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Director of Extension
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Junagadh-362001

Phone: (0285) 2671669

URL: <http://jau.in/index.php/jau-news-letter>

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From the Vice Chancellor's Desk

Bee Vectoring: Nature's Solution for Sustainable Agriculture

Dear Colleagues,

The world is facing several challenges in agriculture, especially under the threat of global warming and climate change. The researchers of the world and India are putting several efforts to find innovative and sustainable approaches for climate resilient agriculture. Specifically in India, the efforts are being made to reduce the input costs for enhancing the farmers' income. One of the potential solution which has gained significant attention is bee vectoring, a natural and eco-friendly technique that utilizes bees to deliver biological



control agents and beneficial microorganisms directly to plants. This groundbreaking approach holds immense promise for improving crop health, reducing chemical pesticide use, and promoting ecological balance in agricultural ecosystems.

Bee vectoring involves harnessing the natural behavior of bees as efficient pollinators and equipping them with a dual role of delivering microorganisms and biological control agents to plants during their pollination visits. While foraging for nectar and pollen, bees come into contact with powdered substances, such as fungal spores or bacterial cells that have been carefully formulated to combat specific plant diseases or pests. As bees move from flower to flower, they deposit the beneficial microorganisms directly onto the plant's reproductive structures, such as the pistil or stigma, effectively inoculating the plant and providing protection against harmful pathogens.

The bee offers a sustainable alternative to conventional pesticide applications by leveraging natural pollination behavior, the technique delivers biological control agents in a targeted and precise manner, reducing the need for broad-scale spraying of chemical pesticides. This approach significantly reduces the environmental impact and potential health risks associated with conventional pesticide use. This technic can provide effect control of plant diseases and pests which enhances crop production. By introducing these protective agents directly to the plant's reproductive structures, bee vectoring enhances crop resistance and boosts overall plant health.

In addition to providing crop protection, it enhances pollination, resulting in increased fruit set and improved crop yield. The reduction in use of chemical inputs in agriculture through such biological control provides minimizes harm to beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife, fostering a balanced and thriving ecosystem within agricultural landscapes.

Bee vectoring technology is currently being applied to a range of crops, including strawberries, blueberries, almonds, tomatoes, and cucurbits. The technique has shown promising results in controlling diseases such as Botrytis gray mold, Monilinia fruit rot, and Fusarium wilt, as well as managing pests like thrips, whiteflies, and aphids. Ongoing research and development efforts aim to expand the range of microorganisms used, optimize formulations, and refine application techniques to maximize effectiveness.

Looking ahead, bee vectoring holds vast potential for revolutionizing sustainable agriculture. As the global community strives to address food security and environmental challenges, harnessing the power of bees through bee vectoring could prove to be a significant step towards a more sustainable and harmonious future for agriculture.

(V. P. Chovatia)

JAU's Performance in India Higher Education Rankings 2023-24

India Higher Education Rankings 2023-24 declared by the Education World Magazine in New Delhi. JAU, with an overall score of 915 out of 1300, secured second (2nd) rank in Gujarat and seventh (7th) rank in India among the state and central agricultural universities participated. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, lauded the efforts of the faculties and students contributing to the university rankings and appealed to recommit themselves for the university to consolidate and improve its performance at the state and national levels.



Performance in NIRF Rankings 2023-24

JAU was also ranked 38 in the first-ever India Rankings 2023 for the Agriculture & Allied Sectors released by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The ranking was released on June 5, 2023. Out of the key parameters analyzed for ranking by the national agency, JAU scored 72.69 out of 100 in Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR) whereas in the Graduation Outcomes (GO) and Outreach and Inclusivity (OI) the scores were 53.71 and 42.71, respectively. The overall score of JAU was 42.34 out of 100.



QRT Meeting of AICRPs on PHET & AICRP on PEASEM

The Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) meeting of All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) on Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology (PHET) and AICRP on Plastic Engineering in Agriculture Structure & Environment Management (PEASEM) being operated at CAET, JAU, Junagadh, was conducted during April 20-22, 2023 by ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. N. C. Patel, former VC of JAU and AAU, Anand, led the team as its chairman, while the members of the team included Dr. Pitam Chandra,

Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal; Dr. R. K. Jain, Ex-Principal, ADIT, Anand; Dr. Ashutosh Upadhyay, Member, QRT and Prof., Dept. of FST, NIFTEM, Kundali; Dr. Uday Shankar Saha, Former CGM, NABARD, Mumbai and Dr. R. K. Vishwakarma, Project Coordinator, PHET, CIPHET, Ludhiana. In addition, Dr. Sandeep Mann, Project Coordinator, PEASEM, CIPHET, Ludhiana, served as the Member Secretary of QRT.



Meeting of the QRT officials was also held with Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, and Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal & Dean, CAET, JAU, Junagadh and discussed the performance of AICRPs at JAU. The progress reports were presented by the PIs of AICRP on PHET and PEASEM, JAU, and REs/PIs of AICRP on PHET and PEASEM, Udaipur and Almora. Further, the QRT members paid visits to many agro-industries and interacted with several stakeholders and project beneficiaries from the Saurashtra region. The QRT team appreciated the works carried out under AICRPs at the university and congratulated the scientists involved in the projects.



Annual Groundnut Workshop

The Main Oilseeds Research Station, JAU, Junagadh and Directorate of Groundnut Research, ICAR Junagadh collaboratively organized a three-day "Groundnut workshop 2023" during May 24 to 26, 2023 in which more than 150 scientist from different AICRP centres across the India participated. The workshop covered scenario of



groundnut production and productivity of different state of India and major challenges faced by groundnut scientists. The interventions for breaking the yield barriers using biotechnology, pre-breeding for tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses, identifying nutrient dense groundnut genotypes and low anti-nutrient factors, enhancing quality traits, integrated disease and pest management etc. were discussed along with need to strengthen basic and collaborative research.



The inaugural ceremony of the workshop was graced by several luminaries, viz. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh; Dr. T. R. Sharma, Deputy Director General, Crop Sciences, ICAR and the Chairman; Dr. S. N. Nigam, Former Principal Groundnut Breeder, ICRISAT, Hyderabad; Dr. Sanjay Kumar Director, ICAR-IISS, MAU; Dr. H. M. Gajipara, Director of Research, JAU, Junagadh; Dr. S.K. Bera, Director, ICAR-DGR, Junagadh; Dr. R. B. Madariya, Research Scientist, MORS, and ADR JAU, Junagadh.

State Level Seminar on "Modern Agricultural Practices of Coconut : Problems and Remedies"

The state level seminar was jointly organized by JAU and Gujarat Agricultural Association for Sciences (GAAS), Zonal Chapter, Junagadh on "Modern Agricultural Practices of Coconut :Problems and Remedies" on June 06, 2023. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, during his inaugural speech highlighted key points on coconut growers which are not getting satisfactory yield and income from coconut cultivation because of infestation of white flies, eriophyid mites, pests and diseases.



Dr. A. R. Pathak, President of GAAS and former Vice Chancellor of JAU was present as a chief guest gave remarkable suggestions on package of practices of coconut including scientific control of pests and diseases. Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR and DEE, Dr. K. G. Mehta, Secretary, GAAS, Dr. N. P. Patel & Dr. P. P.

Zaveri of Seed Producer Association, and Shri Vinodkumar S. Hapani, Chairman of APMC, Visavadar also remained present. More than 350 coconut growers/farmers from coastal areas of the Saurashtra region and more than 200 faculties members of SAUs, students, FPOs, input suppliers and processors participated in the seminar. The Dr. S. G. Savalia, President, GAAS, Zonal Chapter and Principal and Dean, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh and Dr. B. N. Kalsariya, Secretary, GAAS, Zonal Chapter coordinated the event.

Visit of Dr. R. C. Agrawal, DDG (Edn.), ICAR and ND (NAHEP)

National Director of the National Higher Education Project (NAHEP), New Delhi, paid a visit to JAU during May 5-7, 2023 and interacted with Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU; Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR and PI (NAHEP-IDP); all Principal & Deans and Co-PIs of IDP and other university officers about the progress, performance, and achievements of the university in the Institutional Development Plan (IDP) of NAHEP. Dr. Agrawal appreciated activities and outcomes under IDP and expressed his satisfaction towards student's development with the project. Further, Dr. Agrawal commended the university for its state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence Lab, Food Testing Laboratory, and Blended-Learning Ecosystem.



Felicitation Ceremony of Donors from ASPEE R & D Foundation



ASPEE CoA, JAU, Khapat, organized a felicitation ceremony of donors from the ASPEE Research & Development Foundation on May 6, 2023. On this occasion, Shri Kiranbhai Patel, MD, ASPEE Group of Companies, Mumbai, was honored for his generous grant of ₹ 2.50 Crore for developing the state-of-the-art infrastructure of the college. The event was presided by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU; Dr. R. C. Agrawal, DDG (Education) and ND-NAHEP, ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. A. R. Pathak, Former VC of JAU and NAU and Dr. Girish Bhimani, VC, Saurashtra University, Rajkot. All the university officers along with the Principal and Deans of all the colleges and polytechnics of JAU remained present at

Visit of Dr. S. K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM), ICAR

Dr. S. K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM), ICAR, visited JAU, Junagadh during June 28-29, 2023 to have a glimpse of various activities of JAU under NRM. He visited the AICRP on IFS, Cotton Research Station, Main Oilseed Research Station, Soil and Water Engineering Farm, Long term fertilizer experiments of Department of Agronomy and Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Cotton Quality Evaluation Laboratory as well as academic activities. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, and Dr. R. B. Madaria, ADR, JAU, led the team of Deans and JAU scientists to discuss various research and academic activities. Dr. Chaudhari, Appreciated the research and academic activities of JAU.



Saurashtra-Tamil Sangam- 2023

The Government of Gujarat organized the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangam in the holy premises of Somnath temple from April 17-30, 2023. In this spectacular event, organized on the lines of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', the faculties and students from JAU participated in large numbers.



Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Union Defense Minister, inaugurated the event, while Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, was present at the valedictory session through video-conferencing.



Shri Bhupendra Patel, Hon'ble CM, Gujarat, and several ministers from central and state governments remained present and interacted with the participants. Under the guidance of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, stalls were set up by the university displaying the rich agricultural diversity of the Saurashtra region. More than 2500 visitors of Saurashtra origin and local people visited the stall.

Rotary Club Education Fair 2023

JAU participated in the Education Fair organized by the Rotary Club of Junagadh during April 8-9, 2023. The prospects and employment opportunities of UG and PG degree programs in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agril. Engineering and Agri-Business Management along with the diploma programs were put on display by the university. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, inaugurated the fair and complimented the organizers for supporting the cause of affordable and quality education.



Farmers' Training Programme on Precision Agriculture

Under the venerable guidance of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, the Centre of Excellence on Soil and Water Management, Office of the Research Scientist (Agril. Engg.) in collaboration with AICRP on PEASEM, Dept. of REE, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, organized a one-day farmers' training program entitled 'Interventions of Agricultural Engineering for Precision Agriculture' on June 9, 2023. Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR and DEE, JAU, and Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal and Dean, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, inaugurated the training. Dr. G. V. Prajapati, Research Scientist (Agri. Engg.) and Research Engineer, AICRP on PEASEM, Dr. P. A Pandya coordinated the event in which 40 progressive farmers from 16 villages of Junagadh and Amreli districts were participated.



Foundation Day of Community Radio Station

The eighth foundation day of community radio station, Junagadh Janvani (91.2 FM), JAU was celebrated on June 23, 2023. The event was celebrated with esteemed presence of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DEE & DR, Dr. H.C. Chhodavadia, station incharge, and other dignitaries. Dr. V. P. Chovatia conveyed that radio is a powerful communication tool which reaches to the respondents and helps in disseminating information to the stakeholders very efficiently. The event was celebrated by privileging the resource persons who have made their invaluable contribution and gave their remarkable assistance during Radio Talks to the radio station were being honored with certificates and mementos.



Varsha Vigyan Parisamvad - 2023

JAU, Junagadh in collaboration with Varsha Vigyan Mandal organized "Varsha Vigyan Parisamvad" on May 29, 2023. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. V. P.



Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU. He highlighted the importance of efficient rainfall forecasting for farmers, trades and government. Dr. H. M. Gajipara, president of *Varsha Vigyan Mandal* briefed about history and contribution of Mandal. On this occasion, Vice President, Dr. J. D. Gundalia, Dr. P. R. Kanani, Mr. Jerambhai Timbadiya, Mr. Mohanbhai Dalsania presented their views. A total of 52 forecasters presented their views on Monsoon 2023 bird gestures, satellite signs, winter-summer temperatures, etc.

NAHEP-IDP Events

Personality development training programme

A three-day training programme on 'Powerful Personality for Professional Excellence' was organized under NAHEP-IDP by Office of DSW, JAU for UG students at the College of Agriculture, JAU, Mota Bhandariya, during June 8-10, 2023, and at the College of Horticulture, JAU Junagadh during June

12-14, 2023. Resource persons, Mr. Mehul Thakkar, NAU and Mr. Dhrudip Thakkar covered topics like; systematic planning, self-confidence, persistence, better ways of doing things, and problem-solving during the training. A total of 176 students benefited from both colleges.

Career awareness training

A three-day training programme on "Career Awareness" was organized by office of DSW, JAU, during April 27-29, 2023, under NAHEP-IDP for the UG students of the College of Horticulture, Junagadh and College of Agriculture, Junagadh. Guest speakers from Junior Chamber International (Junagadh Zone) delivered talk on body language, communication skills, and personality development during the training. In all, 166 students participated from both colleges.



Five-day vocational training programmes

Balancing the need of imparting soft skillsets to the students besides updating them on the latest developments in their domain without compromising the academic requirements of regular classes and assessment examinations, a common inaugural ceremony was held for the four training programmes under NAHEP-IDP scheduled by different departments of CoA, JAU, Junagadh between June 26 & 30, 2023.

The common inaugural was graced by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, as the Chief Guest. Besides, Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR & DEE and PI (IDP); Dr. S. G. Savalia, Principal & Dean and Co-PI (IDP), CoA, JAU, Junagadh and other Principal & Deans and university officers were also present.



The details of the training programmes are as follows:

Training on hydroponics and vertical farming

The Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, CoA, JAU, Junagadh organized a five-day vocational training program on "Hydroponics and Vertical Farming." during June 26-30, 2023, with the participation of 50 UG students. The training program provided a comprehensive understanding of hydroponics and vertical farming techniques, equipping the students with valuable knowledge and practical skills.

Training on integrated farming system

The Department of Agronomy, CoA, JAU, Junagadh, organized a five-day vocational training program on "Integrated Farming System for Sustainable Agriculture" during June 26-30, 2023, in which 50 students pursuing B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture participated. The participants were educated on the integration of crops, livestock, and other components to maximize productivity, minimize resource usage, and promote ecological balance.



Training on DNA sequencing technology

The Department of Biotechnology, CoA, JAU, Junagadh, organized a five-day Professional Skill Development training program on "Application of Next Generation DNA Sequencing Technology in Agriculture" during June 26-30, 2023, under IDP with the participation of 50 UG students. The training program covered a gamut of skillful topics, including NGS platforms, library preparation, data analysis, and bioinformatics tools specific to agricultural genomics, handled by expert faculty members and industry professionals from within and outside Gujarat.



Training on biofertilizers for sustainability

The Department of Plant Pathology, CoA, JAU, Junagadh, organized a five-day Entrepreneurship Development training program on "Bio Fertilizer: A Key Tool for Sustainable Agriculture" during June 26-30, 2023, under NAHEP-IDP benefitting 100 UG

students pursuing B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture. The resource persons were invited from the SAUs of Gujarat and outside the state, who enlightened the students on several latest advancements in the field with a clear-cut focus on the role of bio-fertilizers in enhancing soil fertility, improving crop yield, and reducing environmental pollution.

Special Lecture on Millets

Dr. K. D. Mungra, Research Scientist (Pearl Millet), JAU, Jamnagar, delivered an invited lecture on 'Millet production and productivity status of India and world' at the conference on 'Strengthening food processing in Saurashtra region: production, value addition, exports and promotion of millets and millets-based food products' organized by ASSOCHAM, Gujarat on May 26, 2023.

PCRA Seminar on Energy Saving

The Students' Representative Council (SRC), CAET, JAU, Junagadh hosted a virtual Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) seminar on the topic 'Energy Saving at Domestic Level' on April 10, 2023. The seminar's focus on energy conservation in households was in perfect alignment with the major themes of the G20 bloc of nations to which India has assumed the presidency this year. Both UG and PG students from the college benefitted from this seminar deliberating on the use of solar energy, efficient cooking techniques, and the benefits of using energy-saving appliances. Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal & Dean; Dr. S. P. Cholera, SRC Chairman; Dr. P. P. Gajjar, NSS Officer, and other faculties from the college remained present and interacted with the students.

SYMPHONIA -2023: Annual Day of CAET, JAU, Junagadh

The Students' Representative Council, CAET, JAU, hosted the Annual Day SYMPHONIA -2023, on May 19, 2023. The ceremony was presided by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, in the gracious presence of Dr. N. K. Gontia, Principal & Dean, CAET;; Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar, Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW and the Principal and Deans of other constituent colleges of JAU along with the university officers.



During the event, 42 students, who represented the college in various inter-university sports, literary and cultural activities were felicitated by the dignitaries. Dr. S. P. Cholera, Gymkhana Chairman, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, coordinated the event successfully.

Unchi Udan – A Motivational Lecture Program

Unchi Udan, a motivational lecture program, was organized by ASPEE CoA, JAU, Khapat, on June 3, 2023. Param Pujyashri Kalyanmurti Swami from BAPS, Junagadh, graced the event as the Chief Guest and enthralled the audience with his lecture pillared on life, goals, and ethics. Several unique activities were also shared, encouraging the students to incorporate spirituality into their daily lives for mental health and well-being.



G20 University Connect Programme

As a part of the G20 University Connect Programme to commemorate India's presidency of the bloc, all the colleges and polytechnics of JAU organized several events and contests for the students during April to June 2023. Some of which are highlighted below.

CoA, JAU, Junagadh

College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh organized essay writing, quiz, e-poster and rangoli competitions for the UG and PG students of the college on the G20 theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' during April-May 2023 with the participation of 146 students altogether.



Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar

Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar conducted a contest on 'Essay Writing' for its students on the theme of "Effect of environmental changes and their remedies." The best essays were awarded with certificates.



Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh

A quiz competition covering various facets of G20 Group of Nations was organized by Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh with the active participation of 21 students. G20 brings together the world's major developed and developing economies, making it a premier forum for international economic cooperation.

Felicitation of Intra and Inter-University Student Contestants

JAU has a remarkable tradition of ensuring students' participation in various intra and inter-university sports, literary, and other cultural events within the state and across the country. Accordingly, in a bid to motivate the students further, a felicitation ceremony was organized by the Students' Representative Council (SRC), CoA, JAU, Junagadh, on June 27, 2023, for the student winners from the college in several intra and inter-university events held in the academic year 2022-23. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, presided over the event and highlighted the importance of a sound mind in a sound body. Dr. H. M. Gajipara, DR, JAU; Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW, JAU and Dr. S. G. Savalia, Principal & Dean, CoA, Junagadh, were also present. Dr. B. S. Gohil, Chairman, SRC, CoA, JAU, Junagadh, coordinated the ceremony.



First Alumni Meet of CoH, JAU, Junagadh

The College of Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh organized its first-ever Alumni Meet and Annual Day on June 9, 2023. Dr. D. K. Varu, Principal & Dean, CoH, JAU, Junagadh, welcomed the delegates comprising the Principal & Deans of all the colleges of JAU along with Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar; and Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW. Several alumni and alumna from the previous batches of the college along with the currently enrolled students took part and interacted with enthusiasm. During the event, Dr. J. S. Parasana, Asstt. Professor presented the Annual Report of the college's Student Representative Council (SRC).



Campus-Connect Lecture on Job Prospects in Secondary Agriculture

A campus-connect guest lecture on 'Job prospects in secondary agriculture and commodity research' was organized by the Department of Agricultural Economics, CoA, JAU, Junagadh, on June 1, 2023. Mr. Ashish Grover, Senior Research Analyst, Viterra India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, served as the guest speaker and threw light on many exciting job options for the PG students in Economics and other social science disciplines interested in data science.



Book Exhibition at ASPEE CoA, Khapat

Teaming up with Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur, the ASPEE CoA, Khapat organized a book exhibition on June 13, 2023, bringing in the latest editions of all the reference books & compendiums for competitive examinations for the benefit of students and faculties.



Student Placements

The Students' Counselling and Placement Cell (SCPC), CoA, JAU, Junagadh with support and coordination from the respective placement cell units of CoA, Mota Bhandariya; CoA, Khapat and CoH, Junagadh, facilitated several on-campus placement interviews during April-June 2023 in which 96 interested students participated altogether. Recruitment officials from GSFC Agrotech Ltd., Vadodara; Gharda Chemicals Ltd., Mumbai; Viterra India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai; AgroStar, Mumbai; PI Industries Ltd., Mumbai and Rupiya Finnovations Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad conducted the placement drive and offered selection letters to 52 students, after several rounds of scrutiny, with average salary package of ₹. 3.20 lakhs per year.



Extension Professionals Training Programmes

Training Programmes on "Competency skills enhancement for extension professional" and "Next generation communication and management competencies for inspiring service excellence of extension professional" were jointly organized by Extension Education Institute, Anand and Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh at DEE office, JAU, Junagadh, during April 24-26, 2023 and April 27-29, 2023 respectively. The training programme covered various topics of enhancement of different skills and communication skills which helps faculties to upgrade themselves and excel their work competency at their workplace. Total 55 scientist/officers from KVKs of Saurashtra and from the various departments were actively participated in both training programme.



Celebration of Days

Mango Day

College of Horticulture, JAU Junagadh, celebrated 'Mango Day' on May 25, 2023, marking the 89th birthday anniversary of Kesar Mango since Shri Mahabat Khan III, the then Junagadh Nawab, gave Kesar its moniker on the same day in 1934. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, presided the ceremony as the Chief Guest, while Shri Bhagvanbhai Barad, MLA, Talala, and Shri Chetan Dave, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, GoG, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honors. Dr. D. K. Varu, Principal and Dean, CoH, JAU, Junagadh, traced the history of Kesar mango and its GI tag. Shri Sanjaybhai Vagdiya, Shri Nathabhai Bhatu, and Shri Maganbhai Gajera, the progressive mango farmers, shared their success stories.



World No Tobacco Day

Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar

The World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) was observed by the Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar, on May 31, 2023, to raise awareness of the harmful and deadly

effects of tobacco usage. The students displayed several posters related to human health and hygiene in public places during the event. Dr. K. B. Parmar, Principal, coordinated all the activities and spoke on the WNTD 2023 theme of “Grow food, not tobacco.”



Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh

The World No Tobacco Day of May 31, 2023, was marked with the students and staff at the Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh taking the pledge to eat healthy and fresh food and avoid consuming tobacco products. Further, under the guidance of Dr. N. K. Dhamsaniya, Principal, and Er. Geeta Tomar, NSS Programme Officer, the students prepared several posters on the universal theme of 'We Need Food, Not Tobacco.'



World Milk Day KVK, Nana Kandhasar

KVK, Nana Kandhasar celebrated 'World Milk Day' on June 1, 2023 by organizing a training cum interaction programme on dairy farming at Sanosara village of Surendranagar district. Dr. R. P. Kalma, highlighted the importance of the day and explained the role of milk in nutritional security and; providing employment and sustainability to rural households.

World Environment Day

The World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5, 2023 focused on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution. On this occasion a 'Tree Plantation programme' was organized by office of the Director of Students' welfare, JAU at International Hostel.



A total of 51 saplings of different species like *Adansonia digitata* (Rukhde), *Persea Americana* (Avocado), *Careya arborea* (Kumbha), *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Papdi), *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* (Rudraksh) etc. were planted. Dr. V. P. Chovatia Hon'ble Vice Chancellor along with Deans, Directors, University officers and students participated in the event.

CoA, JAU, Junagadh

The Department of Agronomy, CoA, JAU, Junagadh celebrated 'World Environment Day' on June 5, 2023, with a series of events. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, presided over the inaugural ceremony and advocated for the students and faculties to leverage the 4 R's of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Restore' to conserve the environment and extend our planet's life. Shri Jagdishbhai Makwana, Deputy Chief Whip, GoG, and MLA, Wadhwan, were also present. An oath-taking ceremony to safeguard the environment was held followed by the tree plantation activity. Besides, a special guest lecture on 'Climate Change: Causes, impacts, and way forward for Agriculture' by Dr. Sanket More, Scientist, Directorate of Onion & Garlic Research, Nashik, was also delivered, culminating with a special video documentary on 'Mission LiFE.'



ASPEE CoA, JAU, Khapat

The ASPEE CoA, JAU, Khapat also celebrated the day with the participation of all its students and faculties pledging themselves to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet earth. The students were also involved in tree planting within the

college's premises. Dr. S. J. Sindhi, Asstt. Prof., Agrometeorology Cell, JAU, Junagadh, delivered a lecture on the importance of incorporating precious little things into our lifestyle to protect the environment.



KVK, Amreli

Different lectures were organized to create awareness among farmers about environment and also suggested preventive measure to overcome plastic pollutions. A total 102 number of participants attended the programme.

KVK, Nana Kandhasar

KVK, Nana Kandhasar also celebrated the event by highlighting importance of rainwater harvesting in present time to attenuate the water crisis in agriculture as well as household purposes to 83 farm women.

KVK Khapat

Awareness programme was organized for students and farmers about sustainable environment. A tree plantation drive was carried out at KVK campus. A total of 157 participants including staff remained present.

KVK Morbi

Scientists of KVK, Morbi delivered lectures on impact of chemical pesticides, fertilizers on environment. Shri Jitubhai Maheta, Member, Natural Club, Morbi delivered lecture on importance of different trees. Tree plantation at KVK premises was also done by 45 farmers and staff members.

Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh

In the World Environment Day celebrations organized by the Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh on June 05, 2023, Dr. N. K. Dhamsaniya, Principal, Polytechnic in Agro Processing, JAU, encouraged the students to take an oath of planting at



least one indigenous trees like; Neem, Banyan, Peepal, and Jamun in their villages and to maintain it for the next three years towards ensuring its proper growth.

International Yoga Day

The International Yoga Day was celebrated on June 21, 2023 with theme "*Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*". The district level programme was organized by District Administration, Junagadh and Junagadh Agricultural University at Sports Ground, JAU. Dr. V.P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, Shri Anil Ranvasiya, IAS, Hon'ble Collector and District Magistrate, Junagadh; Other district Authorities, University Officers, Head of Departments and faculties/ staff and students participated and performed Yoga exercises under the guidance by yoga Acharyas Shri Pratapbhai Thanki, Harunbhai and Chetnaben Gajera officially nominated trainers by the Govt. of Gujarat.



The International Yoga Day celebrations were kickstarted one week in advance in all the colleges and polytechnics of JAU, with the staff and students regularly assembling for the practice sessions and registering themselves on the 'Gujarat Yog Board (<http://desk.voiceey.com/idoy>). It is also to be noted that the practice of doing Surya Namaskar is embedded in all the NSS activities, especially the village stay programme.



Vocational Training Program on Millets

KVK, Nana Kandhasar organized vocational training programme on June 22-23, 2023 at Baldana & Sayla villages of Surendranagar district. Dr. Neha Tiwari, Scientist (Home Science), KVK, Amreli conducted demonstration on preparation of various food items and value added products of millet. A total of 82 women participated in this training programme.



Rejuvenation of Fruit Plants Damaged Due to "Biporjoy" Cyclone

KVK, Porbandar in association with Horticulture Department, Porbandar visited different orchards in different villages to aware orchard farmers about rejuvenation of plants damaged by cyclone 'Biporjoy'. Total 7 villages and 21 farmers field visited during the drive. Total 62 farmers remained present during the drive.



Mission Life Style for Environment (LiFE)

Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) from 20th May to 5th June, 2023 at various KVKs of JAU. Mission LiFE is expected to be an India-led global mass movement that will nudge individual and collective action to protect and preserve the environment.

KVK, Nana Kandhasar

KVK, Nana Kandhasar organized awareness programme on natural farming & rainwater harvesting at the KVK campus & villages of Surendranagar district. Dr. J. N. Vyas described that climate resilient seeds can withstand extreme environmental conditions like drought & flooding and are high yielding and nutritious. Mr. M. F. Boraniya, delivered lecture on the topic "Impacts of climate change on different agro ecosystems of India and mitigation measures". During the events participants took the LiFE pledge to adopt environment friendly habits. Total 284 participants participated in the program.

KVK, Khapat (Porbandar)

Total 5 awareness programmes were organized at KVK Khapat covering 310 students and farmers. The programmes covered the lecture on adopting healthy lifestyle; and awareness about Meri life programme & save energy theme etc. Pledge to save environment also taken by participants.

Awards and Accolades

Best AICRP (Oilseeds) Centre- Castor

AICRP-Castor Research station, JAU, Junagadh has been honoured with "Best AICRP (Oilseeds) Center" for castor. This award was given during by Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) constituted by ICAR, of ICAR-IIOR and AICRP on oilseeds for five years (2017-2021) during 31st May to 3rd June 2023.

The award was conferred in Annual *Kharif* Oilseeds Meet held during June 01-02, 2023, in Jodhpur.



Best AICRP (Oilseeds) Centre- Sesame

During the Annual *Kharif* Oilseeds Meet held during June 1-2, 2023 Agricultural Research Station, JAU, Amreli received the Certificate of Excellence for the Best AICRP (Oilseeds) Centre-Sesame by QRT, ICAR, after reviewing the station's work for five years (2017-2021). During the reporting period, the station released two important sesame varieties, viz., G. Til. 6 for the *kharif* season of Gujarat state and G. Til. 11 for the summer season of other major sesame producing states, besides coming up with eight agronomical and three post-harvest technology recommendations.



Best Groundnut Seed Hub Centre Award

Groundnut Seed Hub running at the Department of Seed Science and Technology, JAU, Junagadh, was adjudged the Best Performing Groundnut Seed Hub Centre for the period from October 2021 to December 2022 during the Annual Groundnut Workshop held at JAU, Junagadh during May 24-26, 2023. The award was received by Dr. J. B. Patel, Prof. & Head, and Dr. C. A. Babariya, Asstt. Prof. of the department.



Best Oral Presentation Award

Dr. Ramesh J. Chaudhari, Asstt. Res. Scientist, Department of Plant Pathology, Pearl Millet Research Station, JAU, Jamnagar was bestowed with the “Best Oral Presentation Award-Third Prize” for oral presentation on “Management of pearl millet downy mildew (*Sclerospora graminicola*) by using organic compounds” in the 42nd Annual Conference & National Symposium of Indian Society of Mycology and Plant Pathology (ISMPP) jointly organized MPUAT, Udaipur and AAU, Anand at Anand during May 10-12, 2023.

Students' Performance in Competitive Exams

The training programmes organized under NAHEP-IDP coupled with regular motivation and counselling given by the JAU faculties have augmented the professional and soft skill sets of the students, making them competitive, confident, analytical, and expressive. Some of the students' achievements given below markedly stand as testimonies to the claim.

- Ms. Eva Soni, a B. Tech (Agril. Engg.) student of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, cracked the CAT examination and enrolled at the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA), Anand.
- Mr. Indrajeet Dutta, a UG student of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, cracked GATE 2023 examination with All India Rank 8.
- Mr. Abhinavkumar Singh and Mr. Kamal V. Charan, B. Tech (Agril. Engg.) students of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, also cracked GATE 2023 examination bringing laurels to the university.
- Mr. Jay Chotaliya, a UG student of CoA, JAU, Junagadh, cleared the CAT 2023 examination and joined IIM, Indore, to pursue higher studies.
- Mr. Nimit Chotaliya, a B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture student of CoA, JAU, Junagadh, and secured admission into IIFM, Bhopal.
- Mr. Mrunal Jadav, an undergrad from CoA, JAU, Junagadh, cleared the CAT 2023 examination with top honours and joined ICAR-MANAGE, Hyderabad.
- Mr. Sachin Kag, a UG student at CoA, JAU, Junagadh, also cleared the CAT 2023 examination and chose to join CCS NIAM, Jaipur and another top B-school in agriculture.

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

Sr	Name and Designation	
April-2023		
1	Shri D.U.Baraiya	Agri. Supervisor

2	Shri J.S.Kalyani	Senior Clerk
3	Shri P.B.Nakum	Junior Clerk
May-2023		
4	Mr. V. C. Patel	Asst. ADM Officer
5	Dr. N. J. Rankja	Asso. Professor
6	Shri V.M.Chauhan	Agri. Officer
7	Shri P.D.Babariya	Agri. Supervisor
8	Shri A.L.Movaliya	Agri. Supervisor
9	Shri J.P.Aghara	Agri. Assistant
10	Shri K.P.Dharaiya	Agri. Assistant
11	Shri M.R.Sodha	Senior Clerk
12	Shri M.R.Purohit	Agri. Laborer
13	Shri D.M.Dabhi	Gardner
June-2023		
14	Dr. R. M. Yadav	Professor
15	Dr. K. H. Dabhi	Professor
16	Dr. H. M. Gajipara	Professor(P)
17	Shri G.V.Dulera	Agri. Officer
18	Shri D.R.Pata	Agri. Supervisor
19	Shri D.N.Limbani	Agri. Supervisor
20	Shri M.J.Chudasama	Agri. Supervisor
21	Shri A.L.Savaliya	Agri. Supervisor
22	Shri M.R.Senta	Agri. Supervisor
23	Shri R.L.Dasa	Agri. Supervisor
24	Shri K.S.Sarvaiya	Agri. Supervisor
25	Shri K.J.Patel	Agri. Assistant
26	Shri D.B.Sakariya	Agri. Assistant
27	Shri R.L.Parmar	Senior Clerk
28	Shri R.M.Vaghela	Sweeper
29	Shri K.D.Nangas	Agri. Laborer
30	Shri B.M.Yadav	Peon

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