management including visits to successful entrepreneurs.

Besides the trainees, University scientists were present during the concluding ceremony.

***Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor’ CSKHPAU appreciates Veterinary Scientists for organizing animal infertility treatment camps in Pangi***

 Palampur 3 October A team of veterinary scientists from CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University organized eight infertility treatment camps in different parts of Pangi valley in Chamba distirct during the last three days. The camps were organized in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry, H.P. at villages Saach, Takwas, Hudan Bhatori, Sahli, Mindhal and Killar, located at the altitude varying between 8000 to 11000 feet above mean sea level, under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna(RKVY) project to investigate status of infertility in bovines reared in tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh.

Prof. Madhumeet Singh, team leader, who is Dean Postgraduate Studies in the University and Head, Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Dr G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences told that around 125 cows and ‘Churi’ (cross of cow and yak) were examined and treated in these camps, with the main emphasis to record reproductive abnormalities in milch animals reared by the farmers in the remote valley.The scientists collected blood samples to study their minerals, biochemical and hormonal profile and also genital discharge samples for detailed diagnosis of uterine infections. Faecal samples were also collected to study the parasitic load in animals in this area and their relationship with infertility. Free medicines were distributed to the farmers.

Prof. Madhumeet Singh told that his department is rendering specialized services to the farmers in different parts of the state for treatment of various reproductive disorders with an aim to reduce incidence of infertility. Since last 7 years, scientists have organized 274 infertility treatment camps under RKVY projects in diverse parts of H.P., including more than100 camps in tribal and other very remote locations. Area wise mapping of reproductive ailments through clinic-gynaecological examination, nutritional deficiencies through blood investigations, parasitic infestation responsible for reproduction problems and microflora (bacteria and fungi) responsible for uterine infections is being done.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor has appreciated the team of veterinary scientists for serving the livestock keepers in less accessible and very remote areas of the State.

The team included Dr. Pravesh Kumar and Mr. Vijay Rana also.

**150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

***Imbibe virtues of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC***

Palampur 2 October. To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, “*Swachhta*” related activities were carried out in CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

While taking part in the daylong cleanliness campaign, Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor paid glowing tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose birth anniversary coincides with Gandhi Jayanti. He called both as great sons of mother India and asked the University community to imbibe virtues of simplicity, piousness,truthfulness, patriotism, cleanliness, etc practiced by Gandhi Jee and Shastri Jee. The Vice-Chancellor said that he was committed to provide a clean and transparent administration for the welfare of farming community which was very dear to second Prime Minister who gave a popular slogan ‘*Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan’*. The Vice-Chancellor directed the staff to devote second half of every working Saturday, initially for a month, for cleaning their office surroundings so that the campus is beautified. “It is necessary to give an aesthetic look to the green and clean University”, opined Prof Chaudhary. Later, the Vice-Chancellor along with Shri Pankaj Sharma,HAS, Registrar and other statutory officers took active part in the cleanliness drive.

The University staff cleaned the front area of administrative block. During the campaign, devotional songs and *Bhajans* were also played. Er.Vikas Sood, Estate Officer, told that all staff of the constituent colleges, directorates and other offices took part in the cleanliness drive. All outstations of the University also cleaned their premises.

***CSKHPAU proposes to develop a national facility for DH breeding in wheat: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC***

Palampur 28 September. The CSK HP Agricultural University will enhance the speed and precision of various crop improvement programmes for diverse farming communities of north- west Himalayas. This was disclosed by Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor while, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor, who was heading twin departments of Genetics & Plant Breeding and Agricultural Biotechnology before his appointment to the current august position, told that scientific innovations and exemplary research work at internationally acclaimed High-tech Molecular Cytogenetics and Tissue Culture Lab during his leadership, invented Chromosome Elimination Mediated Wide Hybridization Technique. It is cross of Wheat and *Imperata cylindrica* System leading to Doubled Haploidy (DH) Breeding. This work has been able to open new vistas by excessively shortening the breeding cycle and actually accelerated the varietal development programmes of bread (*chapati*) and durum (pasta) wheat. The University has been able to set an example by developing and releasing first DH wheat variety *‘Him Pratham’* of the country. It was notified by the Central Sub-Committee of the Govt. of India in 2016.

Prof Chaudhary informed that many institutes of the country are harvesting the advantage of this facility at his University for accelerating varietal development programmes and also for developing gene mapping populations in shortest possible time. This department has attracted various international collaborations with premier Labs in Japan and England and has established student exchange programmes by securing prestigious international scholarships. This High- tech Lab has also pioneered in establishing for the first time molecular cytogenetics facility with the support of Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India for physical mapping of targeted genes introgressed in various crop species by using novel tools like GISH & FISH for enhancing precision of selection of desired recombinants in an accelerated manner. Combination of DH Breeding and Molecular Cytogenetics techniques has opened new horizon in the sphere of Speed and Precision breeding for the targeted crop improvement in the shortest possible time.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, who has more than three decades rich experience in chromosome engineering and molecular breeding, told that a massive efforts are afoot in this Lab to develop wheat varieties associated with high profile drought and disease resistance (yellow and brown rusts) for rainfed agriculture and enhance the productivity and quality level by utilizing Himalayan old wheat genetic resources and the novel plant breeding and biotechnological approaches in time bound and précised manner.

Keeping in view the congenial environment at Palampur and available technical expertise in the high-tech MCT Lab, the Vice-Chancellor, who continues to guide eight scholars, said that the University has proposed to develop a national facility for DH Breeding in wheat to cater to the needs of wheat geneticists, breeders and biotechnologists of the country for accelerating their wheat improvement endeavours.

 ***Take steps to get GIs for the traditional crop varieties :Prof H.K.Chaudhry, VC, CSKHAPU***

Palampur 26 September. A meeting of the scientists of ‘Intellectual Property Rights Cell’ of CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University and officers of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science and Technology(HIMCOSTE) was organized here.

Prof. H.K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor while chairing the meeting said that effective steps should be taken to get Geographical Indicators (GIs) to popularize the traditional crop varieties of the State conserved by the farmers and the varieties developed by the University. He said that Chief Minister Sh. Jai Ram Thakur in his Budget 2020-21 speech had also emphasized the need to avail GIs to popularize the traditional varieties and products of H.P.Prof. Chaudhary asked the scientists and officers to initiate a process to get GIs for Bharmour *rajmash*, Karsog *kulthi* and Spiti *Chharma*. He also suggested popularizing these varieties at the international level in the interest of farming community. The Vice-Chancellor said that University had developed *Kanchan, Baspa* and *Triloki* varieties of Rajmash and *Baiju* and *Dhruv* varieties of *Kulthi*. He also discussed the importance of *Charkhani Pattu*, *Dohroo*, *Pude* and traditional meet products of H.P. He said that University will make sincere efforts to get GIs for these products.

 Sh. Nishant Thakur, Joint Member Secretary, HIMCOSTE and Sh. Shashidhar Co-ordinator were also present in the meeting. The officers present in the meeting assured to provide all possible help to each other with mutual cooperation to get Geographical Indicators for the traditional varieties and products of the state.

*CSKHPAU to speed up research work on sheep and goat: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC*

Palampur 23 September. The CSK HP Agricultural University will speed up research work on sheep and goat. This was disclosed by Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor while chairing a joint meeting of the scientists and officers from Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Science(COVAS) and H.P.Wool Federation on Tuesday evening.

 Prof. Chaudhary said that COVAS has got specialisation in preparing high quality animal feed and there was a need to establish a modern demonstration farm on sheep and got in the University. Similarly, wool testing lab was also required to fetch good wool price to the sheep and goat farmers. He sought financial help from the wool federation to establish theses facilities. The Vice-Chancellor also elaborated about the top quality of meat of these animals as they graze in alpine pastures.

Shri Trilok Kapoor, Chairman, H.P.Wool Federation, told that there were eight lakh sheep and eleven lakh goats in the state and twenty thousand families were engaged in rearing theses valuable small animals. He asked the veterinary scientists to develop a vaccine for foot rot disease of small ruminants and conducting research and extension education activities. He told that training for sheep-goat farmers will be organised in January-February 2021.

Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean, COVAS elaborated about the existing research facilities in his college. Some Heads of the Department made presentations. Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education, Dr.Sandeep Mishra, Assistant Director, State Animal Husbandry Department and Sh. Deepak Saini, Manager, H.P.Wool Federation also participated in the meeting.

***CSKHPAU to develop a national facility for DH breeding in wheat: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC***

Palampur 21 September. The CSK HP Agricultural University will enhance the speed and precision of various crop improvement programmes for diverse farming communities of north- west Himalayas. This was disclosed by Prof.H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor while interacting with reporters, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor, who was heading twin departments of Genetics & Plant Breeding and Agricultural Biotechnology before his appointment to the current august position, told that scientific innovations and exemplary research work at internationally acclaimed High-tech Molecular Cytogenetics and Tissue Culture Lab during his leadership, invented Chromosome Elimination Mediated Wide Hybridization Technique. It is cross of Wheat and *Imperata cylindrica* System leading to Doubled Haploidy(DH) Breeding. This work has been able to open new vistas by excessively shortening the breeding cycle and actually accelerated the varietal development programmes of bread (*chapati*) and durum (pasta) wheat. The University has been able to set an example by developing and releasing first DH wheat variety *‘Him Pratham’* of the country. It was notified by the Central Sub-Committee of the Govt. of India in 2016.

Prof Chaudhary informed that many institutes of the country are harvesting the advantage of this facility at his University for accelerating varietal development programmes and also for developing gene mapping populations in shortest possible time. This department has attracted various international collaborations with premier Labs in Japan and England and has established student exchange programmes by securing prestigious international scholarships. This High- tech Lab has also pioneered in establishing for the first time molecular cytogenetics facility with the support of Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India for physical mapping of targeted genes introgressed in various crop species by using novel tools like GISH & FISH for enhancing precision of selection of desired recombinants in an accelerated manner. Combination of DH Breeding and Molecular Cytogenetics techniques has opened new horizon in the sphere of Speed and Precision breeding for the targeted crop improvement in the shortest possible time.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor, who has more than three decades rich experience in chromosome engineering and molecular breeding, told that a massive efforts are afoot in this Lab to develop wheat varieties associated with high profile drought and disease resistance (yellow and brown rusts) for rainfed agriculture and enhance the productivity and quality level by utilizing Himalayan old wheat genetic resources and the novel plant breeding and biotechnological approaches in time bound and précised manner.

Keeping in view the congenial environment at Palampur and available technical expertise in the high-tech MCT Lab, the Vice-Chancellor, who continues to guide eight scholars, said that the University will develop a national facility for DH Breeding in wheat to cater to the needs of wheat geneticists, breeders and biotechnologists of the country for accelerating their wheat improvement endeavours.

***CSKHPAU to initiate research work on ‘ Gaddi Dogs’: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 19 September. CSK H. P. Agriculture University has decided to initiate research work on ‘Gaddi dogs’. This was disclosed by Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, here today.

 The Vice-Chancellor informed that ‘Gaddi dog’ is a breed of Himalayan dogs named after the nomadic shepherds who rear them. Due to its fighting capability with snow leopards, it is also known as ‘Indian Panther Hound’. With the decreasing trend of nomadic lifestyle, the population of ‘Gaddi dogs’ is decreasing at an alarming rate with the result that it has become difficult to find the purebred ‘Gaddi dogs’ in the pockets of Western Himalayas.

Prof Chaudhary, who joined as Vice-Chancellor on 22 August, said that he has directed veterinary scientists in the University to immediately initiate a research and conservation programme to scientifically breed and conserve the pure germplasm of this prestigious breed of the Himachal Pradesh. The University has, already started housing infrastructure construction work and once it is complete, the scientific breeding work will commence.

The Vice-Chancellor said that a team lead by Dr. PK Dogra, Head, Livestock farm complex, Dr. G.C. Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences will also conduct study on the phenotypic and molecular characterization of the Gaddi dogs available with shepherds. This research work is expected to help in documentation of phenotypic and molecular characteristics of Gaddi dogs which has not been accomplished so far. It will also help in maintaining minimum breedable population of this prestigious genetic resource of the State. Prof. Chaudhary said that the importance of this breed was also highlighted by the Prime Minister of India in his ‘*Man Ki Baat’* programme on 30 August where the Prime Minister had exhorted the citizens to adopt indigenous dog breeds.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary said that it has also been decided to initiate research work on *Chiggu* goat, *Churri*, poultry, etc. with biotechnological interventions in the near future.

Photo News

***Prof. H. K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor , CSKHPAU releases a video on insect pest control in Paddy***

Palampur 15 September. Prof. H. K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H. P. Agriculture University visited Rice and Wheat Research Centre, Malan today.  He released a video on “Dhan mein keeton ki pehchan va niyantran” and a technical bulletin on “Dhan ki adhik upaj hetu prakritik kheti ka mahatva” . The Vice-Chancellor also inaugurated a 45 KVA generator set installed in the centre. Prof. Chaudhary planted a sampling of China Rose (Hibiscus rosa-sinensis).  He appreciated research work pertaining to rice and wheat crop at centre. He visited the experimental farm, seed production unit and indigenous special screening trials on ‘Rice Hispa’. Dr. Ajai Srivastava, Incharge of the centre and other scientists thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his encouraging visit.

***Modernise education in agriculture and allied sciences: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 14 September. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University has called for modernizing farm education to face the news challenges. He was chairing a webinar on New Education Policy 2020, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that a blended model of learning by integrating digital medium of education with existing system will enhance the proficiency of students. “By establishing forward looking innovative mechanism for human resource development and promotion of entrepreneurship competitions for innovative young entrepreneurs, education in agriculture and allied sectors can be modernised”, opined Prof. Chaudhary. He said that stronger links among schools, colleges, universities and other places should be established. Course curricula needs revamping to make it compatible with multiple exit point system so that students have flexibility to leave the course with some credit. The Vice-Chancellor also emphasised that enrolment in farm university should be by passion which can be achieved by introducing farm education in schools. He also urged to bridge the gap between education and employment and asked for international exposure of the students to widen their horizon.

Prof. H.K.Chaudhary said that existing farm education has multidisciplinary approach but additional disciplines should be included to make it more lucrative. There is need to develop synergy among different disciplines to enhance proficiency of human resources. The Vice-Chancellor also discussed issues like capacity enhancement of faculty, work productivity improvement, policy intervention for market base linkages, synergy of local and traditional knowledge, online learning, eco-friendly productivity and need of establishing agricultural technology parks.

Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education, said that existing farm education has practical and skill components in it but new education policy will certainly make it more innovative and skill based. Shri [Pankaj Sharma](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000401207647&fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARAXfiElxQEo-V5AqI1siHtbkg1-SYPg1PL1a_r9Uh4DQSWRLQ51HELTDgJPtvQRfzRCmBf0amEN04Ka&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), HAS, Registrar, told that the University has moved fast to adopt and implement new education policy.

All the statutory officers, heads of department, faculty and students participated in the webinar.

***CSKHPAU signs agreements for seed multiplication of maize hybrid, rye grass and garden pea for large scale availability to the farming community of H.P.***

Palampur 10 September. A memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the CSK H.P. Agriculture University and M/s Nutranta Seed Private Limited, Hyderabad for the multiplication of seed of maize hybrid ‘*Palam Sankar Makka 2’* and Rye grass variety ‘*Him Palam Rye Grass 1’,* developed and released for cultivation bytheUniversity.

*Palam Sankar Makka-2*, a medium maturity, high yielding single cross hybrid of maize is suitable for cultivation in low and mid hill regions of Himachal Pradesh. The colour of the grains of this hybrid is yellow orange. Hybrid has been developed from two inbred parents namely BAJIM 0826 (female) and BAJIM 0827 (male). The hybrid is medium in height with thick stem, resistant to lodging, moderately resistant to turcicum leaf blight and maydis leaf blight.

*Him Palam Rye Grass-1*, variety of rye grass is suitable for cultivation during *Rabi* season in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and J & K. This variety produces high yield of quality fodder during winter months in 4 to 5 cuts and production is very high where irrigation facilities are available. This variety is highly resistant to powdery mildew, tolerant to cold and frost.

As per this agreement inbred lines of maize hybrid and breeder seed of rye grass will be supplied each year by the University to the company. The seed will be multiplied by the company using its own resources and will be marketed and supplied to the farmers. The main aim of this agreement is to enhance the availability of quality seed of improved varieties to the farmers with a view to increase maize production as well as fodder production on their fields.

Another Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between Durga Seeds Farm, Mandi and the University for the Seed Multiplication of garden pea variety ‘*Him Palam Matar-1(DPP-SP-22)*’. The main objective of MOA is to provide licence of seed multiplication so that quality seeds reach the farming community to a larger extent and in turn, farmers get better production and remuneration. The company will sell the seeds in its original name as *‘Him Palam Matar-1’* which will help in increasing the visibility of University research at different levels.

‘*Him Palam Matar-1’* is adopted for cultivation during the main season in high, mid and low hills of Himachal Pradesh. The variety has medium growth habit, flower a week earlier than ‘*Pb-89’* and about two weeks over ‘*Azad P-1’*. It has synchronized flowering. The main features of this variety on consumers’ point of view are its long pods (10-12 cm), lush green and attractive colour, 8-12 seeds per pod (average around 10 seeds) with 50 percent shelling. It is moderately resistant to powdery mildew disease. Average yield is about 140-165 quintal per hectare which is about 7-10 percent higher than *‘Pb-89’* and about 10-15 percent higher than ‘*Azad P-1’*.

Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary has appreciated Drs Satish Kumar Guelria, Vinod Kumar Sood, Naveen Kumar and Akhilesh Sharma and their team of scientists for developing these varieties and collaborating with private sector for multiplication of seed of these University developed varieties for their large scale availability to the farming community of the State and resource generation to the University.

***CSKHPAU plans will be farmer centric: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 8 September. “The farmers of Himachal Pradesh will be central in all plans of the University”, announced Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University during his maiden Press Conference, here today.

Prof Chaudhary said that his efforts will be directed to get international recognition to this prestigious hill farm varsity. Besides, working in the mandated areas of academics, research, and extension education, the farmers will be consulted to reorient the system to meet the emerging challenges. “My priority is to make farmers happy with new innovations”, said Prof Chaudhary. He told that the University has initiated work to frame a vision document considering short and long term goals. As the new education policy will revolutionize the education sector so his University has started taking steps to implement it at the earliest. Effective and quick decision making mechanism is being developed to meet the new challenges. Adopting multi-disciplinary approach, students will be provided a bouquet of subjects to pursue profession with passion. Many certificate courses have been planned to engage and train the youth, especially the rural youth and others who returned to roots after the pandemic. Start-up programmes have also been started in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor said that all *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* and Research Station scattered all over the state will be strengthened. It has been decided to hold major extension and research related meetings amidst farmers in their homes or farms. Prof Chaudhary said that his University scientists were tuned to work in the hills and effort will be made to get more such research projects sanctioned which help in resolving problems of farming community. He expects that each scientist will bring at least one research project to the University. The Vice-Chancellor said that rich diversity in the state needs focussed work to get geographical indicators (GIs) so that benefits reach the farmers of concerned area. The University will undertake new research work on high potential crops like garlic, *Kalazeera*, ginger, etc. and will also take up research on *Chiggu* goat, *Churri*, *Gaddi* dog (Himachali hound), poultry etc. with biotechnological interventions.

Prof H.K.Chaudhary said that it was his dream to establish Agricultural Technology Park for providing a single window solutions to the farmers. He said that he will develop synergy between farmers, scientists and farm officers. There is need of perfect coordination between private sector, public sector and farmers for quality farm inputs and developing storage and marketing facilities. He said that serious efforts will be made to enhance the domestic income and adopt austerity measures. Efforts will be made to fill vacant positions of teaching and non-teaching staff. The University will work with utmost dedication and in a transparent manner following all rules and regulations. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to the Governor and Chief Minister for imposing their faith in him and expressed his commitment to serve the farming community to the best of his capability.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar and Dr.Hirday Paul Singh, Jt. Director (Info & PR) were present during the press conference.Prof H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, planted a sapling of Golden Bottle brush (*Melaleuca bracteata)* alongside the road leading to Administrative Block, today.The ceremony was organized under the environmental sustainability component of the Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology of National Agricultural Higher Education World. Forty saplings were planted today. While interacting with staff, the Vice-Chancellor said that trees greatly benefit the people living around them by having a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing, reducing stress and encouraging outdoor exercise. This is in addition to the benefits they will receive from an improved environmental quality and improved amenity which comes with planted areas. Statutory officers , heads and others were present during the plantation ceremony.

***CSKHPAU creates Information Technology cell***

Palampur 5 September. CSK H.P. Agriculture University created an Information Technology (IT) cell. This was announced by Prof. Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that this cell will be base for new education policy. He told that artificial intelligence, bioinformatics, precision agriculture, geo-informatics, etc will be integrated with newly created IT cell. There is a proposal to redesign the  university website and online interaction for teaching, research and extension education will be strengthened besides strengthening online communications and collaborations of the various sectors. All employees will be given individual ids and some of the course contents will be online. A vision document will be ready soon. The campus will be made Wi-Fi with identified hotspots. There is proposal to initiate some online farm related courses after its up-gradation to a full fledged department. Prof Chaudhary also discussed salient features of national education policy.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar told that IT cell will be handled by four existing staff members with additional charge initially till it is made fully functional. The University statutory officers attended the inaugural ceremony of IT cell.

Meeting on JICA projects at CSKHPAU

***Crop diversification key to increase the farm income: Prof H.K.Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor***

Palampur 5 September. A meeting to review the Shiitake Cultivation and Training Centre (SCTC) and other Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funded projects was held at CSK H.P. Agriculture University.

While chairing the meeting, Prof. H.K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, said that his University will work for the crop diversification to increase the farm income. He said that some important components of the JICA project for the University like SCTC worth more than Rs. four crore and “Creation of infrastructure for seed production of vegetables and other crops’” worth Rs. 10 crore will be highly beneficial to the farming community of Himachal Pradesh. He said that 125 farmers from all over the State will be trained per year in Shiitake cultivation. Since this was the only edible mushroom being used for medicinal purposes like curing cancer, AIDS, etc., the farmers will be getting highly remunerative prices. The Vice Chancellor asked JICA officers and the University scientists to highlight the nutritive value of Shiitake mushroom among farmers.

The Vice-Chancellor directed scientists to explore the feasibility of providing irrigation to the project on vegetable seed production from bore wells in the project area covering more than 70 hectare area in the University. He told that a hi-tech centre has been proposed as another component of JICA project having hi-tech poly houses and cold storage facilities for off season fruits and vegetables. He asked the scientists to prepare concept notes on the researchable issues on the real farm problems like insect-pest and disease management in vegetable crops and whitefly and soil-borne diseases. Prof Chaudhary asked JICA officers to include garlic and black cumin (*kalazira*) in the project to facilitate concerned farmers of the state

 Dr. JC Rana, Chief Project Director, H.P.Crop Diversification Project (HPCDP), JICA expressed his satisfaction with the progress of construction work at SCTC. He told that second phase of the project was likely to start in May 2021 with emphasis on irrigation, marketing and post-harvest management. Dr. Mandeep Sharma, Director of Research and Dr. YP Thakur, Director Extension Education, Er Vikas Sood, Estate Officer and University scientists also expressed their views.

Dr. V. K. Sharma, Project Director, HPCDP JICA, Dr. K. C. Azad, Deputy Project Director HPCDP JICA and some other officers from JICA and scientists from the University attended the meeting.

***CSKHPAU will involve rural youth in farming: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 4 September. Prof. H.K. Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University said that his University will take effective steps to involve rural youth in agriculture.

The Vice-Chancellor, after attending a webinar by Padma Bhushan Dr. R. S. Paroda, former Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research on “Challenges and opportunities before youth in agriculture” said that several suggestions and ideas by the eminent scientist can be implemented in Himachal Pradesh.

The Vice-Chancellor asked the Deans and Directors to take steps to involve the youth, especially rural youth in agriculture. He said that efforts should be made to motivate youth with exact knowledge about agriculture, animal husbandry and allied avocations. They need institutional back stocking and financial support to initiate farm related avocations. The Vice-Chancellor said that many programmes at the national and state level have been initiated to involve youth in agriculture. The farm students were involved in rural agricultural work experience which have been transformed to a new student ready programme , Stand-up and Start-up programmes , Make in India, Skill India Mission, P.M.Kisan Vikas Yojna and many other entrepreneurship development programmes have been started to empower the youth.

Prof Chaudhary said that unless youth start earning more they will feel discouraged. As attracting youth to agriculture is a buzz word so they need to be trained to job creators and job providers to others. The Vice-Chancellor said that rural youth can be trained to be good extension workers, farm input suppliers, they can provide custom hire services for farm implements, etc. Some other areas where youth can be trained include conservation agriculture, protected agriculture, improved seed suppliers, certified nursery and quality flower growers, , mechanization, post harvest processing, micro irrigation, labs for water and soil testing, organic certification, bio-fertilizer and bio pesticides suppliers for organic agriculture., agro-tourism, etc.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar, Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Director of Research-cum-Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Research, Dr.Madhumeet Singh, Dean Post Graduate Studies, etc. attended the meeting.

***Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary pays homage to former President of India Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee***

Palampur 1 September. Prof. H.K.Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University, has expressed shock at the demise of Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India.

 Prof Chaudhary said that Shri Mukherjee was a towering statesman who served the country in various capacities and left an indelible mark with his intellectual excellence. His tenures as Union Finance Minister, Union Foreign Minister or Union Defence Minister before becoming President of India are remembered by countrymen for his scholarly and compassionate approach to serve the masses. The Vice-Chancellor said that the University will try to imbibe the virtues of this great personality.

***CSKHPAU will strive hard for****‘****Krishi Mein Atamnirbharta’: Vice-Chancellor Prof H.K.Chaudhary***

Palampur 29 August. “The clarion call of the Prime Minister for “*Krishi Mein Atamnirbharta*” is a *Mantra* for the socio-economic development of the farming community and our University will strive hard to implement the valuable suggestions in toto” said Prof. Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agricultural University while addressing the statutory officers, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor said that during the inauguration of administrative buildings of Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University at Jhansi, the Prime Minister has given many important suggestions to make agriculture self-reliant. He said that the University scientists should work with renewed vigour for transfer of modern scientific technology to the farmers’ fields. As announced by the Prime Minister, value addition in farm produce, new innovation under ‘*One Life, One Mission*’ by young researchers, developing entrepreneurship among farmers, new storage infrastructure in rural areas, introducing agriculture as a subject in middle classes in the schools, etc. were significant decisions.  He said that the University scientists must work on these new areas so that farmers of the State would be benefitted.

Prof. Chaudhary said that the innovative directions of the Prime Minister would inspire future actions so that technology from laboratories reaches the villages.  He said that as suggested, the use of artificial intelligence, modern farm implements, etc. should be increased to enhance farm production. Skill component and practical approach in farm education should be enhanced. The farmers should be educated about proper utilization of groundwater and irrigations sources.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his satisfaction that a large number of farmers at all eight *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* and several students, through constituent colleges of the University, were linked for live streaming of the Prime Minister’s speech at Jhansi.

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Prof. Chaudhary said that research institutes and farm universities need to imbibe much from the speech of Prime Minister so that technology reaches the villages. He said that as suggested, use of artificial intelligence, modern farm implements, etc should be increased to enhance farm production. Skill component and practical approach in farm education should be enhanced. The farmers should be educated about proper utilization of ground water and irrigations sources.

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***Identify new varieties for protected environment: Prof H.K.Chaudhary, VC, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 28 August. Prof. Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University, inaugurated a webinar on ‘Vegetable cultivation under protected cultivation’, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasized the need to identify new varieties or genotypes suitable for protected environment with higher production potential. He advised the scientists to use artificial intelligence and robotics to enhance the efficiency of the production system. He suggested that small poly-houses should be popularized for small and marginal farmers.

 Dr Mandeep Sharma, Director of Research, discussed the techniques of Hi-tech nursery production and varieties suitable for protected environment for enhancing the production potential. Dr Bal Raj Singh, former Vice Chancellor of Jodhpur Agriculture University delivered two thematic expert talks on ‘Plug Tray Nursery Raising Technology in Vegetables’ and ‘Cultivation of Vegetable Crops under Protected Conditions’.

Dr Ranbir Singh Rana, Principal Investigator told that webinar was organized under Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology project on protected agriculture and natural farming, national agricultural higher education project and the World Bank funded project. Dr Akhilesh Sharma,Nodal Officer, Dr. Parveen Sharma, Organizing Secretary, Dr Ajay Sood, co- organizing secretary, Dr. R.K Gupta and Mr Kapil Sharma also took part in the webinar.

The webinar was attended around 200 members from seven universities of the country.

***Prof.H.K. Chaudhary,Vice-Chancellor releases a compendium on ‘Reproductive ailments in abandoned cows and their treatment’***

Palampur 28 August. Prof. Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University released a compendium entitled “Reproductive ailments and effect of different treatments on fertility status of abandoned cows in *Goshalas* of Himachal Pradesh - a rehabilitation effort”, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the research work of Prof. Madhumeet Singh and his team including Drs. Pravesh Kumar, Khursheed Sofi, Rohit Sharma and Akshay Sharma. He said that this work will enable the policy makers to plan and effectively deal with stray cattle problem in Himachal Pradesh.

Prof. Madhumeet Singh, Dean, Post-graduate Studies-cum- Head of the department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics in the University who was Principal Investigator of the projects to study the reproductive problems in abandoned cows kept in various *Goshalas* in different parts of H.P., told that the study was conducted under ‘*Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna*’ sponsored projects. The study was conducted all over the state and more than 1500 cows were examined on various reproductive parameters. Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director Extension Education and Dr. Hirday Paul Singh, Jt. Director (Info & PR) were also present during the release ceremony.

***Prof. H.K.Chaudhary Vice-Chancellor pays a courtesy call to Shri Shanta Kumar***

Palampur 25 August. Prof. Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University paid a courtesy call to Shri Shanta Kumar, former Chief Minister.

Shri Shanta Kumar while appreciating the past achievements of the University and the new Vice-Chancellor said that he was emotionally attached to the University and has high expectations from the capable Vice-Chancellor and hard working staff. He discussed major issues concerning agriculture and farmers in the state. The Vice-Chancellor said that efforts will be made to give an international recognition and position to this prestigious farm institution founded by Shri Shanta Kumar during his tenure as Chief Minister in 1978.He assured that untiring efforts will be made to realise the dreams of former Chief Minister and the University will religiously work in the mandated areas of academics, research and extension education for the benefit of stakeholders. Shri Shanta Kumar also presented his book on Swami Vivekanand to Prof Chaudhary.

The Vice-Chancellor also met Shri Vipin Singh Parmar, Hon’ble Speaker, H.P. Vidhan Sabha. Dr.(Mrs.) Parveen Lata, wife of the Vice-Chancellor was also present on the occasion.

***Decorated farm scientist Prof. H.K.Chaudhary joins as thirteenth Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Prof. Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, a well decorated farm scientist joined as thirteenth regular Vice-Chancellor of CSK H.P. Agriculture University on 22 August.

Having around three decades rich and diverse experience in research and teaching, Prof. Chaudhary has been working as Professor and Head, Departments of Genetics & Plant Breeding and Agricultural Biotechnology at the University prior to his new assignment. He has 31 years experience in chromosome engineering and molecular breeding and has developed 20 important crop varieties. He is credited for developing country’s very first winter wheat variety (*Saptdhara*) and first doubled haploid wheat variety (*Him Pratham*). He has been a project leader for 16 national research projects in biotechnology sponsored by Govt. of India and also handled four international research projects. He has guided 34 scholars and 214 trainees from reputed institutes. He has 164 publications to his credit.

The new Vice-Chancellor is highly decorated scientist as he is recipient of Indian Council of Agricultural Research Young Scientist Award, ‘*Prerna Strot Samman Puraskar-*2008-09’ by Govt. of H.P. and has been Honorary Visiting Professor, Osaka Kyoiku University, Japan since 2004, Honorary Visiting Professor along with William Gamble Fellowship, University of Melbourne, Australia since 2014, Commonwealth Fellowship-2003 in Molecular Genetics by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, London, Senior Biotechnology Overseas Associateship-2004 in Molecular Genetics (Japan) by the Govt. of India.

Having synthesized action plan of the State Deptt. of Biotechnology, Govt. of H.P. during July, 2000, he was responsible to establish and lead a High-Tech Molecular Cytogenetics & Tissue Culture Lab in the University. He explored, conserved and sustainably utilized elite North-West Himalayan Plant Genetic Resources for the genetic up gradation of various crops, medicinal and aromatic plant species.He has been promoting biotech business by developing unique protocols of Double Haploid production and physical mapping of the genes having commercial value to the entrepreneurs in biotech industry and has opened horizons in the ultra modern areas of biotechnology in the northern hill regions of the country and created opportunities for the faculties and young scholars in chromosome engineering and molecular breeding. Prof Chaudhary has established international collaborations with the globally renowned Labs and the eminent scientists in the sphere of modern biology and biotechnology. He has been leading and providing impetus to various biotech programmes of the University and extending the innovative and advanced technology for the karyotyping and genetic upgradation of North-West Himalayan crop species

 Prof.Chaudhary is a member or office bearer of more than a dozen international and national professional societies and organizations including Vice President of Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding ,Organizing Secretary of 5th Asian Chromosome Colloquium, Member of European Association for Research on Plant Breeding, Spain, etc. He has also been associated with various technical and other committees of the University since his joining and has full understanding of the University issues as he has been interacting with students, farmers and staff.

 Born on 6 June 1962 at village Mahadev (Mandi) in a humble family, Prof.H.K. Chaudhary obtained his school education from Govt. schools and did his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Genetics from H.P. Agriculture University in 1989. He did PDF in Molecular Genetics from UK in 2003 and Japan in 2004. In connection with his professional obligations, he has visited USA, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, Australia, Thailand, Scotland, China, etc.

Prof. Chaudhary is also known for sophistication and savoir faire. He is popular among the students and staff. Prof H.K.Chaudhary has a mission in building Himachal Pradesh a knowledge hub in ultra modern areas of agricultural sciences. He is married to Dr.(Mrs.) Parveen Lata, an educationist and the couple is blessed with a son Yashdeep, who is studying engineering in U.K.

***Decorated farm scientist Prof. H.K.Chaudhary joins as thirteenth Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU***

Palampur 22 August. Prof. Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, a well decorated farm scientist has joined as thirteenth regular Vice-Chancellor of CSK H.P. Agriculture University. He gave his joining at Raj Bhawan, Shimla today.

Having around three decades rich and diverse experience in research and teaching, Prof. Chaudhary has been working as Professor and Head, Departments of Genetics & Plant Breeding and Agricultural Biotechnology at the University prior to his new assignment. He has 31 years experience in chromosome engineering and molecular breeding and has developed 20 important crop varieties. He is credited for developing very first winter wheat variety (*Saptdhara*) and first doubled haploid wheat variety (*Him Pratham*) of the country. He has handled 20 research projects including four international projects. He has been a leader for 16 national projects in biotechnology sponsored by Govt. of India. He has guided 34 scholars along with 214 trainees from various reputed institutes. He has 164 publications to his credit.

The new Vice-Chancellor is highly decorated scientist as he is recipient of Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) Young Scientist Award, ‘*Prerna Strot Samman Puraskar-*2008-09’ by Govt. of H.P. and has been Honorary Visiting Professor, Osaka Kyoiku University, Japan since 2004, Honorary Visiting Professor along with William Gamble Fellowship, University of Melbourne, Australia since 2014, Commonwealth Fellowship-2003 in Molecular Genetics by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, London, Senior Biotechnology Overseas Associateship-2004 in Molecular Genetics (Japan) by the Govt. of India.

Having synthesized action plan of the State Deptt. of Biotechnology, Govt. of HP during July, 2000, he was responsible to establish and lead a High-Tech Molecular Cytogenetics & Tissue Culture Lab in the University. He explored, conserved and sustainably utilized elite North-West Himalayan PGRs for the genetic upgradation of various crops and medicinal & aromatic plant species. He has filed a patent for an innovation in biotech aspects with the Indian Patent Office having commercial value for high precision and efficient crop improvement. He has been promoting biotech business by developing unique protocols of DH production and physical mapping of the genes having commercial value to the entrepreneurs in biotech industry and has opened new horizons in the ultra modern areas of biotechnology in the northern hill regions of the country and created unique opportunities for the faculties and young scholars in chromosome engineering & molecular breeding. Prof Chaudhary has established international collaborations with the globally renowned Labs and the eminent scientists in the sphere of modern biology & biotechnology. He has been leading and providing impetus to various biotech programmes of the University and extending the innovative and advanced technology for the karyotyping and genetic upgradation of North-West Himalayan crop species

 Prof.Chaudhary is a member of many professional societies and organizations. He has been a member, International Steering Committee thrice and was elected Vice President, Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding (2018-19), Nominated Organizing Secretary, 5th Asian Chromosome Colloquium, Nominated Member, European Association for Research on Plant Breeding, Spain since 2006, Nominated Member, UK Alumni Association & Network, London since 2004, Krishi Ratna Dr. P. R. Deshmukh Fellowship by Bharat Krishak Samaj(1986-87), Fellow & State Coordinator International Society for Tropical Crop Research & Development, Kerala and fellow and councilor of Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding, Crop Improvement Society of India (1997-99),Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, (2003-04),etc. He has also been associated with various technical and other committees of the University since his joining and has full understanding of the University issues as he has been interacting with students , farmers and staff.

 Born on 6 June 1962 at village Mahadev (Mandi) in a humble farm family, Prof.H.K. Chaudhary obtained his school education from Govt. schools and did his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding & Genetics from H.P. Agriculture University in 1989. He did PDF in Molecular Genetics from UK in 2003 and Japan in 2004. In connection with his professional obligations, he has visited various countries like USA, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, Australia, Thailand, Scotland, China, etc.

Soft spoken and popular among the students, Prof H.K.Chaudhary has a mission in building Himachal Pradesh a knowledge hub in ultra modern areas of agricultural sciences.

###  *CSKHAPU to conduct left out exams of B.Sc . final year , also extends date for Ph.D. applications*

Palampur 20 August. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to conduct the left out mid-term examinations and end-term examinations of 2nd semester of the B.Sc. 3rd year students (Life Sciences and Physical Sciences). These examinations will be held with effect from 28 August to 10 September. Standard operating procedure for conduct of examinations will be observed. The students have been advised to contact the Dean of College of Basic Sciences.

The University has also given relief to the aspirants of Ph.D. programmes as the University has extended the last date for the receipt of application forms for merit-based admissions to the doctoral programmes for the academic year 2020-21 up to 31 August. Details of both decisions are available on the University website.

***Weather advisory service to improve in Himachal Pradesh***

Palampur 25 July. An initiative has been taken by CSK H.P. Agriculture University to improve weather advisory services in Himachal Pradesh. In order to enhance the outreach of agro-meteorology advisory services, Mobile Apps *“Meghdoot* and “DAMINI” are being popularised by the University and its Krishi Vigyan Kendras(KVKs).

*“Meghdoot”* App seamlessly aggregates crop wise advisories at district level issued by Agro-Met Field Units (AMFUs) established in various farm institutes. *Gramin Krishi Mausam Service* (GKMS) unit has been established in the University which is issuing such advisories for four districts of Chamba, Hamirpur, Una and Kangra on every Tuesday and Friday for the farmers’ benefit. Now, to extend the network at district level, District Agro-Met Units (DAMUs) have been established recently at KVKs Mandi, Sirmour and Bilaspur. Staff has been recruited and trained for these services. Another useful app “*DAMINI”* for monitoring and alerts for the lightning activity in advance by 35-45 minutes for the benefit of farmers and others is also being popularised at grassroots level.

Prof. Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor has exhorted the farming community and general masses to download these useful Apps to enhance productivity, reduce crop losses and save precious lives from lightening. He told that the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ( ICAR) in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities and other institutes are jointly extending the network to district level by setting up of DAMUs at KVKs in 530 districts in addition to existing 130 AMFUs under GKMS to empower the farmers with weather based Agromet Advisory Services at block level. Presently, advisories are being disseminated to farmers through multi-channel dissemination system including mKisan portal.

Dr. Ranbir Singh Rana, Nodal officer of GKMS Proejct in the University told that 200 SMS have been sent to 2.89 lakh registered farmers of Chamba, Hamirpur Kangra and Una through mKisan portal in the last three years. Farmers can register on mKisan portal for weather alert and advisory. Theses Apps, developed by IMD, can be downloaded from the google play store.

***More Basmati area under Pusa- 1121 means more income to the farmers: Prof A.K.Sarial, VC,HPAU***

Palampur 22 June. Paddy sowing in northern states, especially in Punjab and Haryana is in full swing. Such is the desperation that labourers who left Punjab and Haryana during lockdown have been transported back from remote districts of Bihar by the progressive farmers to help them in sowing operations. Rice millers and exporters have been issuing appeals in print and electronic media to the farmers for growing Basmati varieties like Pusa-1121 and Pusa-1718.As Basmati rice has huge overseas market in addition to very good demand in domestic market also so there is emphasis for planting these two varieties.

Basmati rice has harmonious combination of grain and cooking quality traits like easy digestibility and pleasant aroma and is protected under GI for its cultivation in north -western part of Indo-gangetic region covering states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttrakhand, Jammu and western UP.

Prof A.K.Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, H.P. Agriculture University, who has the credit to develop world’s longest grain Basmati variety Pusa Basmati-1121, told that it is a multi-billion dollar forex earner variety. PusaBasmati-1121 occupies more than 70 per cent area of total Basmati acreage in the country and contributes annually approximate Rs. 18000 crore forex earning. It led India to attain number one position in the world since 2011 leaving behind USA, Vietnam, Thailand and Pakistan.

Prof Sarial, who received Indian Council of Agricultural Research recognition award and Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for outstanding PG research for this variety, told that out of several Basmati varieties grown in Haryana, Punjab, UP, UK, J&K , and H.P., Pusa Basmati-1121 continues to be the first choice of farmers since 2008. In HP Pusa Basmati-1121 covered an acreage of 3500 hectare (20%) of the basmati area during Kharif 2019.

The Vice-Chancellor informed that Pusa Basmati- 1121 is an extra ordinary variety characterized by extra long grains with cooked kernel length upto 22mm, high volume expansion after cooking with pleasant aroma. It has an average yield of 4.5 ton per hectare as compared to 2.5 ton per hectare of traditional Basmati. Because of its high profitability, excellent grain and cooking quality, it is adored by the farming community, traders and consumers. It is sold in more than 80 brand names like India Gate Classic, Maharani, Kohinor Gold, Shakti Bhog Prime 1121 ,etc

Prof Sarial told that farmers should be educated to restrict use of pesticides and must not use prohibited chemicals in this crop otherwise its export quality may receive setback as the consumers are very particular about the use of chemicals in crops.He told that research work on Basmati 1121 was still in progress to incorporate resistance to insect pests and diseases so that problem of pesticide residues is permanently addressed and its production is made sustainable. Besides, genes for short duration are also being introduced to advance its maturity before the onset of low temperature in hills. He told that an improved version of Pusa Basmati 1121 that is Pusa Basmati -1718 with resistance to bacterial blight has been released by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. He said that these two varieties haves been able to reduce pesticide use and consumer safety resulting better price realization from importing countries and domestic market. That was the reason that several rice millers and export bodies were exhorting the farmers to grow theses Basmati varieties. Prof Sarial expressed the hope that these improved Basmati varieties can help Basmati farmers in doubling their income.

The Vice-Chancellor holds Press Conference

***Effective steps by CSKHPAU to mitigate the effects of COVID on students and farmers: Vice-Chancellor Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial***

Palampur 10 June. “The University understands that the COVID-19 and the lockdown have pushed youngsters into a quandary due to uncertainty over academic schedules and job prospects. Hence, we made efforts to provide online platform to prepare students to complete the course work of the current academic year and motivate them for tomorrow’s knowledge-intensive and technology-driven work environment,” informed Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, CSK H.P. Agriculture University during a Press Conference, here today.

The Vice-Chancellor told that the students were advised and guided to attend various webinars organized by different universities and organizations. The University continued Rural Agricultural Work Experience in villages and internship in Veterinary Hospitals of final year agriculture and veterinary students respectively for completing their degree programmes in time as well as released admission notification and accepting online applications for ensuing academic session as per UGC and ICAR schedules.

Prof Sarial said that the University was particular to keep in touch with farming community through all print, electronic and social media tools to advise them on harvesting of *Rabi* season *crops* with all COVID-19 preventive measures. The Vice-Chancellor himself took initiatives to prepare detailed crop advisory and also recorded video messages for them. The farmers were given timely advice on field preparation and sowing of *kharif* crops also. He told that Agro-advisories during this lockdown period were provided to the farmers using social media platforms especially Whatsapp groups created for the purpose. During the period 13 message were sent to 85,700 farmers. Queries related to agricultural and veterinary aspects were also entertained on the mobile phones. To promote kitchen gardening, around 50,000 seedlings of summer vegetables raised at the University vegetable farm and KVK were sold to the local farmers of adjoining villages. He said that all the essential activities in the University continued. These included treatment of ailing animals in the Veterinary Clinics daily for emergency as well as routine cases. The activities of livestock farm, poultry farm, Feed unit and other related works were also continued. Around 400 clinical cases were diagnosed and treated in veterinary clinics.

The Vice-Chancellor informed that during the lockdown,three research project proposals worth Rs. 72.00 lakh have been sanctioned to this University by the different agencies, respectively and four research project proposals on different thematic areas worth Rs. 1233.00 lakh have been submitted to different funding agencies. This includes a research project worth Rs 11.50 crore to set up COVID-19 testing facility.The University produced around 300 quintal breeder seed of improved wheat varieties from its Seed Production Farm at main campus. It is double the quantity which was being produced in 2016. This will enable Himachal Pradesh to become self-sufficient in wheat seed requirement. The University extensively utilized approved University social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Facebook to provide urgent and other requisite timely information to other stakeholders like staff and retirees. Besides regular Video messages by the Vice-Chancellor, all Deans recorded and uploaded Video messages for the students.

The Vice-Chancellor also expressed his gratitude to the Governor, H.P. and Chancellor of the University for appreciating the University for delivering its best to the students and farming community during the pandemic. He answered to the questions of the reporters informing them fee for various academic programmes was lowest among several neighbouring farm varsities yet fee relief has been given to the students and seats have been increased in PG programes. He told that the university and its students extended help to the administration during the tough times. The staff also donated Rs.36.00 lakh to the Government.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, Registrar and Dr Hirday Paul Singh, Jt. Director (Info & PR) were present during the Press Conference.

***CSKHPAU Webinar on ‘Awareness Program on Control of Desert Locust’***

Palampur 6 June. CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University organized a Webinar on ‘Awareness Program on Control of Desert Locust’ today.

Dr.Parvinder Kaushal, Vice-Chancellor, Dr Y.S.Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan, as Chief Guest, appreciated the proactive approach and initiative of the CSKHPAU and advocated creating joint teams of the State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) to initiate massive awareness programmers at district level. He also suggested arranging adequate quantity of chemical and spraying machinery to control the locust, if need be.

Guest of Honour Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor of the host University told that it was in the last week only that the Govt. of H.P. had formed an inter departmental group, including this University, to monitor and take effective steps to protect the State from the locust invasion and its adverse impact. He said that the farmers will be made aware about the threat of this locust and ways to protect their crops. The Vice-Chancellor suggested advising farmers to take precautionary measures to prevent the invasion by locust swarms in their fields. He said that KVKs will be involved in creating awareness among farmers in border districts like Una, Kangra,Solan,Sirmour,etc. to increase the surveillance and strict monitoring the movement of locust swarms in adjoining State so that immediate preventive measures were initiated.

 Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education, informed that printed literature in simple Hindi has been printed and will be distributed among farmers, besides using print, electronic and social media to educate them. He said that the University has already instructed KVK extension specialists to start massive campaigns to educate the farmers.

Dr.D.K. Vatsa, Driector Research told that around seventy officers and scientists from both farm universities and state departments of agriculture and horticulture took part in the webinar. Some progreesive farmers also participated.

Dr.R.S.Chandel, Professor & Head, Deptt. of Entomology presented a detailed paper on locust and its control measures.

***CSKHPAU adopts several preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID-19***

Palampur 21 March.CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has adopted several preventive measures to contain the spread of COVID 19.

All the Statutory Officers have been asked to ensure the minimum bare staff to run the office from 23 March to 28 March. They will include officials who are residing in close proximity to their office or the staff who commutes to work in their own vehicles. They statutory officers will allow the identified remaining staff to work from home. The staff coming through public transport has been exempted to attend their duties during this period. The officials who are working from home or leave will have to be available on telephone and electronic means of communication at all times. They should have to attend the office, if called for any urgent work.

The Senior Medical Officer has been directed to install thermal scanners at Gate No. 1 alongwith trained staff. It has been made mandatory for all offices of the University to place hand sanitizers on the entry of all University buildings and gates. The employees having any flu-like symptoms have been advised to take proper treatment and have been exempted from attending the offices. The entry of visitors in the office complex has been restricted during this period. All staff members have been directed to avoid non-essential official travel. All the officials have been advised to take care of their health and look out for respiratory symptoms, fever etc. They can leave the workplace immediately after informing to their respective controlling officer.

All the University gates except gate No. 1 have been closed with immediate effect till further orders and the entry of all the employees and residents in the University complex will be from gate No. 1 after proper checking of their Identity. All the staff and the students will observe *‘Janta Curfew’* on 22 March from 7.00 AM to 9.00 PM as per appeal of the Hon’ble Prime Minister’. All the employees are being sensitized about the threat of COVID 2019 as per the instructions of the Govt. from time to time.

***19 March:CSK HPAU postpones exams, to strictly follow Govt.advisory to check the spread of COVID-19:*** CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to postpone on-going mid-semester examinations. As per the orders issued today, the Vice-Chancellor has ordered that all examinations of students of the University scheduled to be held henceforth have been postponed till further orders. Oral comprehensive examination and Thesis viva-voce examinations of postgraduate students were postponed till further order on 16 March.

The Vice-Chancellor has ordered all concerned in the main campus and out-stations to strictly follow the advisory of Govt.of H.P. to check the spread of COVID-19. The detailed circular includes advisory like proper cleanliness in buildings, advise to staff to proceed on leave and take prescribed treatment if they develop flu-like symptoms, restriction and screening of visitors to various offices, curtailing meetings and official travel, closure of gym, personal hygiene and social distancing by staff, disinfection of commonly touched surfaces, etc. All statutory officers, heads of department, associate directors of research stations, programme coordinators of KVKs, etc have been asked to take immediate action in their respective offices so that advisory is followed up in letter and spirit by all the persons working under their control.

***18 March:CSK H.P.Agriculture University to reserve seats for single girl child***

CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has decided to reserve one seat in each undergraduate programme of the University for Admission of ‘Single Girl Child’. According to Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, the University has approved to reserve one seat each in all undergraduate programmes of the four constituent colleges. However, this seat will be reserved to ‘single girl child’ belonging to Himachal Pradesh within the intake capacity under over and above category seats from the academic session beginning this year i.e. 2020-21.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the University was running six undergraduate programmes in its four constituent colleges and the decision will go a long way in propagating quality professional education among small families having a single girl child.

13 March: **Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting at KVK,Kangra:** *Vice-Chancellor Prof.Ashok Kumar Sarial asks young farmers to become successful entrepreneurs:* Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, has urged young educated farmers to take advantage of Startup schemes to become successful entrepreneurs.

While chairing a meeting of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK),Kangra, the Vice-Chancellor detailed about the Govt. of India sponsored ‘Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna Raftaar (RKVY-RAFTAAR)’ and Chief Minister’s Startup programme. He asked the extension specialists to motivate the trainees to take advantage of ‘Him Palam Raftaar Agri-Business incubator’ in the University where their scalable and repeatable business models will enable them to become successful entrepreneurs under the guidance of experienced specialists as mentors.

Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor said that ever-increasing unemployment was a challenge for all and the Governments of India and Himachal Pradesh have come out with such Startup schemes to motive the youngsters to start their own business and become successful entrepreneurs. He told that selected incubatees were provided a stipend of Rs. Ten thousand per month for pursuing their entrepreneurial aspirations. They were also eligible for pre-seed funding to convert their innovative idea into a prototype and seed funding upto Rs. 25 lakh for the commercialization of their product.

The Vice-Chancellor said that all out efforts were underway to help the farmers in doubling their income. The University had developed twenty farm-based models and shared with the stakeholders to ‘Double the Farmers’ Income. He exhorted all concerned to work together to increase the income of farm families. Prof Sarial also elaborated the importance and utility of adopting natural farming.He hoped that more number of farmers will come forward to adopt natural farming and providing chemical free hygienic farm prouduce. He also discussed issues like the importance of rearing Pahari cow, farm based avocations like mushroom cultivation, bee-keeping, protected cultivation, crop diversification, etc.

Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education, informed about the trainings to enhance the skill of farmers sponsored by Agricultural Skill Council of India.He asked members to educate the farmers of their areas about new programmes and schemes.He also detailed about new improved crop varieties and technologies developed by the University.Dr.N.K.Badhan, Additional Director of Agriculture, H.P. elaborated about various government schemes of his department.

Dr. Bhupinder Singh Mankotia, Programme Coordinator presented the progress report and proposed activities of his KVK. Besides the extension specialists Drs Sanjay Sharma, Neetu Sharma, Deep Kumar, Pardeep Kumar and Rakesh Thakur, Progressive farmer members and other members representing departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, banks, etc. also took an active part in the deliberations.

12 March:

Scientific Advisory Committee Meetings at KVKs at Berthin & Bara: ***Help farmers in doubling their income: Prof.Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor:***Krishi Vigyan Kendras of CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University situated at Berthin (Bilaspur) and Bara (Hamirpur) organized Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings today. Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, chaired both the meeting and addressed the SAC members of both KVKs.

The Vice-Chancellor told that members that it was imperative to double the income of farmers by 2022 as envisaged by the Government. He said that all concerned departments at the district level should work in perfect cohesion to help the farmers enabling them to increase their farm income. The Vice-Chancellor told that the University has developed twenty farm-based models and shared with the stakeholders to ‘Double the Farmers’ Income. He informed that some farmers have already proved the efficacy of these models by adopting their need and area-based models.

The Vice-Chancellor exhorted progressive farmers to take lead in educating the farming community about various schemes of the government so that they are benefitted. He said that a massive programme has been initiated to turn Himachal Pradesh into a natural farming state and the university was extending all possible support in this mega effort. He told that wholehearted involvement of the farming community was required for this movement and asked scientists, farm officers and progressive farmers to spread the word among stakeholders. Prof. Ashok Kumar Sarial detailed the research and extension education efforts of the University in natural farming at Palampur and all KVKs. The Vice-Chancellor also spoke on the importance of crop diversification.

Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education, asked members to educate farmers about a large number of trainings at Palampur and all KVKs so that they were able to enhance their skills and farm income. He said that all district level departments engaged in the welfare of farmers should work in perfect coordination.Dr.Dinesh Kumar Vatsa, Director of Research spoke on the importance of farm mechanization and detailed research activities of the University.

Drs Suman Kumar and Parveen Sharma, Programme Coordinators presented reports of the activities undertaken in the last one year in their respective KVKs and also proposed activities for the next year. Progressive farmers and other members representing departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, banks, etc. also took active part in the meetings.

11 March: Bucks distributed to Gaddi goat farmers for breed improvement: Goat farming has a bright future in H.P.: Prof A.K.Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, CSKHPAU: Prof. Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University has underlined the importance of goat farming in Himachal Pradesh.

While interacting with goat farmers after distributing 21 superior Gaddi breeding bucks to 21 different progressive goat farmers of the State, the Vice-Chancellor said that owing to vast high altitude pastures, goat farming has a bright future in Himachal Pradesh. He said that it can help in doubling the farmers’ income.

Prof Sarial said that bucks were provided to the farmers with the objectives to bring about overall breed improvement of the existing Gaddi goats. He told that the scientists from the department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Dr.G.C.Negi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences(COVAS) have raised the bucks after two stages of selection and scientific management. They are free from any disease which can be transmitted to the progeny through the bucks like brucellosis which results in abortions and ultimately heavy economic losses to the farmers. He advised them to fully utilize the potential of these breeding bucks being provided to them because superior breeding buck will pass on desired productivity traits in the progeny and ultimately it will improve the income of the farmers. He also congratulated the project team for their hard work under migratory field conditions for the benefit of tribal people.

Dr Y.P. Thakur, Director Extension Education, highlighted the role of breeding bucks for improving the overall productivity of the flock.Dr.Mandeep Sharma, Dean COVAS emphasized the utility of the project to the farmers.

Dr. P.K. Dogra, Principal Investigator of the project, told that the ongoing All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Goat Improvement was being implemented under the umbrella of Central Institute for Research on Goats located at Makhdoom, Mathura. During the last five years, 129 such superior breeding bucks had been provided to the farmers. These were performing very well in the field. He told that about 1000 pure Gaddi goats were being monitored under the project. The project was being implemented under migratory field conditions by providing strategic breeding, feeding and health control inputs.

Dr.Virender Patial, Deputy Director Animal Husbandry and Project team members Drs.Nishant Verma, Ankaj Thakur, Madhu Suman and Parveen Sharma were also present on this occasion.

3 March: CSKHPAU and CSIR-IHBT signed an MoU for collaboration in PG Research in the presence of Hon'ble Governor Shri Bandaru Dattatraya. Prof [Ashok Sarial](https://www.facebook.com/ashok.sarial?fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARCjoeauooAhRO09Plwle002XfNUjKJpPx6ZOAcHDsOFm6U-PFriHQvZmtIEpBccHXmVv50UuOlykHlw&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), Vice-Chancellor and Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, Director, IHBT exchanged MoU documents. Dr.[Dinesh Kumar Vatsa](https://www.facebook.com/dinesh.k.vatsa?fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARCx0WW0l4PrbWQlf6Yn314ltViKBK-6CzJuqVW8_zMUNoeAL4UXCSwpGG7M6pA8ZkYFr0MpmROyWoNE&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), Director of Research and Shri [Pankaj Sharma](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000401207647&fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDoA8t10mpDTmYUSm1Z-v-nxBj8F5q9_P4zsXYlsrmyrgEFq7nBNKSZmMJpzp1YGN_C7OqKGjxdMtCx&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), HAS, Registrar are also seen in the picture.

In the august presence of Hon'ble Governor Shri Bandaru Dattatraya and Vice-Chancellor Prof [Ashok Sarial](https://www.facebook.com/ashok.sarial?fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDqozeLtI0bcxrHSYJDJjLNHL2iQZlBz8jfr-0qxnUejOpkZtlGcA-pk8m4XjaxEcCS-7N1oVcg-OYa&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), CSKHPAU and ICAR-Indian Institue of Wheat & Barley Research, Karnal signed MoU for collaboration in Post Graduate Research. Drs [Rajeev Agnihotri](https://www.facebook.com/rajeev.agnihotri.16100?fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARCkV-_Pq6KSYU6okln2BmNIoGC-2IQgQf1UZWrJtb59RDYjKmXYAPUbw7DjyfWbHfLK_40xlNJO9YQA&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), Dean PGS, [Dinesh Kumar Vatsa](https://www.facebook.com/dinesh.k.vatsa?fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDsu5zpxoiSvujX1DUAdtt0NM0G3gL_bgKgMNV8SxniRQBnRtbvshqZTHN_bSyppusvB32XZT7d6m0z&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), Director of Research and Shri [Pankaj Sharma](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000401207647&fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARDPPI_1oFXx7DS0kwWb9TYVI0d4jG-C0p8mOwUc5F7KzbJ_6myDoR1zU83C_V1CgDxootPKsu0Jj2Ky&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group), Registrar from HPAU and Dr.(Mrs.)Sindhu Sareen, Dr.Rattan Tiwari and Dr Bumesh from IIWBR were present on the occasion.

Significant University Activities for the month of February: ***Highlights:* Major engagements of the Vice- Chancellor:** Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor attended a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of State Universities under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Governor at Raj Bhawan on 14 February. He also attended the Meeting of H.P.State Planning Board under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Chief Minister on 17 February. The Vice-Chancellor participated in the “International Convention on Perspectives to Face Contemporary Challenges of Agricultural Development”, organized by Bhartiya Kisan Sangh on 18-19 February at New Delhi.

Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice Chancellor, as a Member, attended the Governing Body Meeting of Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society on 3 February at New Delhi.The Vice-Chancellor also attended Board of Management meeting of SK University of Agriculture & Technology, Jammu on 5 February.

**Vice-Chancellor inaugurates workshops on Soft Skills and Academic Management System:** Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, inaugurated a workshop on ‘Development of Soft Skills for Entrepreneurship among Agri-graduates’ on 6 February and two days workshop on ‘Academic Management System Software’ on 7 February.

**University veterinary scientists help in registration of *‘Himachali Pahari’* cattle breed:** National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal has approved and registered “*Himachali Pahari*” as very first indigenous cattle breed of the State. Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor appreciated Dr.Y.P.Thakur, Director of Extension Education, who is also Professor of Animal Genetics and Breeding and his team for the scientific research work to get this breed with unique features registered with the NBAGR.

***Academics:*** **Two students qualify UGC/ICAR-NET:** Ms KanikaMetha, Ph. D. student, Department of Agricultural Economics and Ms. Supriya Kaldate, Ph.D. student, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding qualified ICAR Net 2019 Exam.

***Research:* 21 technologies recommended for the farmers of H.P.:**The following 21 technologies have been recommended by the Research Evaluation Committee in its meeting held on 4 February and further consented in the workshop on package of practices for vegetable crops on 15 February at Dr. YSP University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan for their use by the farmers of the State:

Release proposal Him Palam Matar- 1 & Him Palam Matar-3 of Garden Pea

Release proposal of Him Palam Meethi Phali-1 & Him Palam Meethi Phali-2 of Snap Pea

Release proposal of Him Palam Mirch-1 & Him Palam Mirch-2 of Chilli

Release proposal of Him Palam Kheera-1 & Him Palamp Kheera-2 of Parthenocarpic Cucumber

Release proposal of Him Palam Cherry Yellow of Cherry Tomato

Release proposal of Him Palam Tomato Hybrid-2 of Tomato

Release proposal of Him Palam Cabbage Hybrid-1 of Cabbage

Release proposal of Him Palam Mooli-1 of Radish

Release proposal of Him Palam Shweta of Onion

Proposal of Soil-less Media for Healthy Vegetable Nursery Production in Plug- trays

Proposal for plant spacing in tomato and parthenocarpic cucumber under protected environment

Growing cucurbits seedlings in waste disposable/earthen cups in standardized potting material

Enhancing shelf life of *Kharif*onion bulbs

Rootstocks for bacterial wilt and nematode resistance in tomato and bell pepper

Spacing, training and fertigation for capsicum under protected conditions

Propagation of tomato through stem cuttings under protected conditions

Pomato- two in one crop for polyhouse cultivation

**Research projects sanctioned:** Two research project proposals worth Rs. 105.23 lakh: (i) “Bio-efficacy, Phytotoxicity of Glyphosate 41% SL and effects on Soil Physiochemical Parameters and Soil Micro Flora and Fauna in Tea and Non-cropped Area” worth Rs. 2.90 lakh with Dr. Suresh Gautam, Professor & Head, Deptt. of Agronomy as P.I. of the Project and (ii) “Enhancing livelihood security and capacity building of scheduled tribe farmers of Lahaul valley through agro- technological interventions” worth Rs. 102.33 lakh with Dr. Pankaj Chopra, Scientist, HAREC, Kukumseri as PI of the Project have been sanctioned to this University by the M/s Anu Products limited, New Delhi & ICAR, New Delhi, respectively.

***Extension Education:*Trainings and demonstrations to the farmers and others:**The Directorate of Extension Education and KVKs organized 32 training programmes on various aspects of farming with the participation of around 1760 farmers.

Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela-2020 was organized by the Department of Agricultural Engineering at village Pukhru(Khundian, district Kangra) with the participation of 500 farmers.

University scientists surveyed for the incidence of yellow rust in wheat in different village alongwith district teams of the concerned district and gave advisory on the disease management.

Two *‘Kisan Goshthees’* and three field days were organized by KVKs.

NineSkill development training programmes sponsored by ASCI were conducted by KVKs with the participation of 180 farmers.

A month long training program on the job role “Dairy farmer-Entrepreneur” at Dr. G.C. Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences began on 25 February.Twenty farmers are taking part in it.

685 clinical cases were diagnosed and treated in veterinary clinics and 1235 samples were also analyzed.

2950 chicks were supplied to poultry units and NGOs.

In addition to regular trainees, around 700 farmers visited the University and KVKs for technical guidance.

***Finance:* Domestic Income:**The income as shown in the following table was generated by various wings of the University:

Dr GCN COVAS: Rs. **26,60,029**

College of Agriculture: Rs. 5,26,127

Directorate of Extension Education:Rs. 1,37,714

**Total: Rs. 33,23,870**

The funds received from various funding agencies were fully utilized for the payment of salary, wages and retirement benefits, etc.

Prof A.K.Sarial, Vice-Chancellor unfurls the National Flag:

***Republic Day celebrated enthusiastically at CSKHPAU***

Palampur 26 January. The Republic Day was celebrated with enthusiasm and gaiety at CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, here today. Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor, unfurled the National Flag and took salute from the NCC contingent of the university. He also inspected an impressive parade by the NCC cadets.
In his address,the Vice-Chancellor, underlined the significance of this historical day and democracy. Prof Sarial also detailed rights and obligations enshrined in the constitution of India. The Vice-Chancellor elaborated about the tremendous progress of the nation due to the strenuous efforts of countrymen. Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial also enumerated some recent achievements of the University in the areas of academics, research and extension education. The Vice-Chancellor said that it was a challenge to maintain and improve 11th rank among all farm universities of the country for this young and small University but expressed the hope that collective efforts will yield positive results. He exhorted the staff to work diligently for the socio-economic development of the farming community.

Prof Ashok Kumar Sarial, Vice-Chancellor awarded appreciation certificates to 26 staff members whose performance has been adjudged ‘Outstanding’ during the last three years. He also honoured blood donor NCC cadets. The Vice-Chancellor appreciated Students' Welfare Officer Dr V.K.Gupta and NCC officer Lt [Ankur Sharma](https://www.facebook.com/drankur.vcm?fref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R-R&eid=ARAnhsdJ5ONulJ6AKKKDWWGZ4Z0fm8vc70S6qf115GZuL_8EX9JvRvt0VmhHS6xWxxjLQdUaH5vDOFco&dti=206022836265&hc_location=group) for impressive programme and parade. Sweets were also distributed to all participants after the ceremony.

Shri Pankaj Sharma, HAS, Registrar and other statutory officers, scientists, non-teaching staff and their family members also enthusiastically took part in the Republic Day celebrations.