



# AAU Newsletter

Vol. 48, No. 2&3  
June & September, 2020

## From Vice-Chancellor's Desk ...

It had never been anticipated by mankind that rapid success and reckless technological advancement would cost the planet a pandemic of the likes of COVID-19. The virus that originated from Wuhan, China, has spread to 213 Countries and Territories around the world. A pandemic of this magnitude has few parallels in the history of the planet. In India, the alarming rate of spread of the virus compelled the central government to impose nationwide lockdown on March 25, 2020, as the first national containment measure. The nationwide lockdown, though aimed at containing the spread of the infection and safeguarding national health, did bring economic activities around the country to an abrupt standstill. Consequently, the agricultural produce prices witnessed a downward shift in the demand curve owing to the shutdown of restaurants and eateries and consumption being limited to only homes.

The peak harvest operations of rabi crops, incidentally, coincided with the first lockdown. Migratory labour force was not available to work in the harvest-ready fields. There was also a shortage of harvesting equipment as small and marginal farmers usually rent the required equipment. Consequently, in many places, the crops were left in the field itself or could only be partially harvested as harvesting operations became costly. Restriction of transport, especially at the initial stage of lockdown drastically affected the supply chains. Markets witnessed supply deficit owing to food rotting in transit or never making it to the point of sale.

A pandemic of this stature would naturally bring enough troubles. Unfortunately, poor and marginal farmers were among the most affected. Panic buying by the consumers was restricted to processed foods rather than to the farm produce for obvious reasons. The fruit and vegetable producers had to bear the brunt of the situation. Apart from being highly perishable, fruits and vegetable prices vary over space and time and regulating the prices of fruits and vegetables does not fall under the ambit of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee to intervene. The farm-gate prices of fruit, vegetables, milk, meat and poultry crashed as there were hardly any takers particularly in the initial phase of the lockdown.

Hope can be a powerful source of reassurance during difficult times, but it must have a solid foundation with dependable pillars. Agriculture has always been a dependable

pillar against all the calamities man has had to withstand. Luckily, agriculture is renewable in nature and one can start all over again even if there is a failure or two. When there were minimal economic activities in other sectors during the lockdown period, much of the countryside, even if cautiously and tentatively, kept its date with the farm calendar. The prudent decision by the home ministry to allow harvesting, threshing, sowing, and procurement during the first lockdown helped the farmers immensely. Even then, farmers' woes were not over, as demand by the food industries and allied sectors dried up due to the lockdown. The announcement of an economic relief package 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' on May 12, 2020, worth Rs. 20 lakh crore by the Prime Minister came as a big relief for the country. Better still, Agriculture and allied sectors were the major beneficiaries of this package. Subsequently, Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman disclosed that a combined package of Rs. 1,63,343 crore had been allotted to the Agriculture and allied sectors. Rs. 1 lakh crore Agri Infrastructure Fund for farm-gate infrastructure for farmers, Rs 10,000 crore scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE), Rs 20,000 crore for fishermen through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Rs. 12,652 crore earmarked for National Animal Disease Control Programme, Rs. 15,000 crore in the form of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, an outlay of Rs. 4,000 crore for Promotion of Herbal Cultivation, Rs. 500 crore under Beekeeping initiatives and Rs 500 crore scheme, 'From TOP' to TOTAL', aiming to repair supply chains that had been disrupted due to the lockdown. Apart from these, many other initiatives have been undertaken to ease the problems of the farming community. Essential Commodities Act will be amended to enable better price realization for farmers. The government will no longer be setting the maximum retail price (MRP) during times of excess supply or demand for agricultural produce including cereals, edible oils, oilseed, pulses, onions and potatoes. A Central law will be formulated to provide adequate choices for the farmers to sell their produce at a remunerative price. This law will enable barrier-free Inter-State Trade as well as will facilitate a framework for e-trading of agriculture produce. The central government also



*Contd. Page 2...*



# VC'S DESK...

*Contd. from Page 1*

*From VC's Desk...*

announced Rs. 30,000 crore additional emergency working capital funding through the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the benefit of around 3 crore farmers, mostly small and marginal farmers. This additional refinance support of Rs. 30,000 crore for crop loan requirements will help the farmers immensely to pay off their outstanding loans and to start afresh. The Ministry of Finance announced its aim to provide concessional credit of Rs 2 lakh crore, which is likely to benefit 2.5 crore farmers, including fishermen and dairy farmers through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. These measures will go a long way in abetting farmers' worries and will energize them to look into the future in a better frame of mind.

Even in this gloomy situation, maintaining the standard COVID-19 protocol, AAU has been discharging its basic duties of teaching, research and extension. As the situation warranted and as per the government directives, online classes have been conducted for the continuing students, online examinations have been held for the final year undergraduates, postgraduates, and PhD scholars. Some thesis viva-voce examinations have also been held in online mode for the postgraduates and PhD scholars and the process of online admission for PhD, PG as well as UG is also on.

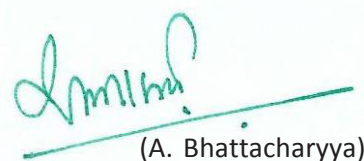
Agricultural research, being both a field and laboratory-based approach, would naturally suffer in this kind of calamitous event. But our research scientists, knowing very well that there will be life beyond COVID-19, put extra efforts whenever there were opportunities and openings for carrying out their activities. Research scientists organised several webinars and also participated in various capacities in many international, national and state-level webinars. The notification of the Central Variety Release Committee (CVRC) in recognition of rice variety-Numali, rapeseed variety- Jeuti, and sesame variety- AST-1 also gave the scientists the requisite impetus to work for extra hour. Bagging the GI tags for 'chakuwa' rice and 'Assam lemon' during this period is another AAU achievement worth mentioning. Necessary initiatives have also been taken for formal approval of three departments- Agri-business management, Seed Technology and Food Science and Technology. Efforts for Gazette notification for extension of retirement age for the professor up to 65 years have also been taken. We are also happy to share that as per request of the hon'ble deputy CM, Arunachal Pradesh a massive agricultural development programme has been initiated in Arunachal Pradesh following proper MoU.

The extension machinery of the university also tried very hard to cope with this trying time. The KVK personnel attended numerous calls from the farmers and gave suggestions in their field-oriented problems and prospects. Whenever the situation permitted, KVK people went to the farmers' fields to take stock in situ of the condition and extended their expertise.

Agriculture is an occupation that does not permit any halting or waiting. Come what may, agriculture must keep on moving as everyone needs food at least twice a day, every day. The end of COVID-19 is not near and even in this harrowing time AAU has not wavered from its assigned duty. Road maps for COVID and Post COVID situations have already been prepared and submitted to the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Assam. Further, the food value and immunity-boosting innate ability of the local herbs, fruits and vegetables made this period the most appropriate time to revisit the horticultural sector. It was henceforth found that Sub-urban Horticulture, Urban Horticulture and Herbal Horticulture are the areas needing extra attention. Post-harvest and value chain management and Local Seed Industry must also be revamped.

The AAU fraternity always thinks about society in general and farmers in particular. A humble contribution of Rs. 52,50,000/ has been made to the 'Arogya Nidhi' fund of Govt. of Assam in its fight against COVID-19. The hostels and play grounds under AAU have also been spared for the covid related issues besides providing the RT-PCR machines for virus testing. The Chief Minister and the Health Minister of Assam are leading from the front and working tirelessly to contain the contagion. AAU rank and files are unanimous in their appreciation and gratefulness to the Chief Minister, the Health Minister, their teams and to the efforts and sacrifices of the frontline workers in their fight against the dreaded virus.

Nature has been teaching the human race all the time and we must be mature enough to learn. We must focus our energy and efforts more on things and situations that are within our control than beyond it. We have to learn from our past mistakes and try never to repeat those. Facing the challenges lying ahead responsibly and sensibly rather than wishing away the pandemic is the key for tiding over this nightmarish time.

  
(A. Bhattacharyya)



## Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam visited Kahikuchi campus of the University

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Sjt. Sarbananda Sonowal visited Assam Agricultural University, Kahikuchi campus of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Kamrup on May 16, 2020 as a part of sequel of activities for strengthening agro-based economy in the corona hit State.

A day after his announcement of losing Rs. 1000 crore revenue everyday amid coronavirus pandemic in the State, Chief Minister Sonowal in an attempt to infuse fresh lease of life in rural economy, has asked the agri-scientists to empower the farming community as well as increasing fertility of the crop area to sustainably practise triple cropping system throughout a year in the State. He said, "If this can be done it will help in ramping up production and at the same time State's self-reliance. In a State where approximately 53 per cent of the total workforce is engaged in agriculture, the sector, if practised scientifically, can turn around the State's economy which is in slump because of Covid 19 pandemic. He also asked the agri-scientists to take the lead to use agriculture in the State's endeavour to turn-around its corona affected economy.

Sjt. Sonowal visited a plot of land where in *Dhaincha* which is regarded as green manure to sustain high demand for organic farming is cultivated. It may be noted that cultivation of *Dhaincha* increases soil fertility by way of nitrogen fixation which sustains high yielding crops variety. Sonowal requested the KVK functionaries for increased cultivation of *Dhaincha* to contribute increased production of agri-products.

Sjt. Sonowal also visited the plots of lands where lemon, mango, black pepper, pineapple, mango farming etc. is done. He, in a bid to empower the farmers hit by the

COVID 19, distributed vegetable seeds and paddy seeds. Chief Minister Sonowal gave away pulverisers, power tillers etc. among the farmers.

Later, talking to farming community in KVK, he said that though COVID 19 pandemic has hit the nation hard with economy being the worst affected, the bail-out package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ushered in a ray of hope. He said that the Rs. 20 lakh crore stimulus package can strengthen State's economy with MSME sectors taking the lead. He also urged upon the farming community to take advantage of the bail-out package. He also said that the stimulus rolled out by the Centre would ensure

sweeping reforms in farm sector enabling farmers to produce, procure and market their produce to help value addition. He also said that as part of Centre's announcement, the farmers will get freedom to sell their produce directly without any middleman to take away their benefits. He, therefore, urged upon the farmers not to be bogged down by the present situation and empower themselves, practise triple cropping as government would always be there to help them. Sonowal also planted mango saplings in the KVK campus. It was stated in a press release.

Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing Minister, Sjt. Atul Bora, Guwahati Development, Law and Justice Minister Sjt. Siddhartha Bhattacharya, MP Queen Oja, MLA Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Chief Minister's Media Adviser Sjt. Hrishikesh Goswami, Vice Chancellor(i/c), Assam Agricultural University, Dr Ashok Bhattacharyya, several agricultural scientists and senior officers were present on the occasion.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Sjt. Sarbananda Sonowal visits the College of Fisheries

We should be self-dependent in every field, without self-dependence we cannot live a prestigious life in the present day scenario; Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said this on Aug. 12, 2020 when delivering his speech as a

chief guest in the inauguration function of the workshop entitled Making self-sufficient Assam under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna (PMMSY). Emphasizing on self-reliant Assam Chief Minister

Sonowal said about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of Rs. 20 lakh cores and his call for self-reliant India. He also informed that in the PMMSY's scheme, 20,050 crores has been allotted for upliftment of fishery sector. He added that Assam will have to take the advantage of this scheme. Stating that the youths of the state will have to play a crucial role in bringing transformation into the State's fishery sector and reminds them that it is their responsibility to make Assam one of the top fish exporting states in not only North- East but also in the whole country by applying modern techniques instead of the traditional methods. He also focusses on the role of Raha Fishery College in illuminating the fishery sector of Assam. Chief Minister Sonowal also gives the example of Vietnam for development of Agricultural

sector. In the meeting, the Fishery Minister Sjt. Parimal Suklabaidya, said that, it is a good sign for Assam that during the lockdown amid corona virus pandemic the growth rate of Assam's fish production has increased and



it is expected that in the coming years it will be doubled. He also said that at present Assam produces 3.35 lakh MT of fish. In the meeting the C.M talked with a few fish farmers in order to bring to forefront their problems in the practical field. In the function, the Vice-Chancellor(i/c), AAU, Dr. Ashok Kumar Bhattacharyya delivered the welcome address. Dean of College of Fisheries, Dr. K.K Tamuli, Commissioner and Secretary to the Fishery Department Rakesh Kumar also delivered their valuable speeches. Besides these, Director of Fisheries, Dr. Nirmalkanti Deb, MLA of Raha Mr. Dimbeswar Das, MLA of Nagaon, Mr. Rupak Sharma, MLA of Tingkhang Mr. Bimal Bora, Director of Research (Vety.), Dr. Niranjana Kalita, Deputy Commissioners of Nagaon and Morigaon were also present on the occasion.



## SPECIAL FEATURES

### Webinar Series on “Towards Outcome-based Agri-Biotech Research and Education: A Roadmap”

Starting from Jun. 5, 2020, the DBT- North East Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology reached out to researchers, students and agri-preneurs with the support from Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India and Assam Agricultural University through a webinar series on the theme “Towards Outcome-based Agri-Biotech Research and Education: A Roadmap”. The ten webinars covered a wide range of topics from preparation for ARS exam, genome engineering to biosafety and Climate-Smart Agriculture. The series lasted till Sep. 15, 2020 inspite of interruptions due to



the ongoing pandemic situation. Scientists such as Dr T. J. Higgins, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia; Dr Adam Price, University of Aberdeen, UK; Dr. Andreas Voloudakis, AUA, Athens, Dr N. K. Singh, ICAR-NIPB, New Delhi; Dr Sunil Kumar Mukherjee, ICAR- IARI, New Delhi, Dr. Manoj Prasad, NIPGR, New Delhi and Dr Vibha Ahuja, Biotech Consortium India Limited etc., were among the speakers along with partners from the European Union under the AdaptNET project. The number of participants ranged from 100 to 500 in different webinars.

The recorded sessions of all ten webinars are available at the official YouTube channel of DBT-AAU Centre and also at the website <http://dbtaau.ac.in/Webinar/speakers.html>.

### Inauguration of e-learning laboratory under AdaptNET at DBT-NECAB

The North East Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology (DBT-NECAB) operating through AAU, Jorhat established an e-learning laboratory as part of

the AdaptNET-ERASMUS+ project, funded by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission on Sep. 18, 2020.

The e-lab was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) Dr. A. Bhattacharyya in the presence of the Joint Registrar, Dean, Faculty of Ag. Sc, AAU, faculty members, students, researchers and all AdaptNET associates who had joined online. The Indian Coordinator of AdaptNET, Dr. B. K. Sarmah, ICAR-National Professor (Norman Borlaug Chair) and Director DBT-NECAB welcomed the Chief Guest and dignitaries along with the Coordinator of AdaptNET Dr. Andreas Voloudakis from Agricultural University of



Athens, Greece, partners from Academy of Athens, Dr. Carlo Pozzi, partner from University of Milano, Italy, Dr. Roberto Papa from Polytechnic University of Marche; Indian partners: Dr. Rajeev Varshney, from ICRISAT, Dr. Katageri, from UASD and Dr. Deben C. Baruah, from Tezpur University.

Dr. Sarmah informed that AdaptNET is a partnership between higher education Institutions in India and Europe on "Strengthening education, research and innovation for climate smart crops in India".

Dr. Voloudakis, added that the trainings were only the beginning to shift the paradigm of agriculture towards a climate-smart perspective.

Dr. Bhattacharyya, lauded the collaboration and emphasised that the establishment of e-lab is well-timed in the current scenario of social distancing. He assured all support in joining the European and Indian government's efforts to mitigate climate change effects.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Academic/Administrative

The following provisions have been made as per the decision of the 232nd meeting of the Academic Council, held on June 15, 29 and 30, 2020 :

- There shall be no more provisional admission into the Ph.D. Programme in Assam Agricultural University henceforth. In the interest of the students, AAU shall allow enrolment of students in both the semesters for Ph.D. Programme.
- In consonance with the ICAR/UGC advisories, and in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic, the academic session for the year 2020-21 shall commence from 15th of September, 2020 for the continuing students.
- As accepted by the Governments, the quota for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) has been introduced in AAU w.e.f. 2020-21. There shall be 10 per cent reservation of seats for the students under EWS for admission into different Faculties.
- Criteria for claiming quota against Sports, DAC (Differently-abled children) and FF (Freedom Fighter) for admission into Undergraduate Degree Programme were revised as follows:

For sports quota, the candidate must represent the state in National School Games under SGFI/North East Games/All India Rural Sports/Women Sports Festival/National Inter School Tournament organized by SAI/NSNIS, Patiala under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India/National Games/Asian Games/Olympic Games. The merit will be considered in order of Medals, Gold/Silver/Bronze received in the above-mentioned games. A certificate to this effect issued by the Director of Sports, Government of Assam should always accompany the application form.

- For the quota against DAC, the same procedures, as adopted by the VCI shall be applicable.
- For applying against Freedom Fighter quota, one has to enclose a copy of the Certificate issued by the DC concerned certifying the Freedom Fighter and his/her relation with the candidate.
- The Library Security Money to be charged from the students has been revised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 w.e.f. 2020-21.
- The AAU has been picked up for DBT-Funding for introduction of M.V.Sc. in Animal Biotechnology under

the Faculty of Veterinary Science, and M.Sc. in Agricultural Biotechnology under the Faculty of Agriculture.

- Ph.D. programme has been introduced in the Department of Fisheries Resource Management under the College of Fisheries, Raha with an initial annual intake of 2 (two) seats.
- Foundation Day Lecture has been instituted in the College of Veterinary Science on 18th of August every year. The annual event will be graced by a renowned animal scientist of national or international repute and will be managed entirely by the office of the Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science.

The following provision has been made as per the decision of the 233rd meeting of the Academic Council, held on Sep. 04 and 10, 2020:

- A New Certificate Course entitled "Rural and Endogenous Tourism", has been introduced under AAU.

## Important meetings attended by the Vice-Chancellor

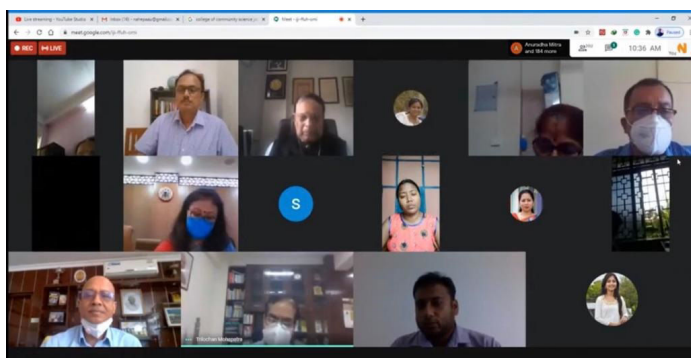
- Attended agricultural input distribution programme at the research station in presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister & Agricultural Minister at Kahikuchi on May 16, 2020
- Attended meeting with Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Assam at Administrative College, Khanapara on June 1, 2020
- Attended Orchid Park inaugural programme on July 16, 2020
- Visited the Directorate of Agriculture & Department of Agriculture, Dispur in connection with admission related issues of students at AAU & the release of salary of AAU employees on July. 30, 2020
- Attended discussion with APC regarding combined harvester on Aug. 3, 2020
- Attended meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam at College of Fisheries, Raha on Aug. 6, 2020 and Aug. 12, 2020
- Field visit at strawberry cultivations & rice field in Bokakhat on Sep. 21, 2020



## SPECIAL FEATURES

### National Webinar Series on “Immuno - Nutrition, Wellness Management & Livelihood Change”

AICRP (Home Science), Jorhat Centre and ICAR- CIWA, Bhubaneswar organised a three day National Webinar Series on “Immuno - Nutrition, Wellness Management & Livelihood Change” on Jul. 3-5, 2020 with the aim to generate awareness on positive management of physical,



mental, emotional and social wellbeing during the time of unprecedented COVID19 pandemic situation. Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) of Assam Agricultural University delivered the welcome address and thanked Dr. Trilochan Mahapatra, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for sparing his valuable time and other dignitaries including former Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of AAU Dr. K.M. Bujarbaruah ,DDG's, ADG's of ICAR, New Delhi, statutory officers of Assam Agricultural University, other invited guests and participants.

The key note address was delivered by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and Director General (ICAR), New Delhi. He highlighted that for the wellness of individuals, science based methodologies should be applied to stay fit and healthy.

All total of 3000 participants registered for the webinar including academicians, scientists, medical professionals, nutritionists, and dieticians. Public health workers and students. Participants from Tanzania and Benin (East and West Africa), Norway, Dubai, UK, and Phillipines, Germany, etc. participated in the webinar The webinar was streamlined live in face book and you tube.

### International Webinar on “Food Safety Policies and Regulations”

A NAHEP sponsored two-day International Webinar on “Food Safety Policies and Regulations” was organized by the Dept. of Food Science and Nutrition, College of Community Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, on Jul. 27-28, 2020. Dr. Ruplekha Borah, Dean, College of Community Science delivered the welcome address for the webinar. Several eminent scientists from India and abroad namely Dr. V. Sudershan Rao, Dr Subba Rao M Gavaravarapu, Dr. G. Bhanuprakash Reddy, Dr. Prathap Kumar Shetty, Dr. Meera Kaur, Dr. Deep Jyoti Bhuyan and Dr. Pranati Das delivered lectures on various topics related to the theme. Around 2700 participants mostly students, scientists, teaching faculties, dieticians, food industry persons and others from India, Germany, Australia, Philippines, UAE, Nepal, Nigeria, Egypt have attended the webinar.

### World Breastfeeding Week Celebration

The Dept. of Food Science and Nutrition celebrated the World Breast Feeding Week during Aug. 1-8, 2020. The theme for the Breast feeding Week was “Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet”. On this occasion, the department has organised a two-day webinar for the students on Aug. 6-7, 2020, where speakers namely Dr Arun Gupta, MD, Central Coordinator, Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India, and Regional Coordinator- International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) South Asia, delivered a talk on the topic “Protecting breastfeeding through Infant Milk Substitute Act” and on Aug. 7, 2020 Dr Rupal Dalal, Adjunct Professor, Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas (CTARA), IIT, Mumbai, spoke on “Breastfeeding Skills”. Over 120 students and faculties from the College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat and others have attended the webinar.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Farmers- Scientists Interaction at Livestock Research Station

A “Farmers- Scientists Interactions” programme in two groups of 30 farmers and entrepreneurs in each group was held at two different training halls of the LRS, AAU, Mandira simultaneously on Sep. 26, 2020. The programmes were organized by Directorate of Research (Vety.), AAU, Khanapara in association with Department of Poultry Science, CVSc, AAU, Khanapara.



The topics of the interactive programmes were “Scientific Intervention in Backyard Poultry Farming for Livelihood Security” and “Micro-manage mental strategy on Commercial Poultry Farming for better Profitability” wherein 30 poultry farmers and 33 entrepreneurs cum progressive farmers, respectively shared their views and experiences. The inaugural programmes were graced by Dr. B.N. Saikia, Dean, FVSc and Dr. N. Kalita, Director of Research (Vety.) with their valuable speech. Dr. B. K. Sarmah, Jt. Registrar and Dr. B. N. Bhattacharryya, DDR, AAU, Khanapara were also participated in the programme. The welcome address was given by Dr. J. Saharia, Chief Scientist, LRS, Mandira concentrating more on egg and chicken meat production in the state in a sustainable manner. Dr. M. Sarma, the organizing Secretary also emphasized for adoption of Scientific interventions in poultry farming for better production and profitability.

## Webinar on e-Education in Agricultural Sciences organized

Technology driven classroom learning has witnessed a recent upsurge and is rapidly evolving since the lockdown began. It is towards this end that a webinar entitled "e-Education in Agricultural Sciences in the age of Social Distancing:

Opportunities, Challenges and Strategies" is being jointly organized by the College of Agriculture, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat and National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), Assam Agricultural University, on Jun. 5, 2020 at the initiative of Dr. J. Deka, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture. The webinar provides a common platform for educators, students and policy-makers of the nation particularly in the field of agricultural sciences and higher education in general through the digital mode. A galaxy of speakers from the country addressed the webinar including Dr. P. S. Pandey, Assistant Director General (EP&HS), ICAR; Dr. Ashok Bhattacharryya, Vice-Chancellor(i/c), AAU; Dr. Jayanta Deka, Dean, FA, AAU; Dr. S. Marwaha, Head, Computer, Applications, IASRI; Dr. M. K. Modi, In-Charge, ARIS Cell, AAU; Dr. Ananta Saikia, Coordinator, NAHEP; Dr. C. Hazarika, Chief Librarian, AAU and Dr. R. P. Bhuyan, Director of Student Welfare, AAU. The webinar has drawn overwhelming response with 2500 participants.

## Young Woman Scientist Award to AAU Faculty

Dr Manashi Das Purkayastha, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture (Food Sc. & Technology Programme) has been conferred with the prestigious Young Woman Scientist Award by Agro Environmental Development Society (AEDS), Rampur, Uttar Pradesh for her outstanding contribution in the field of Food Science & Technology. The award was presented to her on the occasion of International Web-Conference on “New Trends in Agriculture, Environmental & Biological Sciences for Inclusive Development” held on Jun. 21-22, 2020. The conference was organized jointly by AEDS, National Agriculture Development Co-operative Ltd, Baramulla, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow in association with Department of Biologia Molecular Biotechnologia, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), Mexico and Plant Pathology Research Institute, ARC, Cairo University Giza, Egypt.





# SPECIAL FEATURES

## National Librarians' Day Celebrated

As all the libraries spanning across India celebrates the birth anniversary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, the Father of Library Science in India, as National Librarians' Day, the Rev. B.M.Pugh Library of AAU, Jorhat has also observed the Librarians' Day on Aug. 12, 2020 with the protocol of the present COVID 19 situation being strictly maintained. The portrait of Rev.B.M.Pugh was inaugurated by Dr.



Jayanta Deka, Dean, College of Agriculture, AAU, Jorhat. Prof. Pritom Mohan, the invited guest from AAU campus, Khanapara spoke on the role of library in the present academic enrichment. The meeting witnessed the valued speeches from Dr. Jayanta Deka, Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr. Ruplekha Bora, Dean, College of Community Science, Mr. Arpan Saikia, Registrar, AAU, Dr. Rana Pratap Bhuyan, Director of Student Welfare, Dr. Prasanna Kr. Pathak, Director of Extension Education in the gracious presence of the other statutory officers and teachers of AAU.

## “Ghare Ghare Anganwadi”

“Ghare Ghare Anganwadi”, a teaching module for parents of Anganwadi children was designed by the Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat in collaboration with the Jorhat District administration and the District Social Welfare Office. Since the Anganwadi centres under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this initiative was taken up to cater to the developmental needs of their children at home. The module consisted of a curriculum plan of 4 weeks in local (Assamese) language for the children of aged 3 to 6 years, which can be easily administered by parents at home. An assessment card was also designed to monitor the progress of children by Anganwadi workers. More than 30,000 number of children enrolled in different Anganwadi centers of Jorhat district, is benefitted by this module. The module was formerly launched on Jun. 2, 2020 at the office of Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat.



## Online Poster Competition organised

Dept. of FRMCS, College of Community Science organised Online Poster Competition among the students of Community Science to mark the occasion of World Environment Day on Jun. 5, 2020. The theme of the poster presentation was Corona Virus Pandemic is a boon to nature.

### ACHIEVEMENT

- \* Dr. B K Sarmah, Director, DBT-NECAB has been nominated as Honourable Governor's nominee to the Dibrugarh University Court, since April 2020; Expert Member for ICAR-National Institute for Plant Biotechnology, IRC, Gol to review the annual progress of individual scientists, 2020; External Reviewer for Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, to evaluate the performance of last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20) and suggest focus research area for the future, 2020 and Reviewer, BIRAC-BIG NE, KIIT.
- \* Ms. Surbhi Sahewalla, M. Sc. (Agri.) student, (Leader) & Mr. Rajesh Bal and Mr. Karan Chetry received one project entitled "Commercial exploration of caffeine from tea dust and pruning litters" from Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), Guwahati with a budget of Rs. 10000.00. (Mentor: Dr. A. M. Baruah, Professor, BAC, FA, AAU, Jorhat).
- \* Dr. Bibha C Borah, Principal Scientist & Incharge, FRC attended International E-Conference on "Impact of COVID-19 on Agriculture & allied activities" on Aug. 23, 2020.
- \* Dr. Bibha C Borah, Principal Scientist & Incharge, attended International webinar on "Small Scale Fisheries in Inland Open Waters, Status & Opportunity" on Sep. 9, 2020.
- \* Dr. Ava Rani Phukan, Professor, Dept. of Textiles and Apparel Designing, College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat was invited as a resource person for webinar on "Textiles in the post Pandemic Era" held on July 30, 2020 organized by Avinashlingam Institute for Home Science and Higher education for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- \* Dr. Sunita Boruah, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Textiles and Apparel Designing, College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat was invited to act as a resource person for the national level web based training (WBT) Programme on "Dyeing and Printing using natural dyes" organized by Hemoprova Borbora Girls' College, Golaghat on Jun. 29, 2020.
- \* Dr. Jinamoni Saikia, Principal Scientist, AICRP (CD-Component), acted as resource person in a webinar on "Child protection issues during COVID-19 and other disaster, related to Child Protection Acts and for holistic development. The webinar was jointly organized by the District Child Protection Unit, Jorhat in association with the District Legal Service Authority, Jorhat on Jul. 20, 2020.
- \* Ms. Rupjyoti Bhattacharjee, Assistant Prof., Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies acted as a Resource Person at staff training programme organized by District Child Protection Officer, Jorhat for the staff of Specialized Adoption Agency on Sep. 4 and 8, 2020.

# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Review meeting on African Swine fever outbreak in Dhemaji District

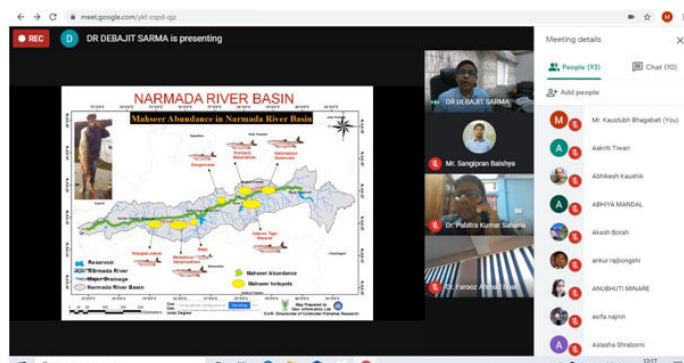
The outbreak of African swine fever (AFS) has claimed more than 18,000 pigs in Assam specially in Dhemaji District, affecting the livelihood of hundreds of people in the state. So, an urgent Review meeting on affect and measures undertaken for African Swine fever outbreak in Dhemaji District was held on May 19, 2020 at Conference Hall, office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhemaji District. The meeting was organized by District Veterinary Officer, Dhemaji under the directive of MLA of Dhemaji Constituency Dr. Ranoj Pegu. The daylong meeting was



convened focussing on overall key highlights, current status, measures undertaken, progress made, lessons learnt from the outbreak of African swine fever in the district. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Dhemaji District, Shri Pawar Narsing Sambhaji where Dr. Atul Borgohain, Associate Director of Extension Education, Khanapara, Guwahati was chief Guest along with MLA of Dhemaji Constituency Dr. Ranoj Pegu. Dr. U. R. Tamuli, Associate Dean, Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Lakhimpur and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhemaji District, Shri Utpal Bora also attended the meeting. Officials from Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Lakhimpur, District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Dept., Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dhemaji were present in that meeting. In their speech, Dr. Ranoj Pegu, MLA of Dhemaji Constituency and Shri Pawar Narsing Sambhaji, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Dhemaji District requested the officials of District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department to do their level best for prevention and control of African swine fever (AFS) as well as preparing master plan for alternate livelihood option of the affected farmers.

## National Webinar on Aquaculture Technologies

A National Webinar on “Entrepreneurship Development through Aquaculture Technologies for Food Security and Livelihood Promotion” was organized by Dept. of Aquaculture, College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha in collaboration with National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), AAU, Jorhat on Jul. 7-11, 2020. The webinar programme was inaugurated by Dr. K.K. Tamuli, Dean (i/c), College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha and Dr. Debajit Sarma, Director (Acting), ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal. The welcome address was offered by Dr. K. K. Tamuli, Dean (i/



c), College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha and Dr. Debajit Sarma presented the inaugural lecture on ‘Prospects of Ecotourism development in India, its opportunities and challenges’. The inaugural session was also attended by Dr. S. Borthakur, Professor & Nodal Officer, NAHEP, College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha and Dr. B. Kalita, Professor and Head, Dept. of Aquaculture of the College. Altogether, more than 500 participants including faculties, scientists, department officials, farmers, research scholars and students from across the country participated in the webinar. The resource persons for the technical sessions included viz. Dr. P.K. Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University, Tripura; Dr. Debajit Sarma, Director, ICAR.DCFR, Bhimtal; Dr. A. B. Patel, Professor and Head (Aquaculture), College of Fisheries, Central Agricultural University, Tripura; Dr. S. Borthakur and Dr. R. Dutta faculties from College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha and Mr. Bhargav Bhagawati, Fishery Entrepreneur, Pabhoi Fish Farm, Biswanath Chariali. The webinar was co-ordinated by Dr. P.K. Saharia; Mr. S. Baishya and Mr. K. Bhagawati. The participants were provided with e-certificates after completion of the webinar.



## Covid Awareness programmes undertaken by NSS volunteers in different districts

1. NSS volunteers from the eight constituent units of Assam Agricultural University were actively involved in various activities during the lockdown period. The activities were also shared by the volunteers through social media popularizing educating and motivating the public for making of face masks at home. Most of the volunteers registered their names in the iGOT Portal for MoYA training. Wherever there were no problem of network connectivity, NSS volunteers downloaded and used the Aarogya Setu app and trained the local people to download and use this app. NSS Programme Co-ordinator and Programme Officers downloaded Aarogya Setu App
2. Mr. Nibir Baruah, NSS volunteer of BN College of Agriculture, AAU organized an awareness programme on Covid 19, for the people of Kenduguri, Jorhat. The importance of sanitation and hand washing, as precautionary measure, was highlighted. A demonstration was conducted on scientific hand washing to prevent Covid 19. The participants learnt about the scientific process of hand washing.
3. Ms. Kurangana Chutia, Ms. Amisha Das and Ms. Bandana Sinha, NSS volunteers of BN College of Agriculture, AAU prepared posters on Awareness and prevention against corona virus and displayed these posters in public places of their respective localities viz., Biswanath Chariali, Guwahati and Silchar.
4. Mr. Priyam Kafle, Mr. Shyamalin Rajmedhi and Mr. Geethartha Bharali, NSS volunteers of B.N. College of Agriculture, AAU, Biswanath Chariali prepared leaflets in local language to create awareness about Covid-19 and distributed among the people of their respective localities in Thelamora (Sonitpur), Nalbari and Nagaon.
5. Mr. Saumyajyoti Suklabaidya, NSS volunteers of B.N. College of Agriculture, AAU, prepared face masks for family members and also distributed masks in his neighborhood in Jorhat

6. Mr. Kuldeep Saikia, NSS volunteer of BN College of Agriculture, AAU prepared an Assamese rap song and uploaded in Social Media.

7. Almost all NSS volunteers of BN College of Agriculture downloaded the Aarogya Setu App and also shared information on steps of downloading the app among their respective neighborhoods. NSS volunteers also shared the video for preparation of face mask among families and friends.

## Sanitization Drive

Programme Officers of the NSS units of AAU, Jorhat supervised a sanitization drive by members of 'Raksha', an NGO on May 22, 2020 at Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat Central Jail, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat campus and areas under Charaibahi Gaon Panchayat.



## Menstrual Hygiene Day:

The "Red Dot Challenge" is an initiative taken by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to talk about periods and menstrual hygiene and is now gaining attention, with people coming forward to raise awareness about menstruation. A campaign on "Red Dot Challenge" was observed in the Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, during May 20-28, 2020.



# STUDENTS' WELFARE

## World Environment Day

World Environment Day was observed by all NSS units of Assam Agricultural University on Jun. 5, 2020. A tree plantation programme was held at Charaibahi and Fesual Gram Panchayat by NSS Unit, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat in collaboration with the Extension Education Institute, (Govt. of India). Officials of Namoni Charaubahi Gram Panchayat and Society for Rural Agro-tourism & Conservation of Biodiversity, Fesual and NSS



Programme Officers, NSS volunteers planted saplings followed by a cleanliness drive around the campus. World Environment Day was successfully conducted by the NSS Units of SCSCA, Dhubri campus, BNCA, Biswanath Chariali Campus, CFSc, Roha Campus and LCVSc.

Lakhimpur campus. A tree plantation programme was held in the all campuses where teachers, employees and NSS volunteers of all colleges actively participated.

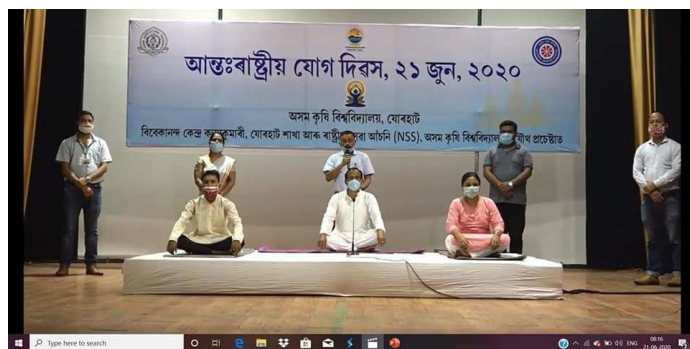


NSS volunteers participated in a one-day online workshop on Swachhta Action Plan organized in association with Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education.

## Earth Day

Earth Day was observed in all NSS units of Assam Agricultural University on Jul. 9, 2020. All units organized online art and photography contests among NSS volunteers.

## International Yoga Day



About 350 volunteers of the NSS Units of the constituent colleges of AAU, Jorhat campus participated in the Yoga camp in Virtual Mode on Jun. 21, 2020. Under the guidance of Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari, Jorhat a demonstration on Yoga was held for the benefit of the teachers and students of all constitute colleges.

## Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat:

The concept of a structured cultural connect between people of different regions was given by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held on Oct. 31, 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 Jul. 22, 2020. An EBSB online programme was organized jointly by NCC and NSS during Aug. 8-13, 2020. It was held online due to the prevailing pandemic situation. Ms Sumedha Agarwal, 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 showed by some volunteers. Certificates were awarded to the participants.



# STUDENTS' WELFARE

## Aatmanirbhar Bharat- Swatantra Bharat quiz:

As a part of Independence Day Celebrations 2020, a nationwide online quiz competition on "Aatmanirbhar Bharat - Swatantra Bharat" was conducted by the Ministry of Defence in coordination with MyGov in order to create a patriotic feeling among youths and masses, on Jul. 29, 2020. Ms Bidisha Kashyap, College of Sericulture and Moharnab Sandilliya, BNCA, NSS Volunteers participated in the Quiz Programme.

## Fit India Movement and Fit India Freedom Run

NSS Volunteers of the Colleges of Agriculture, Community Science, Horticulture and Sericulture celebrated the Fit India Freedom run Youth club camp and Run for India on Aug. 15, 2020. The Programme Co-ordinator, NSS Programme Officers and volunteers viewed the inaugural webcast programme of Rashtriya Swacchata Kendra (RSK) on Aug. 8, 2020.



The NSS unit of LCVSc collaborated with NGO (IGSSS) and distributed relief materials to flood affected village which is under the NSS Unit. Distribution of tarpaulin sheets among 30 (thirty) families of Bhogman Hilikhaguri area in Lakhimpur was done by the volunteers on Aug. 18, 2020.

## NSS Day

Foundation Day of National Service Scheme was observed by NSS volunteers at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat on Sep. 24, 2020. NSS Day was celebrated with active participation of NSS volunteers under the theme Swachhta Abhiyaan and Community Awareness Programme held at Barbheta, Jorhat. A cleanliness programme and tree plantation programme was

conducted in the Charaibahi Panchayat of Jorhat. In the evening, an Inter College Prize Money Science Web Quiz was organized by the Assam Soil Conservation Society of India, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) Cell, AAU which was also the Foundation Day of Soil Conservation Society of India. Ms Kareena Saikia, College of Horticulture bagged the first Prize, Mr. Biprajit Datta Choudhury, College of Agriculture bagged the second prize and Mr. Hassanul Bhutan, SCSCA, Dhubri, bagged the third Prize in the competition.

## 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.



## World No-Tobacco Day:

Over 100 NSS volunteers of Assam Agricultural University participated in the webinar organized by the Assam Cancer Care Foundation and State Tobacco Control Cell on May 31, 2020.

## Rashtriya Poshan Maah:

Two Programme Officers and 20 (twenty) NSS volunteers from 8 (eight) NSS units of Assam Agricultural University participated in the webinar on "Role of Youth in Tackling Malnutrition" on the occasion of Rashtriya Poshan Maah on Sep. 16, 2020.





## Notification of Toria variety Jeuti

The toria variety Jeuti has been notified for the state of Assam by the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties of Agricultural Crops in its 84th Meeting held on Jul. 10, 2020.

Jeuti is recommended for late sowing in rice fallows. The variety can be sown up to middle of December in medium land sandy loam soils. It can also be grown in



normal sowing time. The variety was developed by Dr. Purna Kanta Barua as the lead breeder in the Dept. of Plant Breeding & Genetics from the cross B9 x M27 following modified mass selection. The variety Jeuti can give seed yield 6-8 q/ha as late sown crop with duration of 85 days. As timely sown crop it can give seed yield up to 14-15 q/ha with duration of 90 days. It is moderately susceptible to alternaria blight, aphids and sawflies. Seed oil content is 42.8 per cent.

### ZREAC meeting for Rabi, 2020-21

The Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Committee Meetings for Rabi, 2020-21 were held in all the six Agro-climatic Zones of Assam as per schedule below:

Zone	Venue	Date
UBVZ	RARS , Titabar	18.09.2020
LBVZ	RARS, Gossaigaon	24.09.2020
Hill zone	RARS, Diphu	22.09.2020
CBVZ	RARS, Shillongani	18.09.2020
NBPZ	RARS, North Lakhimpur	16.09.2020
BVZ	RARS, Karimganj	23.09.2020

## Recognition of TS 38 as a variety

The popular Toria strain 'TS 38' developed by RARS, AAU, Shillongani has been accepted as "Variety" by Variety Identification Committee (VIC) meeting of AICRP on Rapeseeds and Mustard held on the Aug. 3, 2020 in online mode. TS 38 was recognized as a superior cultivar for Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa and the NE States.



## Occurrence of Stemphylium blight

New disease Stemphylium blight has been recorded in lentil crop since last rabi 2018-19 in Assam. The disease produces small pin head grey spots or light brown on leaflets caused by Stemphylium botryosum and cover whole surface of leaflet within 2-3 days, as disease progresses showing the symptoms on shoot or twig which showed special type symptoms like fishing hook. Under favourable environment of the pathogen, plant become blighted and defoliated leaving few green leaves and some immature fruits. The disease occurs only in flowering stage of crop.



## Indigo Caterpillar on Pulses as Emerging Pest

Indigo caterpillar, *Spodoptera exigua* Hubner (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) has caused major damage to kharif pulses, especially greengram and blackgram trials at RARS, AAU, Shillongani during 2020. Peak infestation was from mid September to mid October. The pest characteristically damages foliage during early morning and evening hours and remain hidden during daytime within the crop canopy.



## RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT POOL

Title of the Project	Principal Investigator	Funding Agency	Amount (Rs.)
Standardization of processing and production of consumable beverage from mulberry leaves and blending with green tea	Dr. G. K. Saikia	CSB, Bangalore	11.26 lakh
Analysis of Holocene climate and vegetation around Tsomgo Lake, Sikkim: Implications from a high-altitude region in Eastern Himalaya	Dr. Ruchika Bajpai Mohanty,	DST-WOS-A, GOI, Ministry of Science & Technology, New Delhi	29.30 lakh
Development of Superior haplotype based near isogenic lines (Haplo-NILs) for enhanced Genetic gain in rice	Dr. Sanjay Kumar Chetia	IRRI-DBT, MST, GoI	156.98 lakh
Mainstreaming rice landraces diversity in varietal development through genome wide association studies: A model for large - scale utilization of gene bank collection of rice	Dr. Sanjay Kumar Chetia	DBT	70.94 lakh





## Trainings for onion growing farmers

A meeting of onion growing farmers (50 nos.) was held at Bakalia, Karbi Anglong on Sep. 2, 2020 in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture, KAAC, Govt. of Assam, Karbi Anglong under a newly started project entitled "Strengthening the Onion Seed Chain in Assam through Standardization of Seed Production Technology Utilizing the Rain-shadow Belts of Karbi Anglong District of Assam" funded by Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC). Onion seeds of 12 varieties procured from ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru; ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and NHRDF, Nashik were distributed to 15 beneficiary farmers for seed production during the current *rabi* season.

## Poshan Abhiyan oranzed

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Darrang organized the Poshan Abhiyan (Nutrition Mission) at Youth Club Hall, Mangaldai on Sep. 17, 2020 to mark the birth day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mangaldai legislator Guru Jyoti Das, Deputy Commissioner Dilipkumar Borah, IAS and Senior Scientist and Head of KVK Dr. Abdul Hafiz took part in the function as guests.

Mangaldai legislator Guru Jyoti Das ceremonially inaugurated the programme at the Youth Club Hall in presence of Deputy Commissioner Dilip Kumar Borah, District Social Welfare Officer Madhuri Bora, journalist Bhargab Kumar Das and a number of Anganwadi workers, women activists and media persons.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur also organized a day long programme on Poshan Abhiyan on Sep. 17, 2020. With the theme "Eat Right- Bite by Bite" of National Nutrition Month the programme was organized to make the anganwadi workers and farm women aware about the importance of nutrition garden, Nutri-thali for balanced diet, Bio- fortified foods for nutrition and the package of practices of vegetables and horticultural crops. Arifa Momtaz Begum, Subject Matter Specialist (Community Science) welcomed all the participants and briefly said about the importance of organizing the programme. In his inaugural speech, Mr Prakash Bora,



District Agriculture Officer, Sonitpur emphasized on the production of fortified foods and vegetables in the homestead. Assistant Director of Agriculture Mr. Hareswar Das discussed about per capita daily consumption of foods for all age groups. Ms Morjina Begum, President, Napam Gaon Panchayat encouraged the participants for growing vegetables of their own. Vegetable seeds were distributed to all the participants provided by IFFCO. Supervisers, Anganwadi workers, anganwadi helper of Social Welfare department, Jeebika Sakhi and farm women were the participants of the programme.

## AAU team visited Baghjan

A team of three Scientists from Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat visited the Baghjan-5 (Oil & Natural Gas Well) Blowout area of Tinsukia district on Jun. 9, 2020 to witness the effect on the cultivated crops as per invitation received from the OIL, Duliagan. Accordingly, the team visited the homesteads within 300 m distance of the gushing well to have an idea about the damage to the agricultural crops and the vegetation. The impact of spewing gas and condensate was very much evident - pseudostems of banana plants were snapped at the middle, citrus plants were seen drying down from the top while the tea bushes in the entire area appeared to have severe burn out symptom. The leaves of areca nut, bamboo and other horticultural crops had a desiccated appearance. Soil and water bodies of the affected area were covered with deposits that have come out from the well. Samples of plant, soil and water were collected.





# EXTENSION

## Custom Hiring Centre inaugurated

Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) under APART, KVK, Darrang was inaugurated at Bihudia village of Darrang district on Sep. 10, 2020 by the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Amrit Bhuyan, Darrang to popularize farm mechanization with modern technology amongst marginal and small farmers at a minimal cost. The Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) is run by the local farmers group ANNADATA Agriculture Sewa Group, Bihudia with a total of 250 associated farmers and total land holding of the group is 3000 bighas. Habibur Rehman, a progressive farmer act as the chairperson of the group. The CHC consists of 1 no. of Mechanical transplanter, 12 nos. of Drum Seeder, 2 nos. of Seed cum



fertilizer drill (Tractor operated), 2 nos. of Zero till seed drill (Power tiller operated), 3 nos. of crop harvester cum power weeder, 6 nos. of Sprayer cum spreader, 1 no. of Reaper, 2 nos. of Open drum thresher, 1 no. of Indent Cylinder Separator, 1 no. of Dry grinding machine, 1 no. of Potato planter, 2 nos. of Octagonal and tubular Maize Sheller. A brief meet was held where Dr. Abdul Hafiz, head of KVK Darrang; Mr. Uddhab Chandra Deka, District Agriculture Officer (in-charge); Mr. Amar Sarma, District president, Bharatiya Janata Party, Dr. Kanwar Singh, Resident Coordinator (APART) and Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Project Coordinator (APART) were present.

## Advisory in Animal Husbandry and Fishery sector released

The Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Khanapara has

published three issues of Assamese digital information Advisory in Animal Husbandry and Fishery sector entitled “ Poshupalan Diha” for the benefit of farming communities of Assam. The first issue was released on the foundation day of College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara i.e., on Aug. 18, 2020 and circulated among famers through KVK, different website and social media. This digital inventory will also have contribution from State A.H. & Vety. Dept. Govt. of Assam, for field level problem of the farmers as well as experiences and success story of the progressive farmers. The 1st and 2nd issue covers Animal Husbandry and Veterinary sector and 3rd issue covers Fishery sector.

## KVK, Sonitpur received Best KVK award

KVK Sonitpur is awarded as BEST KVK out of 14 KVKs of CIP\_APART\_AAU district part of CIP supported activities



## 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*

under the Potato Value Chain Program of APART. e-certificate of appreciation was presented during the review workshop held on 24-25 September, 2020. Critical outcomes are main criterion of excellence in baseline survey, which are similar to SWOT analysis of potato value chain Assam.

**EDITORIAL BOARD : Chairman :** Dr. P. K. Pathak, Director of Extension Education; **Hony. Chief Editor :** Dr. S. K. Dutta

**Editor :** Dr. R. K. Saud, Assoc. Director of Extension Education (P&I)

**Members:** Dr. A. K. Das, Joint Registrar (Acad); Dr. B. K. Sarmah, Joint Registrar (Acad), Khanapara; Dr. B. K. Ray, FM, DoEE

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