



AAU

Newsletter

Vol. 49, No. 4&1
December & March, 2020-2021

From Vice-Chancellor's Desk ...

The share of agriculture in our country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been declining substantially since independence. The Percentage Share of Gross Value Added (GVA) of the Agriculture and Allied sector to the Total Economy is 20.20 in 2020-21 while the share of agriculture in total employment is 39.4%. Nearly 140 million landholdings in India have an average size of just above 1 ha (1.15 ha) (Agricultural Census, 2014). Indian Agriculture has a massive challenge of bringing new technologies and practices to such a huge number of smallholders scattered over the vast countryside. Integrating the smallholders with the modern input and output markets is another challenge for Indian agriculture. Economies of scale, access to information and inability to participate in the price discovery mechanism are some of the inherent problems faced by the smallholders. The vertical and horizontal linkages and market access are restricted to a great extent for this group of farmers. Poor information flow along the chain is also a vital constraint.

Optimizing benefits through effective and efficient means of aggregation is the challenge now. Liberalization, globalization, enhancement of purchasing power, demand for quality food, establishment/expansion of niche market have transformed Indian agriculture towards high-value commodities. In this scenario, an ideal model of aggregation assumes significance. The continuous land fragmentations in every successive generation have made the model of aggregation even more pertinent. The philosophy of inclusive growth can be realized to a substantial extent by integrating the smallholders with the agricultural markets. The aggregation of the smallholders for giving them the benefits of economies of scale is of paramount importance. Linking these smallholders to both input and output markets is equally important. Keeping this in mind, a Central Sector Scheme "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)" has been launched by the Government of India to form and promote 10,000 FPOs with a budgetary provision of Rs. 6865 crore. This step of aggregating small, marginal and landless farmers into FPOs will help to enhance the economic strength & market linkages of farmers for enhancing their income. Presently nine implementing agencies have been finalized for forming and promoting FPOs viz. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC), Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium Haryana

(SFACH), Tamil Nadu -Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (TN-SFAC), Watershed Development Department (WDD)-Karnataka & Foundation for Development of Rural Value Chains (FDRVC) - Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Financial assistance of up to Rs. 18 lakh will be provided per FPO for a period of three years. Additionally, there is a provision of matching grants up to Rs. 2000 per farmer member with a limit of Rs. 15 lakh per FPO and a credit guarantee up to Rs. 2 crores of project loan.



The importance of FPCs and FPOs in the state of Assam can be envisaged from the fact that Assam has 18.3 lakh marginal farmers and 4.96 lakh small farmers. In this scenario, formations of FPCs and FPOs in Assam have the potentiality of benefiting these two large groups of farmers immensely. As the sole agricultural university of the state, AAU has a huge role to play in the coming days to make the ambitious endeavor a success. AAU, on its part, is ready and more than willing to be a platform for an end to end knowledge sharing for all issues related to FPC & FPO promotion. As soon as implementing agencies like NABARD, NCDC etc engage AAU as a Cluster-Based Business Organization (CBBO), AAU will start its well-oiled machinery to work. AAU has the advantage of having 23 KVKs, 11 research stations and 9 colleges in different parts of the state. The teachers, scientists and SMSs in colleges, research stations and KVKs can do the survey and motivate and aggregate the farmers for the formation of FPCs and FPOs. AAU can help in every step viz aggregation, registration and handholding support during the course of formation and running of FPCs and FPOs.

Well managed FPCs and FPOs have the potentiality to bring about a sea change in the lives of marginal and small farmers. Making these groups of farmers self-reliant (*Atmanirbhar*) through FPCs and FPOs can prove that farming can also be a profitable venture. *Atmanirbharata* in *Krishi* has a vital role to play in realizing Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's much-cherished dream "*Atmanirbhar Bharat*" and Assam Agricultural University will be one of the partners in materializing the dream of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

(B. C. Deka)



SPECIAL FEATURES

Dr. Bidyut Chandan Deka joined as the 13th Vice-Chancellor of AAU, Jorhat

A distinguished academician and administrator, Dr. Bidyut C. Deka, is known nationally and internationally for his contributions in the field of post harvest management and value addition in horticultural crops and farming system research. He has worked in various capacities at Assam Agricultural University,



Jorhat and ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam prior to joining as Director at ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Umiam, Meghalaya. He joined Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam as its 13th Vice Chancellor on October 22, 2020. A Fellow of Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences, New Delhi, Dr. Deka is also known as an Institution Builder in Northeast India. He is the recipient of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Award of ICAR for outstanding research in farming system in tribal areas and four other national awards for his contribution in the field of Post harvest management and value addition.

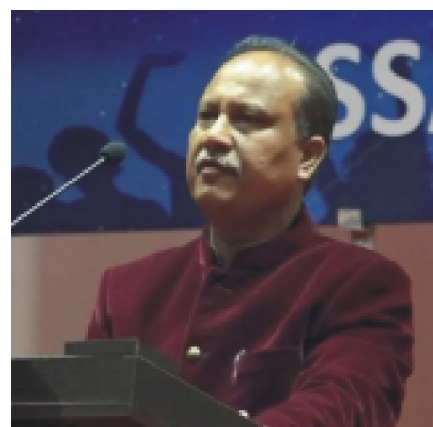
Assam Agricultural University VC announces ambitious plan to rake in Rs 100 cr revenue in 5 years

Assam Agricultural University (AAU) Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Bidyut C. Deka, immediately after his joining, announced an ambitious action plan to generate Rs. 100 crore revenue in the next five years for the university. The plan will help in the holistic development and transformation of Assam's rural economy, Dr. Deka, in his annual New Year's address at the MC Das Memorial auditorium in the university campus announced his 17-point action plan for next 25 years. The visionary document includes adoption of cluster of villages under 'Our Village, Our Pride' programme, setting up of a market-related database, establishment of online exam centre, production of seeds, organic research and student mentoring. Elaborating on the 'Our Village, Our Pride' programme, he said that it would do away with the criticism that scientists were not directly involved with the farmers. As many as 150 number of teams, each considered of 5 teachers including those in the 23 Krishi Vigyaan Kendras in the state, would be formed and they would adopt a cluster of four to five villages. The villages would be studied in detail and would be connected to the relevant departments for intervention in different

areas. "For the programme to go on stream, the state has agreed on principle to give more than Rs 14 crore over a period of five years. The first year would require about Rs 2.4 crore and 10 per cent annual increment thereafter, totaling more than Rs 14 crore in five years," he said. The whole programme is to make the teachers go into direct mode and in turn, they can also learn from the farmers and base their research on this. "In each cluster, at least 15-20 youths would be identified and mentored to be entrepreneurs. They would motivate the villagers and help in transforming the village economy," he further said. The database would help the farmers ascertain prices in the district, state, region and the country for any particular food item and would be based on demand and supply. "In an open market, now, the farmer would get to know where his product can be sold in the country at the highest price and the portal would be updated on a daily basis by our researchers," Dr. Deka said. "The data would be stored in a server and a portal would be developed for the farmers to access free of cost. It will serve the society in one hand and earn revenues for us on the other," Dr. Deka further said. The university was in dialogue with the World Bank for funding for the data base. Revenue will also be earned by supplying seeds and planting material of different crops in bulk. The Centre will buy seeds developed by the university.

The online exam centre will be like the one in ICAR, Delhi. The plan is to install more than 100 computers on the topmost floor of the AAU central library which will be outsourced for holding of competitive exams and the university will benefit from the rental.

The vision also included segregating and mentoring students after completion of one year in academics. "Students as per their aptitude and interest will be encouraged to go



into teaching, research, civil service, banking or any other field of studies. They will then be suited to the work and not be square pegs in round holes as is often the case now," Dr. Deka said.

Another ambitious plan revealed by Dr. Deka is to make AAU the organic hub of South East Asia. "As envisioned by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in making the region organic, we are planning extensive research in this line," he added. Soil and climate change research and how to increase production of those crops which do not grow well in the acidic soil of the region despite fertiliser inputs, was also a part of the vision. Making integrated farming models for small and marginal farmers, who have less than 7.5 bighas of land and are in majority in the state, are also being planned so that a family of five could be sustained well in such small holdings. Further, a database of former teachers, students is envisaged, and a dedicated portal for the pensioners is also on the anvil to take care of their issues of concern.



Arunachal Seeks Support from Assam Agricultural University for GI Registration of Indigenous Crops

Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister, Chowna Mein, has urged Assam Agricultural University to help the State through scientific intervention, support and guidance in GI (geographical indication) registration of the State's indigenous crops. Mein, accompanied by Agriculture Director, Anong Lego and a team of officers from the department, visited the university on 7th January, 2021. In a meeting with the Vice Chancellor, scientists and faculty members of the university, the Deputy Chief Minister sought support and help from the Institute in research



and development besides evolving of packages of cultivation practices and GI registration of indigenous crops like 'Khamti Lahi' rice, Monpa maize and 'Adi Kekir' (ginger). Highlighting the vast potential of agriculture and allied activities in Arunachal Pradesh, Mein informed that, of around 25 lakh hectares of cultivable land, 7 lakh hectares are fit for cultivation of food and commercial crops through conventional irrigation methods and 18 lakh hectares are suitable for horticultural crops. "The State has a unique biodiversity. About 80 per cent of the population depend on traditional agricultural practices and produce organic produces," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister added that the Agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in the economy of the State as the sector contributes more than 32 per cent to the State's GDP. Mein also informed that the State Government has accorded top priority to climate resilient agri and allied sectors, not only to achieve food and nutritional security, but also to sustain livelihood and ensure remunerative return of the toil of farmers and also to create employment opportunities in rural areas to decelerate urban migration of young workforce. "Geographical Indications (GI) and networking for quality assurance, packaging and branding need to be promoted for exportable commodities to meet the international standards & protocol. Many indigenous crop species of high demand, especially in the overseas market need to be GI registered for patenting so as to ensure Intellectual Property Rights protection to fetch premium price in the

international markets," he said. Mein added that the GI registration would not only be limited to 'Khamti Lahi' rice, 'Monpa Maize' and 'Adi Kekir' (ginger), but would be extended to other indigenous crops of the State. The AAU VC, Dr. Bidyut C. Deka, informed that the University, established in the year 1969, is one of the oldest agricultural universities in India. As the main centre of teaching, research and extension education in the field of agriculture and allied sciences in the Northeast region, it offers 19 different vocational courses. "Apart from GI registrations, the University has created crop varieties and developed organic package of practices for crops in Assam," said Dr. Deka, and assured all support and assistance from the University to work in collaboration with the Arunachal Pradesh Government. The Agriculture department and the University agreed to go ahead with mutual collaboration in terms of signing of MoU. The AAU, Jorhat and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Namsai have already cultivated 10 varieties of the 'Khamti Lahi' rice as observation trials for development and purification of seeds during 2020. Observation and cultivation for Monpa Maize and Adi Kekir (ginger) would be done from this year onwards. Mein also made a field visit to the Tea Garden, Bio-Fertilizer unit, Animal Husbandry & Dairy department, Plant Pathology department and North-East Agriculture Technology Entrepreneurs hub in the campus and interacted with the faculty members and students.

Delegation of diplomats from 10 nations visit Assam Agricultural University

A 15-member delegation of diplomats including ambassadors and a consulate general, representing 10 nations, mostly from Asia and Africa, on 22nd January, 2021 visited the Assam



Agricultural University (AAU) in Jorhat. The delegation had a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of AAU, Dr. Bidyut C. Deka and other top researchers of the varsity. The delegation comprised of diplomats from Congo, Nigeria, Fiji, Bhutan, Vietnam, Mongolia, Indonesia, North Macedonia, Ghana and Trinidad and Tobago, and they visited the departments of the University, including the NEATEHUB (North East Agriculture Technology Entrepreneurship Hub), an Atal incubation centre located in the campus. The delegation also held discussions on exchange of students and researchers. The VC said that if required, agreements with individual countries could be made for mutual cooperation in agricultural education and research.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Academic/Administrative

The 234th meeting of the Academic Council

The following provisions have been made as per the decisions of the 234th meeting of the Academic Council, held on January 25, 2021:

- From this year onwards, the financial support to economically backward students admitted in AAU shall be restricted to 1st year UG –level students only. Further, continuation of the benefit shall be subject to fresh assessment based on submission of fresh Income and Asset Certificate (IAC) and satisfactory conduct report.
- The Admission Report 2020-21 indicated a whopping rise in the nos. of applications received for admission into different degree programmes of the University and registered a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 24.66% per annum during last 12 years.

The 235th meeting of the Academic Council

The following provisions have been made as per the decisions of the 235th meeting of the Academic Council, held on March 22, 2021.

- Introduction of PDF in AAU. The Fellowship will be tenable for a period of one year only with an all-inclusive Fellowship of Rs. 50,000 per month along with a contingency grant of Rs. 3.00 lakh.
- The DBT-supported MVSc programme in Animal Biotechnology has been introduced with an annual intake of 15, out of which 10 students will be admitted through GAT-B Examination conducted by the DBT and another 5 seats will be reserved for the students from NER to be admitted as per University norms.
- An abridged version of the Certificate course on “Tea Production and Management” of three months duration has been introduced from now onwards.
- Three of the PGS courses (non-credit compulsory courses, namely, PGS - 503, PGS - 505 and PGS - 506) shall now be offered on e- mode with effect from the next Semester.

Book Donation Programme at Rev B M Pugh Library, AAU, Jorhat

Rev B M Pugh Library of Assam Agricultural University Jorhat has become richer by more than 200 important agricultural and allied sciences books donated by Dr Jayanta Deka, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Dr Ajit Baishya, Director of Post Graduate Studies on 5th March, 2021. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. Bidyut C. Deka inaugurated the programme and released the books to the users of the library and emphasised on the importance of the books in studies and in pursuing of research in agricultural science. On behalf of the Central Library, Dr. Chandan Hazarika, Chief Librarian, accepted the books along with almirah. Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Director of Research, Dr. Pranati Das, Dean, Faculty of Community Science, Dr. P. K. Pathak, Director of Extension

Important meetings attended by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

- Foundation stone laying ceremony of Centre of Excellence at Khetri (Kamrup) on Nov. 2, 2020
- North East Green Summit at IIT, Guwahati on Nov. 16, 2020
- Farmers' Fair at SRS, Buralikson on Dec. 19, 2020
- Morapagladiya Sahitya Bata Anusthan at Baksa on Jan. 12, 2021
- Inaugural programme of Human Animal Conflict at AAU, Khanapara on Jan. 18, 2021
- Agri- Horticulture Show 2021 at Bokakhat on Jan. 21, 2021
- Awareness programme on Livestock Management by Assam Science Society at Merkuchi, Baksa on Feb. 5, 2021
- Horticulture Show 2021 at AAU, Jorhat on Feb. 6, 2021
- Regional Livestock and Poultry Show 2021 at Livestock Farm Complex Playground, Khanapara on Feb. 8, 2021
- Inaugural programme of KVK, Udalguri in presence of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Sri Atul Bora & Hon'ble Minister for Public Health Engineering, Sri Rihon Daimary on Feb. 9, 2021
- Launching ceremony of Amar Gaon Amar Gaurav programme at LRS, Mandira on Feb. 14, 2021
- Inaugural programme of Administrative Building of KVK Morigaon at Jhargaon in presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Health, Sri Pijush Hazarika on Feb. 15, 2021
- Inaugural session of the training programme on 'Neglected Zoonotic diseases: their surveillance and Control' at AAU, Khanapara on Feb. 25, 2021
- Allied Agri Entrepreneurship Development programme and Dairy Farmers' Meet at Baksa on Feb. 27, 2021
- Foundation Day programme of the College of Fishery Science, Raha on Mar. 7, 2021

Education, Dr. R. P. Bhuyan, Director of Student Welfare, Dr. R. K. Saud, Associate Director of Extension Education (P&I), Mr. H. K. Gohain, Dy. Librarian, AAU, Jorhat also graced the occasion.



Webinar on “Popularization of Organic Fertilizer” (Vermi-compost)

The webinar was organized on the topic “Popularization of Organic Fertilizer” (Vermi-compost) on 5th March, 2021. The invited speaker was Dr. Kaberi Mahanta, Asstt. Professor, Department of Soil Science. More than 50 participants, besides the faculty members, joined. The participants were the youths from different Districts of Assam and PG final year students of College of Community Science. SNEHPAD helped the Department in selection of youth participants from different districts.



National level quiz competition Organized by the Department of Veterinary Biochemistry

Department of Veterinary Biochemistry, CVSc, AAU, Khanapara organized four (4) National level on line quiz competition under the chairmanship of Dr D. J. Kalita, Professor and Head (i/c), Department of Veterinary Biochemistry. One quiz was conducted on Basic Biochemistry on 29th November, 2020 among the PG and PhD students. Other three (3) on line quiz competition was organized on Clinical, Para clinical and basic Veterinary Science on 20th December, 2020 among the UG students. A committee with Faculties from different department was formed for smooth conduct of the quiz with due approval from the authority. More than 300 students across the country participated in the event. E-certificates were awarded to those participants who scored 60% and above in on line quiz competition.

Participation in Amantran Brahmaputra Abhiyan (4th & 5th January, 2021)

NSS POs and volunteers of NSS Cell, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat participated in the AMANTRAN BRAHMAPUTRA ABHIYAN held at Majuli. The abhiyan is a public outreach initiative by Brahmaputra Board under Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India. It was aimed specially from the youth and students through a river rafting expedition and popularized the concept of ‘Living with the River’.

World Consumer Right’s day

Department of Family Resource Management and Consumer Sciences (FRMCS) observed World Consumer Right’s day on 15th March 2021 at Dekargaon in Jorhat district of Assam. A street play was organised by the 2nd year students to make people aware about the common adulteration practices in the market. Different consumer rights for protection against adulterations in different commodities, approaches and few tips on adulteration detection of household commodities were also discussed with participants in participatory method.

National Level Webinar

A national level webinar on Qualitative Research Methods was organized by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science on 17th and 18th February, 2021. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Tusar Singh, Asstt. Prof., Dept. of Psychology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. A total of 305 participants from different parts of the country participated in the webinar.

Fellowship Programme

An organization ‘Drishtee’ in collaboration with the Training and Placement Cell organized a fellowship programme for students of AAU. AAU students Ms Prapti Gogoi, Ms Mayasree Dutta, Mr. Vishal Kahandal and Ms Gayatri Medhi have been offered placement as ‘Vidushi’ at Golaghat, Jorhat and Nagaon.

Memorandum of Association

Assam Agricultural University has entered into a Memorandum of Association with the Assam Cricket Association (under BCCI) to allow interested students to participate in cricket matches in a better and suitable environment.

Training on “Monkey-Farmers Conflict” in Lakhimpur

Trainings on Monkey-Farmers Conflict were conducted at Lesaigaon, Nara gaon Enaigharia, Borkomolaboria and Amguri village of Lakhimpur district on 4th, 5th and 23rd March, 2021, un-



der the project ICAR-AINP on Vertebrate Pest Management. Dr. Prabal Saikia, PI of the project imparted the trainings. Demonstrations on the use of “Agri-Cannon” in crop field were done and seeds of the crops which are not preferred by the monkey were also distributed in the affected villages. Dr. N.K. Gogoi, Junior Scientist assisted in the training programme in all the locations.

World Aids Day, 1st December, 2020

An awareness programme (in online mode) on the occasion of World Aids Day is organized by NSS cell, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat in Collaboration with Extension Education Institute, Jorhat, Govt. of India, on 1st Dec. 2020

Anti Rabies Programme

An anti-Rabies Programme along with feeding of stray dogs was carried out by NSS volunteers of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science in collaboration with ‘Xohari’, a local student group of Lakhimpur.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Highlights of EEI Activities 36 Training / Workshops

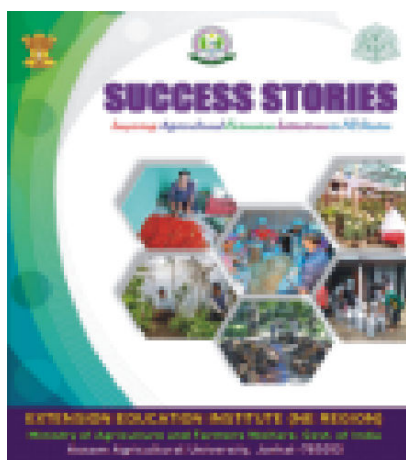
Extension Education Institute (N.E. Region), AAU, Jorhat conducted 36 Training Programmes and Workshops as per its target during 2020-2021 till March 31, 2021. A total of 1580 Extension Officers, Agri-preneurs, NGO workers, Rural Youth and few others from 9 states under its jurisdiction participated in the programmes. The seat utilization for the Academic year, as on March 31, 2021 was calculated at 138.60% which was higher than earlier years.

Skill Development Training produces entrepreneurs

As per the special request of the DOAC, Ministry of Agriculture and FW, GOI, 3(three) Skill Development Training programmes (of 200 hrs duration each for farmers) were successfully completed on three different topics following the Qualification Packs given by Agricultural Skill Council of India (ASCI) with prescribed 70 % Practical sessions and 30 % Theory sessions. As many as 60 participants were trained the programme and more than 22 have started commercial production on their own.

Success Stories documented

A total of 63 Success Stories of Extension Initiatives of the Trainee Officers and functionaries trained in the Institute were documented covering all 9 states under its jurisdiction. The publication



serves as a tool for motivation of other extension functionaries and other clientele for gaining confidence to try out the initiatives that can bring about agricultural development to the masses by replicating the successful experiences.

It is worth mentioning that 25 out of 80 total participants of such 200-hr Skill Development Training held in Assam

and Manipur, have successfully started agro-based enterprises during the years 2018-20, utilizing the Skills that they had acquired. Noteworthy amongst them were the bee-keeping entrepreneurs in Assam and mushroom

growers in Manipur who started their enterprises and earned attractive profits, giving them the conviction to sustain their entrepreneurial pursuits. The follow up for the same

had been made on a regular basis and their success stories have been documented. Few of the EEI trainee farmers attaining the skill have started their own training efforts to train other farmers in their localities thus strengthening 'Farmer-to-Farmer Extension'.



Webcasting of Honourable Prime Minister's address on release of PM Kisan money

The webcasting of Honourable Prime Minister's address for releasing of PM kisan money to the farmers was arranged at KVK, Sonitpur on 25th December, 2020 where in more than 100 farmers viewed the programme. In connection with this, a farmer- scientist interaction was also conducted.



Action Research completed following 'One Village- One Commodity' Cluster Approach

Action Research Projects were initiated by the Institute with an objective to draw various lessons and learning experiences in order to improve the extension approaches. An Action Research entitled 'Community Participation for farming as an enterprise' for the year 2020-21 was initiated and launched on October 2, 2020 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The objectives of the Project include popularizing



scientific agriculture as a livelihood option amongst the community, popularizing technologies relating to horticultural crops/ plants in households and disseminating the improved techniques of Homestead. "One Village –One Commodity" Cluster Approach wherein a Mango village, Vermi village, Litchi village, Mushroom Village and Ber village have been initiated with critical inputs and technical as well as marketing support in the form of Training and Method Demonstration which had started since 2019 in 4 villages in Jorhat District. The vision is to support 100 households in each village so that the farmers can sell and initiate commercial production of the fruits to gain profits. Regular follow up measures are also being undertaken to strengthen and sustain the agri-preneurs.

Videography under the Department of Textiles and Apparel Designing

A video was prepared by Dr. Nabaneeta Gogoi, Principal Scientist, Dept. of Textiles and Apparel Designing, College of Community Science in association with AICRP on Home Sc. on “A Social Pursuit through Popularization and Product Diversification of Ethnic Crafts on Textiles with ICT Application” indicating the diversification of handloom products with amalgamation of woven motifs of Assam for capacity building, and was uploaded by ICAR- CIWA, Bhubaneswar at ICAR Krishi Portal (ICAR - RESEARCH DATA REPOSITORY FOR KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT) and Youtube on October, 2020.

Training programme on “Entrepreneurship in Bakery”

A NAHEP sponsored training programme on “Entrepreneurship in Bakery” was organised in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition from 4th to 7th January, 2021. The ELP students of the Department of Food Science and Nutrition took part in the training and learned various skills of cake making and cake decoration.



ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Probodh Borah, Professor & Head, Department of Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara has been nominated as -

- Member of the Expert Committee on “Genomics and Transgenics in Plants, Animals and Fisheries” for the National Agricultural Science Fund (NASF) constituted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for the period 2020-22.
- Member of the Screening Committee constituted by DST, Govt. of India for the proposals received for establishment of Rural Bioresource Complex in Aspirational districts under the Biotechnology Based Programme for Societal Development during FY 2020-21.
- Chairman of the Advisory Committee constituted by ICAR for the NASF project entitled, “Production of double-muscled mass farm animals using CRISPR” since March 2021.
- Co-Chairman of the Selection Committee for selection of students (schools and colleges) and community citizens under Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship (SSF) 2021 constituted by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India under the Waste to Wealth Mission.
- A member of the Committee constituted by the Assam Veterinary Council for preparation of the draft Veterinary Practitioners’ Guidelines and Vision Document of Assam Veterinary Council for professional efficiency enhancement and speedy development of the veterinary profession in Assam in January, 2021.

AWARD

- Dr. Bibha Chetia Borah, Principal Scientist and Officer-in-Charge, FRC, AAU had been awarded the “ABRF Life Achievement Award” by Asian Biological Research Foundation Prayagraj (India) and “Best Extension Scientist Award” by Society of Fisheries and Life Sciences, CoF, Mangalore, Karnataka, India.
- Two young entrepreneurs from Nalbari district, namely Kanika Talukdar of Borjar and Pranjal Medhi of Nalisa, were awarded with one time non-refundable grant-in-aid of Rs. 5 lakhs each under NEATEHub (North East Agricultural technology-E-Hub) programme of the Government of India at Assam Agricultural University on 30th January, 2021 in presence of Dr. Bidyut C. Deka, Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat. They were the agriprenneur aspirants for the grant of idea category of startup engaged in production of vermicompost with a brand of Jay vermicompost and processing of indigenous fruits and vegetables, respectively under the guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nalbari. NEATEHUB is an innovation hub to facilitate absorption and commercialization of various agri and allied-agri technologies to promote ventures and businesses in the North Eastern region. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nalbari, played a pivotal role in the entire process of nomination through technological guidance. Purabi Konwar, Deputy Commissioner, Nalbari and Dr. P.K. Pathak, Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat congratulated both the awardees and urged upon them to work hard and smart for achieving the objectives and march towards the next startup grant which is up to Rs. 25 lakhs. Their contribution to the society and passionate zeal for success is an inspiration to the youths of the community, attracting them to the agriculture sector for undertaking it as entrepreneurial venture.
- ICAR, ATARI Zone -VI, Guwahati awarded KVK, Chirang for CFLD Pulse Crop for the year 2019-20.
- Mrs. Kanika Talukdar from Nalbari district, an entrepreneur on vermicompost production, has been awarded national level ICAR-Padma award, 2021. She is the only women entrepreneur from the North-East India to win this award and was formally felicitated at KVK, Nalbari in the online programme organised by ICAR, on the occasion of International Women’s Day, on 8th March, 2021.
- Dr. Dipak Deka, Associate Professor, Dept. of Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara has been awarded, IAVP-Dr Balwant Singh memorial Young Scientist Best presentation Award 2020, during the virtual International Veterinary Pathology Congress, held at Nagpur Veterinary College, MAFSU, Nagpur, MS (26-29th Dec. 2020)
- Dr. Ankita Saikia, an M.V.Sc. student, Dept. of Animal Biotechnology, has been awarded Tri-Council Research Funding (International fellowship) to pursue MS Course In Animal Science in the Dept. of Animal Sciences, University of Manitoba, Canada.
- Miss Karishma Borah, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Dept. of Horticulture, AAU, Jorhat was awarded ‘Best Research Scholar Award’ in the International Web Conference on Perspective on Agricultural and Applied Sciences in COVID-19 Scenario (PAAS-2020) held during the period from 4th Oct., 2020 to 6th Oct., 2020. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. reseach work under the guidance of Dr. Sunil Bora, Professor, Dept. of Horticulture, AAU, Jorhat.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Agricultural Education Day Celebrated

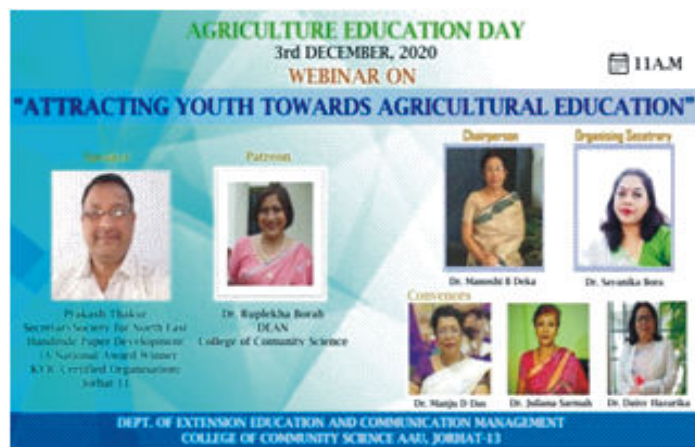
On the occasion of Agricultural Education Day, on 3rd Dec., 2020, College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat organized various webinars and competitions under different Departments .

The Department of Extension and Communication Management, College of Community Science has organized a webinar on the topic “Attracting Youth towards Agricultural Education” and Mr. Prakash Thakur, Secretary, SNEHPAD (NGO) was invited as the key speaker . An essay writing competition among the students



was also organized on the topic “Agro-Based Enterprises : A Way for Livelihood Security” . The Department of Family Resource Management organized inter- school

on line essay competition on Agriculture for Food security. Students of class 8th and 9th of Donbosco School, Jorhat and Carmel School, Jorhat participated in the competition. A webinar on “Career Opportunities in Food Science and Nutrition” for the pre-degree students of different colleges and high schools from different districts of Assam was organised by the Department of Food Science and Nutrition, College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat. A total of 97 students from different schools and colleges participated in the webinar. An online panel discussion was organized by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science in collaboration with Samagra Siksha Abhijan for the students and teachers from different blocks of Jorhat District. Dr. Nivedita Deka, Professor, Dept of Economics, College of Agriculture was invited as Resource Person to deliver talk and enlighten the students on importance of agriculture and agri-



cultural entrepreneurship. A webinar was organized by the Department of Textiles and Apparel Designing on the topic “Career opportunities in Textiles & Apparel Designing” and Dr. Neera Das,

Former Associate Professor, SVT College of Home Science, Mumbai was invited as speaker. A total of 107 students participated in the programme from different colleges and universities.

Observance of International Women’s Day, 2021

International Women’s Day was observed in the Dept. of Extension and Communication Management, College of Community Science, AAU on 8th March, 2021. A young



entrepreneur of Jorhat, Ms. Ankita Thakur as a resource person in this occasion narrated her success story and encouraged the students to be focused on any idea that may come to their mind for entrepreneurial growth. She said that money cannot be a barrier if honesty and quality are considered as ingredients for growth of any enterprise.

Inauguration of Community Food Processing and Preservation Centres at Ujani Majuli and Majuli block, Majuli

Two Community Food Processing and Preservation centres were inaugurated at Ujani Majuli and Majuli block, Majuli on



23rd February, 2021 by Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Director of Research (Agri.), in presence of Dr. Pranati Das, Dean (i/c), Faculty of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat under the STC (TSP) Project of ICAR. Prior to the inauguration, 45 tribal women were trained as Master Trainer for running the processing centre. The facilities created will be utilized by the tribal women of that area for livelihood security through enhanced production and quality assurance.



Skill development training organised

A skill development training programme on “Decorative Candle Making” was organized by the Department of Family Resource Management from 5th -12th March, 2021 under the College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat. A total of 25 students participated in the programme. Programme was sponsored by National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP). AAU, Jorhat.



Addressing the students on valedictory function, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Dr. Bidyut C. Deka stressed on the importance of producing quality products and urged them to come up with new innovative designs so that the products can compete with other products in the market. Dr. K.K. Sharma, Principal Investigator, IDP, NAHEP, highlighted in his speech the probability for success in candle making business. Dr. Nandita Bhattacharyya, i/c Head, Department of FRM, addressed the gathering by expressing happiness on successful completion of training programme. In her speech, she emphasised on the importance of such skill development training for the youth. At the end of the programme certificates were distributed to the trainees,

A panel discussion on “Importance of Weaving for Sustainable Economic Development of Farm Women”

A panel discussion on “Importance of Weaving for Sustainable Economic Development of Farm Women” was organized by the Department of Extension and Communication Management, College



of Community Science, AAU on 18th December, 2020. Panelists were Dr. Bulbul Baruah, Professor and Dr. Nabaneeta Gogoi, Professor, Deptt of Textile and Apparel Designing and Mrs. Mayuri Sharma Thakur, Chief Co-coordinator & Cluster Development Executive (Handloom & Allied Projects), SNEHPAD, Jorhat.

National Level E-workshop

The Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science and the Directorate of Post Graduate Studies, AAU, Jorhat organized National Level E-workshop on Mendeley-A Referencing Software, in collaboration with EXIGENCIAS Youth Foundations during 18th-25th January, 2021. The main objective of the workshop was to provide the understanding and working knowledge of referencing management tool Mendeley. Resource persons for the workshop were Dr. Sharad Kumar Sonkar, (Assoc. Prof.), Dept. of Library and Information Science, Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow and Dr. Virendra Kamalvanshi, (Assoc. Prof.), Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, U.P. A total of 78 participants comprising of research scholars and faculty members from different universities of the country participated in the workshop. The workshop was highly useful for the researcher as the referencing software helps in citation, referencing and sharing of research in a convenient manner.

Master Trainer Training Programme Organized in Collaboration with Child Development Project Office, Titabar

A collaborative programme was taken up by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat, and the Child Development



Project Office, at Titabar, Jorhat on 24th and 25th February, 2021. The target group included the active supervisor and anganwadi workers. The faculties of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science acted as resource persons and delivered lectures on various topics related to early childhood care and education and importance of nutrition and child friendly environment for all round development of the children.

World Diabetes Day celebrated

On World Diabetes Day i.e. on 13th November, 2020 the Dept. of Food Science and Nutrition, College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat organised an awareness webinar on diabetes for the students and the parents.



STUDENTS' WELFARE

Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat (SBSB)

The concept of a structured cultural connect between people of different regions was given by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on 31st October, 2015, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In EBSB, Assam has been paired with Rajasthan. Such programmes have helped in promoting the spirit of National Integration. Programme Officers and NSS volunteers of all constituent colleges participated in the webinar on Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat organized on July 22, 2020. Another EBSB online programme was organized jointly by NCC and NSS during 8th - 13th August, 2020. It was held online due to the prevailing pandemic situation. Ms. Sumedha Agarwal, an NSS volunteer participated in this event as a representative from Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. There were participants from all over the state and participants were enlightened with the knowledge on various states, their culture and traditions and also some live demonstrations were presented by a group of volunteers. Certificates were awarded to the participants at the end of the programme.

Poshan Pakhwada

Poshan Pakhwada was organized in NSS adopted village namely Maloti gaon from 16th to 31st March, 2021 to create awareness on malnutrition and to address nutritional challenges among the vulnerable population such as adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women etc. To address the issue of poshan, Mrs. Monika Duwarah, specializing in Food Science and Nutrition, was invited as resource person to deliver a talk to address various issues related to nutrition and importance of having locally available fruits and vegetables. The homemakers were encouraged to have a kitchen garden in their home, where they can have all the herbs, fruits and vegetables. She also discussed the healthy eating pyramid and its importance. Finally, she stated that Poshan Abhiyan endeavors to improve nutritional outcomes in a holistic manner. Programme coordinator, NSS, AAU, Jorhat also let the women folk know how to grow healthy organic food and vegetables easily.

Republic Day Parade Camp, 2019

Mr. Jyotirmoy Borgohain of SCS College of Agriculture, Dhubri and Ms Gauri Gogoi, College of Community Science were



selected for the Republic Day Parade Camp-2019, organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,

National Service Scheme, Government of India, at New Delhi from 1st to 31st January, 2021.

NSS Special Camp-(15th March to 21st March) 2021

The week long National Service Scheme (NSS) Special Camp 2021 was successfully organised by NSS Cell, Assam Agricultural University Jorhat at Malati Gaon, Borbheta, Jorhat. The programme held at the NSS Adopted Village was attended by more than 200 NSS Volunteers of AAU and the villagers.

The Camp was inaugurated by Dr. Rana Pratap Bhuyan, Director of Students Welfare cum NSS Programme Coordinator, AAU along with Dr. Mridul Deka, Associate Dean, College of Horticulture, AAU as the Chief Guest. Dr. Pradip Neog, Director, Extension Education Institute (NE Region), AAU attended the closing function as the Chief Guest.



The week long programme co-ordinated by NSS Programme Officers of AAU, namely, Shri Rituraj Boruah, Apurba Das and Sampreety Gogoi comprised of various community awareness activities including a Voter Awareness Program in association with Jorhat District Administration. Ms. Parineeta Chakraborty, ACS, Assistant Commissioner, Jorhat District led the awareness programme and spoke, highlighting the need and right of all eligible citizens to exercise their Right to Vote. During the Camp, a blood grouping campaign was organised in collaboration with Indian Red Cross Society, Jorhat Chapter where more than 100 villagers and AAU students participated and were told the need for voluntary blood donation. Apart from these, a "Workshop on Swacchta" was organised in the village, in which Cleanliness Drive as well Bamboo crafted dustbins were placed throughout the adopted village to maintain community sanitation. Dr. S. Borua, NSS PO, offered the vote of thanks.

NCC

The Assam Agricultural University has finalized all documents for Raising of New Air NCC troupe at Assam Agricultural University,



Jorhat from the current year. Already 50 students have been enrolled as NCC cadets from the current year. 150 cadets have been allotted at AAU, Jorhat from this year. Dr Pranjit Sutradhar, Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, has been nominated for the post of CTO to act as local head of the AAU NCC Unit.



ZREAC Meeting for kharif,2021 held in all the six Agro-climatic Zones of Assam as per schedule below :

Zone	Venue	Date
UBVZ	RARS , Titabar	09.02.2021
LBVZ	RARS, Gossaigaon	19.02.2021
Hill zone	RARS, Diphu	09.02.2021
CBVZ	RARS, Shillongani	17.02.2021
NBPZ	RARS, North Lakhimpur	09.02.2021
BVZ	RARS, Karimganj	19.02.2021

Other News

- Necessary support has been rendered in showcasing and promoting GI products at national conferences in collaboration with Seuj Satirtha, an NGO in a virtual exhibition named “Geographical Indication Festival of India (GIFI)”, from 9th January, 2021, where 3 registered GI products, viz., Joha rice, Chokuwa rice and Kaji nemu were displayed.
- NABARD and NCDC have empanelled AAU as the CBBO for formation of 23 Nos. of FPC at selected districts of Assam
- “GI Mahotsav – Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India” was organized at Mussoorie, Uttarakhand during 4th and 5th March, 2021, and Joha rice of Assam was displayed.

Technical Committee Meetings for Kharif, 2021 were held as per the following schedule

Technical Group	Department	Date & Time
Crop Improvement	Plant Breeding & Genetics/ Agril. Biotechnology/Bio-chemistry and Agril. Chemistry/ Crop Physiology	April 9-10, 2021
Community Science	All five Departments of College of Community Science	April 12, 2021
Social Science	Agri. Economics and FM, Extension Education & Agri. Statistics	April 13, 2021
Horticulture and Plantation crops	Horticulture and Tea Husbandary and Technology	April 19-20, 2021
Crop Protection	Plant Pathology / Entomology/Nematology	April, 22, 2021
Crop Management and Farming System	Agronomy/Soil Science/ Agril. Engineering/ Agril. Meteorology/IFS/Sericulture/Fishery/Animal Husbandry and Dairying	April, 23-24, 2021

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT POOL

Title of the Project	Principal Investigator	Funding Agency	Amount (Rs.)
Strengthening the onion seed in Assam through standardization of seed production Technology Utilization the rain shadow belts of Karbi Anglong district of Assam	Dr. T. P. Saikia	ASTEC	3.70 lakh
Status Municipality Solid waste generation in Biswanath Chariali and strategies of waste management	Dr. P. K. Sarmah Biswanath	District Administration,	75.00 lakh
Expansion of Bio Tech Kisan Hub Activities in three Sensational districts	Dr. S. Saikia	DBT	72.00 lakh
Tribal Sub Plan	Dr. M. Saikia	ICAR	1.00 lakh
Suitability Classification for construction of rainwater – harvesting through application of RS & GIS for efficient water management in Karbi Anglong under the scheme : Innovation Technology Generation and Awareness for Karbi Anglong	Dr. Kabyashree Choudury	ASTEC	14.63 lakh
Survey of Rural Markets (Gramin Haats)	Dr. R.A. Halim	SITA, GoA	3.50 lakh
Geo Surveillance of Agromet Field units for effective delivery of Agromet Advisory Services	Dr. P. Neog	NESAC	3.70 lakh
Phytochemical characterization and nutritional profiling of germplasm diversity of citrus species existing in NE Region-at BAC, AAU, Jorhat & CRS, Tinsukia	Dr. A.M. Baruah Dr. R.K. Kakoti	DBT	147.91lakh
Harnessing endophytes and AM Fungi from citrus microbiome for plant and soil health management in NE India	Dr. (Mrs). A. Gayan	DBT	29.57 lakh
Establishment of disease free elite khasi mandarin and sweet orange genetic stocks through shoot tip grafting and mass production of quality planting materials for NE states of India - Region	Dr. S. Saikia	DBT	54.83 lakh
Collection and characterization of morpho-phenological characterization of citrus germplasms of NE Region	Dr. S. Saikia	DBT	56.567 lakh
Establishment of disease free elite khasi mandarin and sweet orange genetic stocks through shoot tip grafting and mass production of quality planting materials for NE states of India - Region	Dr. R.K. Kakoti	DBT	454.79 lakh
Collection and characterization of morpho-phenological characterization of citrus germplasms of NE Region	Dr. R.K. Kakoti	DBT	367.25 lakh





EXTENSION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur observed National Science Day

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur organized National Science Day on 28th February, 2021 with the theme “Future of STI-Impacts of Education, Skills and Work”. Arifa Momtaz Begum, Subject Matter Specialist (Community Science) in her welcome address explained the significance of observing National Science Day. Dr. Debendra Chandra Baruah, Professor, Department of Energy, Tezpur University delivered his lecture on the importance of science in our day to day lives. He emphasized on the importance of renewable energy in the present world. Dr. Bikram Borkotoki, Junior Scientist,



Biswanath College of Agriculture, Assam Agricultural University, Sanjukta Saikia, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection), Dr. Bhrigu Kumar Neog, Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science) and all the staff members of KVK, Sonitpur were also present on the occasion. Students of the Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP) of Assam Agricultural University stationed at KVK, Sonitpur were also associated with the programme. They organized an art competition on the theme ‘Environmental Pollution’ among the students of class V to VIII where Bhairobi Boiri of Class V, Hira Devi of class VI and Riya Bhuyan of class VIII from Napam M. V. School received first, second and third prize respectively. Moreover a district level quiz competition was organized among the students of class XI and XII where RAWEP students, Bhargab Dev Sarmah and Barnamala Kalita acted as quiz masters. First prize was awarded to the team of Alex Shivam of Dimension Academy and Himanku Saikia of Darrang College. Second position was secured by the team of Rajdeep Bezbaruah and Shobhitya Raj Borah also from Darrang College. Third prize was awarded to the team of Nishad Anam of Dimension Academy and Deepsikha Patowary of Darrang College. More than hundred students from different institutions attended the programme.

Swachhta Pakhwada

Swachhta Pakhwada was observed by KVK, Sonitpur from 16th to 31st December, 2020. Different swachhta activities were performed every day with cleanliness drive and sanitation of office campus, market and public places, awareness programme on swachhta and waste utilization, composting etc.were undertaken

Training on molecular cloning and expression

The Department of Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara organized a 7-days hands-on training programme on ‘Advanced Techniques in Molecular Biology with special reference to Molecular Cloning and Expression’ from January 25-31, 2021. Besides the faculty members of the Department, Dr. Dipak Deka, Associate Professor, College of Animal Biotechnology, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana conducted the training as an external resource person. All the post-graduate students, including the PhD scholars of the Department, participated in the training.



World Food Day at KVK, Sonitpur

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur observed World Food Day on 16th October, 2020 with the theme ‘Grow, nourish, sustain together : Our actions are our future’ at its office campus. Mrs.Arifa Momtaz Begum, Subject Matter Specialist (Community Science), in her inaugural speech explained the significance of World Food day. She emphasized about importance of fruits and vegetables in



our daily diet, ways to nutrify our traditional recipes and requested the participants to establish a kitchen garden in every household. The office secretary of District Mahila Morcha and CLF, Mrs Naba Sarmah, encouraged the women to take vegetable cultivation as an income generating activity and also to fulfill the requirement of vegetables in our daily diet. In connection to the programme, a cooking competition was also organized to spread awareness on nutrification of recipes. The competition was judged by Dr. Bhrigu Kumar Neog, Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science), Mrs Sanjukta Saikia, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection), Dr. Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science) and Ms. Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy) of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur. Out of all the participants, five women were selected for their food recipes and also awarded with certificate and prizes to encourage them. Members of six Self Help Groups from Napam, Amolapam and Borguri had participated in the programme. Seeds of improved varieties of rabi vegetables were distributed among the participants.





Cluster Frontline Demonstration on Oilseeds

High yielding late sown toria varieties TS-67 and TS-38 were demonstrated in rice fallow area of Lakhimpur district in an area of 20 ha covering 50 numbers on farmers under Cluster Frontline Demonstration on Oilseed (Under NMOOP) during rabi, 2020-21 in five different locations of the district. An average yield of 9.16 q/ha was recorded in demonstrated plot against the check yield of 6.56 q/ha with the net return of Rs. 23,683/ha. Introduction of Honey Bee colony in the Toria field helped the crops for pollination and fetched additional net income of 14,000/ha. Under this programme, two numbers of Field Day were also organized on 06.03.2021 and 08.03.2021 at Dhenukhona and Sandakhowa, respectively.



Mahila Kisan Diwas at KVK, Sonitpur

As part of the nationwide celebration of 'Mahila Kisan Diwas', Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur organized a day long programme on 15th October, 2020 in its office campus. Welcoming the participants of the programme, Arifa Momtaz Begum, Subject Matter Specialist (Community Science), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur said about the importance of celebrating Mahila Kisan Diwas. She also emphasized about the multi-dimensional role of women in agriculture



and allied sectors. Scientific cultivation and value addition of mushroom as an income generating activity was discussed by Sanjukta Saikia, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection) of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur. Dr. Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science) of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur elaborately explained about the production technology of vermicompost to the participants. The president of Da Parbatia Gaon Panchayat, Jamini Kalita, shared her experience in the field of agriculture and allied sector. Naba Sarmah, Secretary of District Mahila Morcha, Sonitpur requested the women folk to take agriculture as an income generating avenue. An extempore speech competition was also organized among the participants and was coordinated by Dr. Bhriku Kumar Neog, Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science) of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur in a bid to make the participants aware about the role of women in agriculture. Five progressive women were felicitated by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur to impart encouragement and to mark the day.

KVK, Sonitpur observed World Soil Day

World Soil Day was observed by KVK, Sonitpur in collaboration with Shree Group of Farmers and Bharatiya Kisan Sangha at Barangabari of Gohpur area of Sonitpur district on 5th December, 2020. People were made aware of the soil health and its management. A total of 63 soil health cards were distributed among the farmers of Takoubari Panchayat, Dakshin Kalabari Panchayat and Karibil Panchayat under Gohpur sub division. The



meeting was graced by Dr. P. C. Deka, Head, KVK, Sonitpur; Dr. R. N. Barman, Associate Dean, Biswanath College of Agriculture; Dr. R. N. Goswami, Professor, BNCA; Mr. K. Pandit, SDAO, Gohpu; Ms D. Saikia and Mr. Pandey from Shree group of farmers. More than 100 farmers from different parts and Presidents of two Gaon Panchayats were present. Dr. N. Dutta, Ms A. M. Begum, Ms R. Chutia, SMSs of KVK, Sonitpur were present on the occasion and shared their views on soil health management.

Two days training organized on “Scientific Cultivation of Rabi Maize” at RARS, North Lakhimpur under STC Project

Two days training programme on “Scientific Cultivation of Rabi Maize” was organized at RARS, North Lakhimpur on 27th to 28th November, 2020 under STC Project 2020-21. Total sixty farmers from five villages viz. Borbam, Bogipung, Naharbari, Paharpur and Gobindapur of Dhemaji district participated in this training programme. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. Prabal Saikia, Chief Scientist, RARS, North Lakhimpur briefed about



the scope and importance of large scale cultivation of maize in North Bank Plain Zone of Assam. Adoption of scientific cultivation practices like use of quality seeds, proper sowing methods, fertilizer application, weed management, irrigation at critical growth period, post-harvest production of poultry and animal feeds etc. were highlighted and elaborated in the training programme. Dr. Tarun Ch. Mahanta, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) and Dr. Nripen Kr. Gogoi, Junior Scientist (Plant Pathology) and Co-PI, STC Project imparted the training programme.



Workshop on “Participatory Varietal Selection of Potato”

A workshop on “Participatory Varietal Selection of Potato” was conducted by KVK, Sonitpur on 25th January, 2021. Dr. P. C. Deka, Head, KVK Sonitpur explained the objectives of the workshop.



The objectives of the workshop were - a) Selection of desired characteristics of potato like virus free, late blight resistance variety, short

duration varieties, more number of branches and thickness of stem, etc. for cultivation. b) Evaluation of best three varieties among the 7 growing varieties including local check by voting by the farmers on the basis of vegetative growth. Officials from CIP, Dr. Minhas and Mr. N. K. Sarma, acted as resource person in the workshop. Evaluation was done in KVK farm and farmers field.

Opening of Agricultural Information Centre

The RAWEP students of Assam Agricultural University stationed at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur opened one information centre at Napam village on 9th March, 21 to provide information on different agricultural technologies among the farmers.



“Scientist-Farmer Interaction Programme” inaugurated by Honourable Vice Chancellor, AAU at RARS, North Lakhimpur

Dr. Bidyut C. Deka, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, AAU visited RARS, North Lakhimpur alongwith Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Director of Research (Agri.) and Dr. Prasanna Kr. Pathak, Director of Extension Education, AAU on 8th December, 2020. Dr. Deka addressed the farmers, scientists and office staff and touched upon several important points, particularly stressing upon the urgency of controlling of our own land and market in coming days, converting the North East into an Organic Hub and formation of Farmer Producer’s Organizations (FPOs). Hon’ble VC apprised the audience that an innovative programme called “Amar-Gaon Amar Gaurav” will be launched by AAU from 1st April, 2021 in the entire state of Assam.



Dr. Deka addressed the farmers, scientists and office staff and touched upon several important points, particularly stressing upon the urgency of controlling of our own land and market in coming days, converting the North East into an Organic Hub and formation of Farmer Producer’s Organizations (FPOs). Hon’ble VC apprised the audience that an innovative programme called “Amar-Gaon Amar Gaurav” will be launched by AAU from 1st April, 2021 in the entire state of Assam.

Training on “Rice Knowledge Bank Usage” at RARS, North Lakhimpur under APART Project

A training on “Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB) Usage” was conducted under APART at RARS Training Hall on 30th December, 2020. Dr. Prabal Saikia, Chief Scientist, RARS, North Lakhimpur inaugurated the programme and Miss Porismita Dutta, Project Associate, APART highlighted the objectives of the training program. Dr. Vivek Kumar, Specialist, IRRI and Mr. Debasish



Buragohain, Project Scientist, APART participated as the resource persons. The resource persons elaborately discussed about the use of Rice Knowledge Bank. They explained every section in the portal (www.rkbassam.in) which included rice in Assam, varieties, step by step production, details of the extension functionaries present in the district etc. to the attendees. In addition, they also discussed various cultivation practices of rice, role and formation of Farmer Producer Company (FPC) and selling of paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP) at Paddy Procurement Centres (PPCs) available at the districts.

RARS, North Lakhimpur organized ‘Field Day and Crop Cutting of Rice at Learning Centre Demonstrations’ under APART Programme

A field day on Learning Centre Demonstration (LCD) of variety Ranjit Sub-1 of *Sali* 2020-21 was organized at Haribor Naharani village of Naoboicha Development Block, Lakhimpur district on 3rd December, 2020. Observations on various growth and yield at-



tributing parameters such as plant height, no. of grains per panicle, no. of filled and unfilled grains per panicle, no. of effective tillers per plant, panicles per sq. m., etc. were recorded. The variety resulted in average grain yield of 5.2 ton/ha. The attendees along with the beneficiary, Mohendra Gogoi were satisfied with the performance of the variety, Ranjit Sub-1 as the area was not suitable for local varieties due to flood and Ranjit Sub-1 showed optimum performance overcoming all the adversities. The programme was attended by Dr. Yater Das, Junior Scientist (PBG), RARS, North Lakhimpur, Gautam Roy Chaudhury, ADO, Naoboicha Block, Miss Porismita Dutta, PA, APART, Mr. Champak Saikia, RT, APART and Sanjay Kr. Yadav, RT, APART (IRRI).



Ranjit Sub-1 Performs well in Dibrugarh District

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dibrugarh has conducted a front line demonstration on submergence tolerant rice variety “Ranjit Sub-1” under flood affected area of Dibrugarh district during 2020-21. The var. “Ranjit Sub-1” can tolerate submergence condition up to 12-14 days without hampering its potential yield of 6-7 ton per hectare. Accordingly, two locations were selected viz. No.3 Charaihabi gaon under Khowang Development Block and No.1 Kachari pothar gaon under Tengakhat Block of Dibrugarh district covering a total area of 20 hectare (10 hectare in each village) for the Demonstration programme. The Demonstration programme was conducted at farmers field under close supervision of the scientists from KVK, Dibrugarh. Foundation seeds were given from the Kendra free of cost to the beneficiary farmers.

After successful cultivation of the crop, field day was conducted in both the locations in the presence of beneficiary farmers, local paddy growers, State Govt. officials along with the representatives from print and electronic media. Results of the crop cutting experiment revealed that the average yield of Ranjit sub-1 was 63.75 quintal per hectare which varied from 60-67.5 quintal per hectare. On the other hand, the yield of local Sali rice varieties such as Solpuna, Jahinga, Bora, etc. was reported to be 18 quintal per hectare. Thus the performance of Ranjit Sub-1 in the demonstrated areas was 3.54 times higher than the local rice varieties. It is worthwhile to mention that Ranjit sub-1 was in submergence condition in the localities for 5-6 days from 23rd June to 27th June 2020. Thus, Ranjit Sub-1, recommended by Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat for the greater interest of flood affected rice farmers in the state Assam, is able to perform well in the district by benefiting the farmers in terms of both productivity and income. Thus, the area expansion under Ranjit Sub-1 particularly in flood affected areas may bring about desired change in the production and productivity of rice in the district as well as in the state.

Training on “Scientific Rearing of Pig” organized at RARS, North Lakhimpur under STC Project

A training programme on “Scientific rearing of pig” was organized at RARS, North Lakhimpur on 22-23rd January, 2021 under STC Project 2020-21. As many as sixty farmers from five villages viz. Borbam, Bogipung, Naharbari, Paharpur and Gobindapur of Dhemaji district participated in this training programme. Dr. Prabal Saikia, Chief Scientist, RARS, North Lakhimpur welcomed the audience and Dr. Nripen Kr. Gogoi, Junior Scientist and Co-PI, STC Project briefed about the training programme. Attending as the Chief Guest, Dr. Umaram Tamuly, Associate Dean, LCVSc, AAU, Joyhing addressed the trainees and gave valuable suggestions. Dr. Arindam Chakarbarty, SMS (Animal Science), KVK, Lakhimpur participated as the resource person of the programme. Dr. Tarun Ch. Mahanta, Principal Scientist, Dr. Dhiren Chowdhury, Principal Scientist, Ms. Bibha Ozah, Junior Scientist of RARS, North Lakhimpur and Dr. Prasanta Kr. Pathak, Head, KVK, Lakhimpur were present in the training programme. In this connection, an extension bulletin *Scientific Pig Rearing* (in Assamese) was also released for the benefits of the farming community.

World Sparrow Day celebrated at RARS, North Lakhimpur

World Sparrow Day was celebrated under the aegis of ICAR-AINP on Vertebrate Pest Management on 20th March, 2021 at RARS, North Lakhimpur. Dr. Prabal Saikia, Chief



Scientist, RARS, North Lakhimpur inaugurated the programme and briefed about the history and importance of World Sparrow Day. On this occasion the students of College of Sericulture, Titabar, AAU undergoing Rural Sericulture Work Experience Programme (RSWEP) at Gohain Tekela Gaon, Azad, Lakhimpur district actively participated in the programme. Scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Lakhimpur, field workers and all other staff of RARS, North Lakhimpur also participated in the programme. An open “Quiz Session on Birds” was also conducted by Dr. Saikia and it was followed by an audio-visual presentation on “Role of birds in Sericulture”. Dr. Saikia distributed nest boxes designed for the sparrows and urged all the students, scientists and staff to protect the birds in our ecosystem.

RSWEP at Lakhimpur under RARS, North Lakhimpur

Twenty three numbers of students (Boys: 8, Girls: 15) of College of Sericulture, Titabar, AAU underwent the Rural Sericulture Work Experience Programme (RSWEP) at Gohain Tekela



Gaon, Azad, Lakhimpur district from 10th February, 2021. An Information Centre was inaugurated in the village on 18th March, 2021. The programme was graced by Dr. L.C. Dutta, OSD, College of Sericulture, Dr. Prabal Saikia, Chief Scientist, RARS, North Lakhimpur, other Assistant Professors, Scientists, local villagers and students. The students of Sericulture displayed several models, charts, specimens etc. on scientific rearing of eri, muga, tosor worms, plants, integrated farming system etc. in the information centre.





EXTENSION

Visit of Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University to KVK, Sonitpur

Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University, Dr. Bidyut C. Deka along with Dr. Prasanna Kr. Pathak, Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat visited KVK, Sonitpur on 9th December, 2020. They visited the KVK Farm and Demonstration Units and appraised the activities of KVK.



Vocational training programme conducted

- A four days vocational training on “Entrepreneurship Development through Pig Farming” was conducted from 25th to 29th of January 2021 at KVK, Chirang. A total of 10 farmers attended the training.
- A five days vocational training on “Mushroom Cultivation for Economic Upliftment” was held at KVK, Chirang from 9th February to 13th February. A total of 20 members, including rural women, attended the training.
- Five days vocational training on ‘Entrepreneurship Development of Tribal Rural Youth through Scientific Pig Farming’ was conducted from 24th to 26th of February, 2021 and 1st to 2nd March, 2021. A total of 22 participants attended the training.
- A 4 day training programme on ‘Biofloc Fish Farming’ under a project named Assam Agricultural University Biotechnology Kisan Hub (AAU Kisan Hub), comprising 26 participants was organized at KVK, Nalbari, from February 22nd to February 25th, 2021. The training programme was aimed to increase skill and experience of the youths of biofloc based fish farming for reaping maximum benefit per unit area per unit of time. This training was coordinated by Ankur Rajbangshi and Dr. Arfan Ali, KVK, Nalbari. The

valedictory session was attended by Nalbari Deputy Commissioner, Purabi Konwar. She encouraged the trainees through her inspiring oratory to dedicate and attain expertise in different areas of specific and integrated farming system. In the session, Dr. M. Charkaravarty, In-charge Head, KVK, Nalbari, spoke on integrated fishery-based farming system, and urged the youth to utilize their knowledge gained during the training in expansion of farming work for doubling the farmers income by 2022.

- A five days vocational training on “Processing of Fruits and Vegetables” was conducted from 23rd February, 2021 to 2nd March, 2021 at KVK, Nalbari. The training programme was conducted by Homeswar Mazumdar, SMS, Horticulture, KVK, Nalbari. In the training programme, method demonstration on different value added products like jam, jelly, pickle, sauce, etc. from the locally available indigenous fruits and vegetables was conducted. The valedictory session was held on 2nd March, 2021 where Dr. Mridul Deka, Associate Dean, College of Horticulture, Nalbari, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat was the chief Guest. A total of 25 trainees attended the training programme and all were highly satisfied with the hands-on training of processing of fruits and vegetables. They were confident to build a career as a successful entrepreneur in the field of food processing. The training was concluded with the vote of thanks from Dr.(Mrs) Manashi Chakravorty, i/c Head, KVK, Nalbari.

Implementation of NARI project

A nutri-smart village was established at Bha-Dhora village in Sivasagar district. The village was considered for presence of higher percentage of mild to moderate malnourished children as compared to other parts of the district. Children who were suffering from mild to moderate malnourishment were selected with the help of District Social Welfare Office, Sivasagar. and 10 farm



families of malnourished children were adopted for different demonstration programmes of KVK, Sivasagar. For nutritional and economic upliftment of the children, as well as villagers, a total of 2 awareness programmes, 4 trainings, and 5 demonstrations, including backyard poultry for meat and egg purpose, hybrid maize demonstration, pea demonstration, mustard demonstration and establishment of nutrition garden were conducted.

NEWS FROM ATIC

Farmers’ visit : A total of 951 farmers visited ATIC and were provided advisory services.

Products sold : Paddy seeds of different HYV, vegetables, Biofor-PF, tea, jaggery, etc. were sold.

ATIC continues to be an active collaborator in Gyan Yatra Programme of Govt. of Assam

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Published by the Directorate of Extension Education, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.

Phone : 0376 - 2340029; Fax : 0376 - 2340001, 2310708; Email : dee@aau.ac.in; Website : http://www.aau.ac.in. Printed at : AAYAN'S WORLD, Jorhat