



# AAU

## Newsletter

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

It was a happenstance for a doctor to meet his patient at Himatnagar Municipal Ground, Gujarat, in 2012 whom he healed in Assam way back in 2000. Twelve years is a considerable period, and understandably the doctor could not recognize his now healthy yet melancholic once upon a time patient. But memory did not fail Lakhimai, the patient, she could not resist herself; she embraced her saviour lovingly and gratefully. Overwhelmed, the doctor reciprocated and both were tightly entwined for a while.

Rare though but there is a possibility of this kind of incidence to happen. But here is a twist. The patient of this incidence was an elephant and the doctor was a human who treated and cured her way back in 2000 by removing an abscess from her back through surgery in Assam. Lakhimai, a she-elephant, was since sold by her original owner to a circus party performing at that time in Gujarat.

Another incidence of this doctor took place in Paneri Tea Estate of Udalguri district of Assam in January 2015. Throwing caution to the winds, the doctor went to administer drugs to an electrocuted wild elephant. All the time patting the elephants on its hindquarter and consoling it like a father to an ailing son. Better still; the doctor was in the JCB vehicle when the elephant was prompted to stand up, cajoling and encouraging the trembling elephant all the way to stand on its feet. The flitting eyes lock between the doctor and the grateful elephant was enough to barter the love and respect between the man and the animal. All this was happening while the herd of the wild elephants was hardly 100 meters away from its injured member.

Remarkably, the doctor has many fascinating stories of this kind to share. Are these stories of courage, love, passion, dedication or something more? These are the stories of a man on a mission.

The articles so far from the VC's Desk have been on policies, planning, strategies, roadmap etc on agriculture and allied subjects. However, for a change, I am deviating from the standard norm to honour and appreciate the person and the achievements of the 'Elephant Doctor'- Padmashri Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma by writing a little bit about him.

The love affair of Padmashri Sarma with this magnificent animal started long back when he met and started playing with 'Lakhmi', his grandmother's elephant, in his childhood. In no time, they became best of friends and boy who would eventually become the 'Elephant Doctor' found his life's purpose.

Interestingly, Dr. Sarma differed in his view about 'indigenous'-an oft-repeated word in debates and political

discourses. For him, 'indigenous' has nothing to do with people. 'Indigenous' means the forest, the trees, the animals, the plants, the fish, the elephants, the birds. This land belongs to them'. Agree or disagree, but there is no denying the fact that the passion of this person is genuinely organic.

With this kind of philosophy, it is hardly surprising that this man had clinically observed, treated and cured no less than 7000 elephants during the last ten years. Dr. Sarma also had important roles to play in the dangerous business of taming rogue bull elephants, both captive and wild during the last three decades. For the statistically minded, his score here is more than 200. The number of other lesser animals he treated is countless. Befittingly, when the call from the Home Ministry came with the information that he was to be conferred with the 'Padmashri' on the Republic Day of 2020, Dr. Sarma was midway through an operation on a pig.

Laurels rest easy on the shoulder of this unassuming veterinarian like an elephant does not find its trunk heavy. For his deeds, deservedly, Dr. Sarma is a much-decorated animal scientist. The list is impressive in its length and weightage. To cite but just a few- Gold Medal- Zoo and Wild Animal Surgery Session Award-2012, Award of Excellence- awarded by the Chief Minister, Forest Minister and Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, Certificate of Recognition- in recognition of 30 years of commitment to Asian Elephant Conservation, Health and Welfare by North Carolina State University (USA), Selected as one of the Top 20 Leading Conservationist of the planet, New York, USA, 2017, Lifetime achievement Award-2020- Kaziranga Wildlife Society.

When Dr. Sarma was asked in a public meeting, organized by North Carolina University in March 2015, how he managed to clinically observe about 700 elephants per annum despite being a full-time teacher. Dr. Sarma replied modestly 'I work on weekends and other holidays.' It was, understandably, beyond comprehension to the average Americans in the audience who would never trade their weekends for anything else. These and many other feats of Dr. Sarma inspired American author Janie Chodosh to spend time with Dr. Sarma and share his incredible story--and the lives of these magnificent

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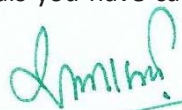
# VC'S DESK...

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*From VC's Desk...*

animals to write a book 'The Elephant Doctor of India' to be published by Chicago Review Press, Incorporated, USA. The slated day of release of this book is Mar. 2, 2021.

'You do not shoot elephants, you ride them-you might as well shoot your charger', King George V forbade his subjects from harming elephants. Dr. Sarma, does one better, 'He rides elephants occasionally, he shoots elephants but with a tranquilizing gun'. Dr. Sarma's achievements and accomplishments have been recognized and appreciated by Governments, Conservationists, and Animal lovers all over. The mute animals he treated cannot give him any letter of appreciation or trophies to show their gratefulness but many a time he felt their gratitude. What more a person can want! Take a bow Padmashri Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma! the appreciative audience includes us and the *Elephas maximus* and the other animals you have cared for.

  
(A. Bhattacharyya)

## Important meetings attended by the Vice-Chancellor

- Attended meeting on OIL sponsored Project at Tingrai on Oct. 3, 2019.
- Attended inaugural ceremony of "Poultry Expo-2019 with international Perspective" at Veterinary College Playground, Khanapara on Oct. 17, 2019.
- Attended closing ceremony of "Poultry Expo-2019 & DBT Review meeting on NER Banana Project on Oct. 19, 2019.
- Attended *Krishak Samaroh* programme organized by State Government at Khanapara on Oct. 29, 2019.
- Attended meeting of National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources at New Delhi on Nov. 1-2, 2019.
- Attended Farmers' Day programme at RARS Titabar on Nov. 7, 2019.
- Attended inaugural programme of "Poultry Show & Animal Show" at Khanapara on Nov. 8, 2019.
- Attended training programme at International Rice Research Institute, Philippines during Nov. 11-16, 2019.
- Attended inaugural programme of College week in C.V.Sc. Khanapara & opening ceremony of Indoor Stadium at C.V.Sc. Khanapara on Nov. 21, 2019.
- Attended inaugural programme of Turkey village in Sonapur on Nov. 21, 2019.
- Attended the BoM meeting at Khanapara on Nov. 22, 2019.
- Attended XXIV Regional Committee Meeting, Zone-III, ICAR at Khanapara on Nov. 23, 2019.
- Attended inaugural programme of College week at BNCA on Nov. 24, 2019.
- Attended inaugural programme of College week at SCS College of Agriculture, Dhubri on Dec. 2, 2019.
- Visited Majuli to monitor the activities under Honourable Chief Minister's Pulse Projects and RKVY activities on Dec. 6, 2019.
- Attended East Zone Vice-Chancellors' meet at Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi on Dec. 20, 2019.

- Attended Silver Jubilee programme of OASIS Academy in Guwahati on Dec. 22, 2019.
- Participated in the IBM meeting at Jayanagar, Guwahati on Dec. 24, 2019.
- Attended meeting with farmers and distributed materials to farmers under the Climate Resilient Project by Norwegian Government on Jan. 3, 2020.
- Attended Kisan Mela as Chief Guest, organized by CSS, ATMA on Jan. 6, 2020.
- Attended National Citrus meet 2020 organized by the Central Citrus Research Institute at BNCA on Jan. 10, 2020.
- Chaired the 7th International Conference in Delhi organized by Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi during Jan. 16-18, 2020.
- Attended the felicitation programme of Padma Shri Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma, Prof., C.V.Sc., Khanapara on Jan. 30, 2020.
- Attended the inaugural function of Certificate Course on Bamboo at Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Chenijan on Feb. 3, 2020.
- Attended SAC meeting at KVK, Golaghat on Feb. 5, 2020.
- Attended ZREAC meeting at RARS, Titabar on Feb. 6, 2020.
- Attended meeting at Guwahati with His Excellency the Governor of Assam on Feb. 12, 2020.
- Attended international convention at ICAR, New Delhi on Feb. 18-19, 2020.
- Attended Budget related meeting in Finance Department, Dispur on Mar. 3, 2020.
- Attended discussion on Geographical Indication tag of Gamocha in Guwahati on Mar. 20, 2020.

## ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma, Professor & Head, Dept. of Surgery & Radiology, C.V.Sc, AAU, Khanapara has been awarded with prestigious Padmashree Award of 2020 by Govt. of India on the eve of Republic Day for his outstanding contribution in the field of wildlife treatment



and conservation of Asian elephants. It is noteworthy that this is a great and rarest form of honour to the University as one of its serving faculty has bagged this award. He was bestowed with "Elephant Man of Asia" title by HE the Governor of Assam, Dr. Jagdish Mukhi in the year 2018. Dr. Sarma is a product of AAU who did his Bachelor's degree with the Gold Medal as topper, Master's and Doctorate degrees from Faculty of Veterinary Science, Khanapara and has been serving as a teacher since 1986 in his alma mater. Dr. Sarma has received over 30 awards and recognitions: notably, Fellow of Indian Society for Veterinary Surgery (FISVS, 2012), Fellow of Indian Society for Livestock Production and Management (FISAPM-2020), Lifetime Achievement Award from Kaziranga Wildlife Society 2020, etc. He has subdued a record 140 rogue elephants so far. Dr. Sarma has spearheaded the well-known IRV-2020 (Indian Rhino Vision-2020) programme for successful reintroduction of Great One Horned rhinoceros to the world famous Manas National Park.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam visited KVK, Kamrup

The mustard seed production programme with variety NRCHB 101 was visited by Sjt Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Assam; Sjt Bhabesh Kalita, Hon'ble Minister of Irrigation, Revenue & Disaster Management, GoA and Sjt. Bimal Bora, Hon'ble MLA, Tingkhang Legislative Assembly, GoA with Sjt. K. K. Baishya, Hon'ble DC, Kamrup(R) on Dec. 28, 2019 at Tulsibari under Rangia block of Kamrup district. Dr. D. N. Kalita, Principal Scientist and Head of KVK, Kamrup briefed the ongoing seed production programme to the Hon'ble CM and other dignitaries.

Hon'ble Chief Minister was highly impressed over successful implementation of the programme by KVK,



Kamrup and encouraged the participating farmers for success of the same. He also suggested the rural youths to take up successive crops after mustard for increasing the cropping intensity leading to higher income. Hon'ble CM also emphasised on introduction of honey bee colonies in the mustard field for higher productivity as well as higher honey production.

## Inauguration of Indoor Stadium

The new Indoor Stadium of Biswanath College of Agriculture was inaugurated by Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, PWD, Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam in presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) of AAU, Dr. A. Bhattacharyya; Mr. Pallab Lochan Das, Hon'ble MP, Tezpur; Mr. Promod Borthakur, Hon'ble MLA, Biswanath; Dr. R. N. Barman, Associate Dean, BNCA; Mr. D. J. Das, DC and Mr. Rakesh Roshan, SP of Biswanath along with other dignitaries on Nov. 24, 2019. All the teachers, scientists, employees and students of



Biswanath College of Agriculture were present in the occasion.

## Inauguration of Laboratory Animal House

A Tripartite Mega project on "Advanced Animal Disease Diagnosis and Management Consortium (ADMaC) initiated by Core Lab I, College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University was funded by the Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt of India. Under this project a state of the art diagnostic facility, BSL-3 facility and laboratory animal house facility were created. The laboratory animal house facility has been created in the guideline of Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) to generate health



colonies of rabbit, guineapigs, rat and mice. This newly created facility was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya in presence of Dean, FVSc Dr B N Saikia and Director of Research (Vety) Dr Niranjana Kalita on Jan. 30, 2020. Dr. Bhattacharyya in his speech expressed satisfaction that a long felt research facility has been created in the Assam Agricultural University. Such scientifically designed facility is very much necessary to carry out meaningful research by the Post graduate students, faculty members as well as by investigators of various research projects. This unique facility will not only cater the need of the scientific community of the entire north eastern region but also it will help in generating revenue for the University.

## Horticultural Show and Competition

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Horticultural Show and Competition was organized by the Dept. of Horticulture, AAU, Jorhat on Feb. 7, 2020. Farmers of different places like Jorhat, Bokakhat, Titabor, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Golaghat, Bahona participated in the various sections (fruits, vegetable, mushroom, cut flower, potted plant, flower arrangement, nursery, jam, jelly, marmalade, pickle, salad, juice etc.) of the competition. Eight



numbers of nurseries of Jorhat also participated in the competition. Exhibits were displayed in the stalls of Ferns and Petal, Syngenta and also by ELP students in the show. There was also a big food court by multiple food vendors.

The show and competition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c), Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya and Dr. Madhumita Choudhury Talukdar, Professor and Head, Dept. of Horticulture, highlighted the purpose and importance of the show to encourage and motivate farmers and gardeners to take new ventures in this sector. The best exhibit award of the show was bagged by Mr. Nabajyoti Bora, Bahona, Jorhat which was given in memory of Late Jyotis Chandra Sarma.

Dr. J. Deka, Dean Faculty of Agriculture and Dr. P. Pathak, Director of Extension Education, AAU gave away the prizes in the prize distribution ceremony.

## Focus Group Discussion in "Process skills and competency gaps in agricultural extension curriculum"

The Focus Group discussion programme on "Process skills and competency gaps in agricultural extension curriculum" was organized by the Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Khanapara on Nov. 15, 2019. The Focus Group Discussion was conducted by Prof. Murari Suvedhi of Michigan State University, USA, a Fulbright Senior

Fellow working on research topic "Strengthening Agricultural Extension Training in South East Asia" (India,



Sri Lanka & Nepal). The core objective of this work is to identify "Process Skills and Competency gaps in Agricultural Extension Curriculum".

The programme was coordinated by Prof. PVK Sasidhar, Director, School of Extension and Developmental Studies, IGNOU, New Delhi as Academic Coordinator for the entire programme in India wherein three SAU and three National Institutes in India are covered for the study.

The programme was started with a warm welcome of the dignitaries and other participants by Dr. Atul Borgohain, ADEE, AAU, Khanapara. Dr. B. Saikia, Dean, CVSc., AAU, Khanapara in his speech gave a brief speech on the importance of the topic. Prof. P.V.K. Sasidhar elaborated the major gap that makes a barrier for the development of agricultural extension programmes. Dr. N. Kalita, Director of Research (Vety) gave a brief speech on the roles of KVKs in agricultural extension development. Prof. Murari Suvedi in his technical session conducted an interactive programme with the participants and a questionnaire session where all the participants actively participated and shared their views for better improvement of the extension curriculum.

A total of 32 participants attended the discussion. Officials from Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, State Veterinary department, Asstt. Professors of different department of Veterinary college, Research Associate from EEI, Jorhat and PG/PhD. students actively participated in the programme.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Technology & Machinery Demonstration Mela, 2020

The "Technology & Machinery Demonstration Mela" was organized the Dept. of Agril. Engineering, AAU, Jorhat on February, 28, 2020. Farmers numbering about 340 from the districts of Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat attended the programme. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (i/c), AAU. The session started with welcome address by Dr. A. Borah,



Research Engineer and P.I., AICRP on PHET. Er. B.C. Sarma, Head, Dept. of Agril. Engg., AAU, Jorhat felicitated the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) and Dr. J. Deka, Dean College of Agriculture. Five bulletins written back to back in English and Assamese were released on the occasion.



Inaugurating the event, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (i/c), Assam Agricultural University, Dr. A. Bhattacharyya emphasized on value addition to farm produce for achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022. He stressed on the creation of a situation where people can embrace agriculture as a prestigious profession. Dr. Bhattacharyya highlighted that the age group of people engaged in agriculture must be brought down to below 40 as only 7-9% people currently engaged were of that age group. The Vice-Chancellor reminded agricultural engineering personnel of their responsibility in the upliftment of agriculture as a whole and urged them to work on that direction in single-minded devotion. The Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. J. Deka in his address reiterated the duties of agricultural engineering in agriculture. He highlighted the innovations of agricultural engineering had played a major role in minimizing the manual labour of farm workers. He called upon for large-scale use of agricultural machinery and implements for

maximizing agricultural production. A number of Farm Machinery and Post Harvest Equipments were demonstrated in the Mela.

In a Farmer-Scientist interaction session, Dr. A. Borah, P.I (PHET), Scientists Dr. P. Patgiri and Er. M. J. Barooah, P.I. (FIM) interacted with the farmers and several media personals regarding problems and prospects of various post harvest technological and farm mechanization issues.

## Winter School on Livestock Microbiology

A Winter School on "Advances in Diagnosis and Control of Endemic and Emerging Infectious Diseases of Livestock and Poultry in North Eastern Region (NER) of India" was organized during Dec. 3-23, 2019 at the Dept. of Microbiology, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara. The inaugural programme was attended by Dr. Ashok Bhattacharya, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (i/c), AAU; Dr. B.N. Saikia, Dean, C.V.Sc.; Dr. N. Kalita, Director of Research (Vety), all Heads of the various departments and other statutory officers of College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara. The Vice Chancellor (i/c) in his inaugural address stated that the topic is very much relevant and need of the hour is to protect the livestock sectors of the



country from large number of endemic and emerging infectious diseases. A compendium of the winter school was also released by the Vice-Chancellor (i/c) in the inaugural programme. Twenty four participants in the rank of Assistant Professor and above from different parts of the Country have participated in the winter school. At the beginning Dr. Dilip Kumar Sarma, Course Director and Prof.& Head, Department of Microbiology, welcomed the participants and expressed his deep sense of gratitude to the ICAR, New Delhi for sponsoring the winter school for the first time at the College of Veterinary Science.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Scientific Advisory Committee cum Steering Committee Meeting of DBT-NECAB

The second Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting cum Steering Committee meeting (SC) of DBT-North East Centre of Agricultural Biotechnology (DBT-NECAB) was held during Jan. 23-24, 2020 at DBT-AAU Centre, Jorhat. The SAC meeting was chaired by Dr. T. J. V. Higgins of CSIRO, Canberra and the SC meeting was chaired by Dr. A Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor (i/c). Dr. M Aslam, Adviser, DBT, Gol; Dr. T Madhan Mohan, Senior Consultant Adviser, DBT-NERBPMC; Dr. N K Singh, ICAR-National Professor and Director NIPB; Dr. Arvind Kumar, Director, IRRI South Asia Centre; Dr. M. V. Deshpande, Scientist, Director, Greenvention Pvt Ltd., Pune were present in the meeting as members from outside AAU.



The meeting started with a welcome address from the Chairman followed by presentations from the respective PIs on the progress of various programmes under the Centre. All presentations were discussed intensively and expert members put forward suggestions for achieving the targeted goals within the stipulated time of the programmes. Later, the Director, Dr. B. K. Sarmah summarized the progress made by the Centre in R&D and other infrastructure development after completing its first year.

Dr. Higgins congratulated the PIs and Director for completing the first year of the Centre and noted the progress in each programme which was reflected in the presentations. He also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the expert members and DBT officials for their valuable contributions to the meeting.

## National Conference on Women Empowerment

A National Conference on Women Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship and Skill Development sponsored by National Commission for Women, New Delhi was organized at SCS College of Agriculture, AAU,

Dhubri on Mar. 7, 2020. Altogether 182 participants comprising of teachers, scientists, research scholars, women activists, women entrepreneurs and



students from Assam and the neighbouring states attended the conference. Welcoming the participants, Dr. R.Sarma, Associate Dean specifically pointed out the needs for skill development of women in agriculture and allied sectors. Inaugurating the conference, Dr. Jogesh Deuri, Director of Sericulture, BTAD, Kokrajhar pointed out that the economic empowerment of women is a prerequisite for sustainable development. A goodwill message from Dr. A.K. Bhattacharyya, Vice Chancellor (i/c) of AAU was also read out in the inaugural session. An exhibition on handloom products was also arranged on the occasion to showcase sustainable sericultural technology for economic empowerment of women.

## Dr. G. R. Das Memorial talk delivered

Dr. Madan Kumar Bhattacharyya, Professor, Iowa State University, US delivered the first Dr. G. R. Das Memorial Lecture on 'Plant Breeding to Meet the Needs of the 21st Century' at AAU, Jorhat on Feb. 29, 2020.



The lecture was organised by the Dept. of Plant Breeding and Genetics and RARS, Titabor in memory of Dr. G. R. Das, a former pioneer scientist in plant breeding, especially rice at AAU, who passed away last year.

Dr. T. Ahmed, Chief Scientist, RARS, Titabar and chairman of the organizing committee of the lecture, in the welcome address said that late Dr. Das had laid the foundation of the Titabar Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS) in 1969 and had retired as Chief Scientist from the RARS, Karimganj.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (i/c) Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, also addressed the gathering and expressed hope that this memorial lecture would be an annual event.

Dr. Bishakha Das, daughter of Dr. G. R. Das, gave an insight into her father's life and recalled that her father, besides being a scientist was also a flutist and liked to sing songs.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop held

A Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop for KVK SMSs was successfully held by ASCI in AAU, Jorhat during Nov. 28-30, 2019. As per the mandate by MSDE, the program was jointly organised by ATARI Guwahati Zone VI, AAU Jorhat and ASCI. Altogether 40 Subject Matter Specialists from 23 KVKs across Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim participated in this program, which covered 18 different job roles.



Participants were facilitated in upgrading their knowledge with the processes involved in registration, center accreditation/affiliation and certification. They were also provided training in Domain and Platform Skills which will enhance the impact of the skill development programs to help the farmers to increase their livelihood.

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Prasanna Kumar Pathak, Director, Extension Education, AAU Jorhat. Other dignitaries present were ASCI Regional Head, Mr. Nirod Chakravarty, and ATARI Zone VI Principal Scientist, Dr. R. Bardoloi. The concluding session was chaired by the Director, ATARI Zone VI, Dr. A. K. Tripathi.

## Awareness Programme on Duck Production

A farmers' sensitization and awareness programme on "A Training on Duck Production with Special Reference to Counteract Food Borne Mycotoxins" was conducted during Feb. 5-6, 2020 at Jhargaon Gaon Panchayat, Morigaon. A total of 45 numbers of duck rearing farmers took part in the training. The training comprised lectures, awareness illustration by experts at Jhargaon Gaon Panchayat and practical demonstration in the farm and lab of Dept. of Veterinary Physiology. Dr. J. D. Mahanta, Professor, Deptt. of Poultry Science & Co-P.I., discussed elaborately about different breeds of ducks, their rearing, management, treatment and socio-economic importance



in Assam. Dr. D. J. Dutta, Professor, Dept. of Veterinary Physiology described the role of minerals and various deficiency diseases affecting duck productivity. Emphasis was given on vaccination against duck plague & cholera as treatment of those is found to be futile in many instances. Dr. N. C. Nath, Assistant Professor & Principal Investigator, described the impact of food borne mycotoxins and their prevention in duck farming.

## Faculty Orientation Programme under Dean, FA

A Faculty Orientation Programme was organised by the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture on Jan. 24-25, 2020 for newly recruited Assistant Professors under the faculty. The main objective of the workshop was to guide them for adaptation in the new career in AAU with a completely new set of functions and roles as faculty member. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, Vice Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Jorhat. Sri Arpan Saikia, the Registrar, AAU and Dr. T. J. V. Higgins, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia also graced the occasion. Wide range of topics were shortlisted for deliberation by an array of senior, retired teachers and statutory officers of AAU in the two-day programme. The expert resource persons included Dr. G. N. Hazarika, Retd. Director of Research (Agri), AAU; Dr. P. Talukdar, Retd. Professor; Dr. R. K. Bhattacharya,



Retd. Professor; Dr. P. K. Neog, Director, Extension Education Institute; Dr. R. P. Bhuyan, Director of Students' Welfare, AAU, Jorhat and Dr. R. N. Sarma, Professor and In-charge Education Technology Cell, FA.

## World AIDS Day, 2019 Celebrated

An awareness programme on HIV-AIDS was organized on the occasion of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, 2019 at SCS College of Agriculture, AAU, Dhubri by the NSS Unit of the College. The workshop organised on this occasion was attended by the students and faculty members of the College. Dr. Ranjit Sarma, Associate Dean delivered the welcome address and highlighted the importance of celebrating the Day. Mr. Golap Nath, Counselor, IICTC, CHC, Bongaigaon attended the Workshop as an appointed speaker.

# SPECIAL FEATURES

## G. I. tag for “Chokuwa rice of Assam” and “Kaji nemu”

The Geographical Indication (GI) Registry, Chennai has awarded the GI tag to “Chokuwa rice of Assam” and “Kaji nemu” under The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam, facilitated the GI registration process of these two products. The application for “Chokuwa rice of Assam” was filed by Seuj Satirtha, an NGO of Sivsagar district and CRS- Na dihing Nemitenga Unnayan Samity, Tinsukia, was the applicant for “Kaji nemu”.



GI tag is granted to products with unique characters which are attributable to their place of origin. “Chokuwa rice of Assam” is a specialty rice of Assam and “Kaji nemu” is known for its unique aroma and seedless characteristics.

GI is not only an important tool for protecting the IP rights associated with agricultural products but it ensures benefits to the local growers’ community too. There exists sufficient scope for the farmers of this region to fetch premium price for these two products in the national and international markets in the days to come.

## 35th Jorhat Teachers Meet

The 35th Jorhat Teachers Meet was organized jointly by the College of Agriculture and College of Community Science for the 5th time at AAU Jorhat campus during Feb. 1-2, 2020. This unique Meet is held every year wherein teachers from schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions located within a 10 km radius of Jorhat congregate for taking part in various sports & games and fine arts & cultural events. The colourful Opening Ceremony of this 2-Day Meet was inaugurated by Dr. Arun Kumar Pathak, Retd. Director of Research and Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Jorhat Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya as the Guest of Honour. The ceremony was graced by retired and in-service teachers from the 45 participating institutes, students, employees, and other spectators in the AAU Stadium. The Gold



medal in the inaugural event of March Past competition was bagged by the College of Community Science Team. Both the host teams were conspicuous by their strong presence in events of Volleyball, TT, Badminton, Carrom, Athletics, Group songs, Debating, Quiz, and other fine arts sections. The Meet terminated with Cultural Programme performed exclusively by the teachers in the Dr. M. C. Das Memorial Auditorium.

## Zonal Farmers’ Meet-2019 organized

“Zonal Farmers' Meet” was organized by RARS, North Lakhimpur in association with all KVKs of NBPZ Assam, B.N. College of Agriculture, Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Dept. of Agriculture, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji at RARS, North Lakhimpur on Dec. 7, 2019. More than 800 farmers participated in the Meet. Six progressive farmers were felicitated. The meet was inaugurated by progressive woman farmer, Mrs. Kamini



Miri of Nawboicha, Lakhimpur. Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Jorhat graced the Meet as the Chief Guest and in his inaugural speech, stressed on the farm mechanization and marketing intelligence among others to improve the agricultural scenario in the state. The meeting was also graced by Dr. Ranuj Pegu, MLA, Dhemaji and Sri Utpal Dutta, MLA, Lakhimpur. Exhibition stalls arranged on the occasion displayed various technologies and a 'Farmer-Scientist interaction programme' was also conducted in the Zonal Meet.





# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Activities under NAHEP

- \* Faculty Upgradation: 10 Faculty members have undergone training for a period of 15-90 days in various institutes abroad on frontier areas of Agriculture. Two were held at University of Ghent, Belgium and Murdoch University, Australia.
- \* Mr. Dipanjan Kashyap, who underwent training under Faculty Upgradation Programme of NAHEP in Rutgers University, USA was adjudged best researcher and best oral paper presenter in International Conference on Agriculture, Biological and Environmental Sciences in Athens, Greece on Jan. 15-17, 2020. He was also awarded with the Young Researcher Award, 2019-20 in the same conference.
- \* Three Soft Skills workshop for students were held in AAU under NAHEP
- \* Two AAU - Industry Interfaces were held, one each in College of Agriculture, AAU, Jorhat on 19th March, 2019 and College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara on 14th November, 2019.
- \* A workshop on Cinema Verite was held in AAU, Jorhat during Nov. 20-30, 2019.



- \* Dr. M.K. Bhattacharyya, Professor, Iowa State University delivered lectures to UG students of College of Agriculture, BNCA, and SCSCA, AAU in the month of February, 2020.
- \* A workshop on use of Artificial Intelligence in Crop Disease Management was also held in AAU during Jan. 22-31, 2020.

## Agriculture Information Centre under RAWEP inaugurated

An Agriculture Information Centre under 'Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme '(RAWEP) was inaugurated by Dr. Jayanta Deka, Dean, FA on Feb. 22, 2020 at Pub- Laluk Lower Primary School, Lakhimpur. He emphasized the importance of the RAWEP programme and experience gained by the students through their



village attachment. On this occasion, Dr. R. P. Bhuyan, DSW, AAU; Dr. Aparajita Borah, Academic Cell, In-Charge, FA. and Dr. Kaushik Das, Convenor, RAWEP were also present. Similarly, two other RAWEP Information Centres have also been opened at Napam, Sonitpur and Nalbari under the guidance of KVKs of the districts on Feb. 5 and 17 , 2020 respectively. In all RAWEP Information centres, the students presented different innovative models, charts related to modern agriculture. A good number of farmers along with scientists of respective KVKs and Zonal Research Stations as well as officials of district administration and agriculture department were present at the occasions.

## Awareness programme on "Development of Soft Skills for Entrepreneurship among Agri-graduates

An awareness programme on "Development of Soft Skills for Entrepreneurship among Agri-graduates" was organised on Feb. 14, 2020 under the sponsorship of NAHEP, NAARM. Altogether 101 numbers of students were registered for the programme and all belonged to Colleges of Agriculture and Community Science of AAU Jorhat. The inaugural session was chaired by Dean, FA, AAU and the Registrar, AAU Jorhat inaugurated the programme. The topic on

"Communication Skills for Career Development and Communication Skills for Career Development (Group activity)" was handled by Mr Arup Bhattacharyya, Centre Director of ICA EDU SKILLS PVT. LTD, Jorhat Mega



Centre, Jorhat. Mr Siddharth Baruah, Soft Skill Faculty of the same institute deliberated on "Team Work and Team building and Exercises on Team work & Team building". Dr. D. Tamuli, Assistant Professor and Director, NEATEHUB, AAU, Jorhat dealt on "Innovations & Start-ups: A Precursor to Entrepreneurship". The topic on "Government Initiatives & Support for Entrepreneurship among Agri-graduates" was covered by Mr. Amitava Mukherjee, Marketing Officer, NEATEHUB, AAU, Jorhat.

# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Annual Review Meeting on AICRP on Weed Management held

The 26th Annual Review Meeting of All India Coordinated Research project on Weed management was held at AAU, Jorhat on Oct. 15-16, 2019. Altogether 17 AICRPWM Centres of the country participated in the Meeting. Dr. P.K Singh, Director, Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur, Dr. Sobha Shondhia, Principal Scientist & i/c AICRPWM and Dr. I.C. Barua, Principal



Scientist & PI, AICRPWM, AAU Jorhat Centre actively led the two days meetings; where, Dr. S.S. Kolhe, Professor & Ex-Director, IGKV, Raipur; Dr. V.P. Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IISR, Lucknow; Dr. J. Deka, Dean, FA, AAU, Jorhat and Dr. M. Saikia, i/c Director of Research (Agri.) were the Chief Guests throughout the sessions. A Farmer-Scientist interactive session was also organized during the ARM where 37 numbers of farmers from Jorhat district interacted with the scientists from different corners of the country. In this session, a bulletin entitled "Weed Control Recommendations for Crop production in Assam" (both in English & Assamese) was distributed to the farmer by the Director, DWR. Dr. I.C. Barua, Principal Scientist & P.I, AICRPWM, AAU-Jorhat Centre had been awarded with the "Recognition Award" for his contribution in the field of "Weed Taxonomy and identification and maintenance of taxonomic records of weed conducted under AICRP on Weed Management" by Dr. P. K. Singh, Director, DWR and Dr. A. K. Pathak, Ex-Director of Research (Agri.), AAU, Jorhat (Chief Guest) in the valedictory session of ARM.

## Soybean Popularization training and cultivation demonstration in Assam

Trainings on "Popularization of Soybean for Food, Nutritional and Livelihood Security of Tribal Farmers in Assam" under the ICAR- Indian Institute of Soybean Research sponsored Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) project is an initiative by AICRP on Soybean, Jorhat centre in the Dept. of Plant Breeding and Genetics, AAU, Jorhat.



A total of 346 Tribal farmers participated in the TSP soybean trainings conducted in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Udalguri districts of Assam during the month of January 2020. Trainings were provided on the topic : cultivation practices of soybean in Assam, Market potentiality of Soybean in Assam, Insect pest and diseases of soybean along with their management practices and Soybean meal as nutritive bundles for farm animals. With the aim to popularize soybean cultivation among tribal farmers of Assam, training manuals and bulletins were published for the benefit of the farmers. Cultivation of soybean has been initiated by some highly motivated farmers under initiative of AICRP on Soybean Jorhat centre in Dhemaji, Udalguri, Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh districts of Assam.

## Inauguration of the Academic Club for the Dept of Biotechnology

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor(i/c), AAU, Jorhat Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya inaugurated the Academic Club for the Dept. of Biotechnology, an initiative taken by the researchers and students of the Dept. of Biotechnology and DBT-NECAB with a purpose to train the students and researchers to crack various competitive examinations conducted in the field of agriculture, on Feb. 7, 2020. Dr. Bhattacharyya appreciated the effort taken by Dr. B. K. Sarmah, Director DBT-NECAB to motivate students towards such a club and also suggested to incorporate students and researchers from other related departments. The inauguration was followed by a talk from invited speaker, Professor Akshay Talukdar of IARI, New Delhi on the topic "How to Crack ARS- A Discussion."



## SPECIAL FEATURES

### ACHIEVEMENT

- \* Mrs. Smita Bhuyan, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Textiles and Apparel Designing, Faculty of Community Science attended Training Programme on Advances in product diversification and waste utilization of natural fibres at National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering & Technology, Kolkata during Dec. 3-23, 2019.
- \* Dr. B K Sarmah, Director, DBT-NECAB has been nominated as Expert member for DBT Special Scientific and Technical Appraisal and Advisory Group (STAG) to review proposal approved by SBT for Mission programme on "Characterisation of Genetic Resources" on Dec. 10, 2019.
- \* Mrs Moonty Baruah Asst. Prof., Dept. of FRMCS presented a paper in 17th International Conference held in NIT Jalandhar during Nov. 8-10, 2019.
- \* Miss Prarthana Priyom Hazarika, Ph.D Research Scholar, Dept. of Soil Science was awarded the best paper in poster section at National Symposium on Innovations in Geospatial Technology for Sustainable Development with special emphasis on NER held at North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC), Umiam (Meghalaya) during Nov. 20-22, 2019. She is currently pursuing PhD research works under the guidance of Dr. B. K. Medhi, Professor, Dept. of Soil Science, AAU, Jorhat.
- \* Dr. Priyanka Das, Principal Scientist, Dept. of Biochemistry & Agricultural Chemistry, AAU, Jorhat is a member of the Steering Committee on Biotechnology Based Programme for Societal Development. She attended a steering committee meeting in this connection during Nov. 14-15, 2019 at New Delhi.
- \* Dr. Ananta Madhab Baruah, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry & Agricultural Chemistry, AAU, Jorhat completed training on Proteomics at Carleton Functional Proteomics Facility Institute of Biochemistry and Dept. of Biology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada from Sep. 15 to Oct. 15, 2019 under NAHEP.
- \* Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Kalita, Professor, Dept. of Veterinary Biochemistry, CVSc, AAU, Khanapara completed a training in the Month of February, 2020 at The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA as Visiting Research Scholar.

- \* Dr. P. Borah, Professor & Head, Dept. of Animal Biotechnology, CVSc, AAU, Khanapara was appointed as a (i) member of the Expert Committee on "Genomics and Transgenics in Plants, Animals and Fisheries" for the NASF constituted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for the year 2019-20; (ii) member of the Executive Committee constituted by DBT, Govt. of India to review the DBT Network programme on bovine tuberculosis control: Mycobacterial diseases in animals network (MyDAN) programme and (iii) Member of the Research Council of Gauhati University since October, 2019. Dr. Bora visited Chittagong, Bangladesh to act as the Key Note Speaker for a International Conference during Oct. 19-20, 2019 and delivered the 4th Prof. Pratul Chandra Goswami Memorial Talk in the Dept. of Biochemistry, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital on Feb. 15, 2020.

### Academic/Administrative

**Consistent rise of Admission seekers:** The Admission Report 2019-20, indicated a whopping rise in the nos. of applications received for admission into different degree programmes of the Assam Agricultural University, registering a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 23.55% per annum during last 12 years.

The following provisions have been made as per the decision of the 231st meeting of the Academic Council, held on Dec. 27, 2019 at the Board Room, AAU, Jorhat.

- \* Introduction of new Certificate/Diploma Course on Rural and Village Agri-tourism under AAU.
- \* Introduction of one-year Diploma Course on "Tea Production, Processing and Smart Management".
- \* Introduction of an e-Course on "Climate Resilient Agriculture". It will be an Optional Credit Course (2+1) for the PG students.
- \* Introduction of M.Sc. (Agri) programmes in Entomology and Plant Pathology at BNCA, Biswanath Chariali. The new programmes shall commence from the next academic session with an intake of 4(four) seats each.
- \* Provision of giving concession to the wards of Kashmiri Pandit/ Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-migrants) living in Kashmir Valley for admission into various degree programmes of the AAU.



# STUDENTS' WELFARE

## Golden Performance by AAU Team

The XXth All India Inter Agricultural University Sports & Games Meet was held in the temple town of Tirupati from Mar. 1-5, 2020 in the Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University campus. A total of 65 Universities from Agriculture, Veterinary, Animal Science, Fishery Science and other allied disciplines from all across India came together for the annual sporting extravaganza. The AAU, Jorhat Team comprising of 33 students selected from the constituent Colleges along with Dr S. Gogoi & Dr Apurba Das as Contingent in-charges participated in four disciplines. Athletes attained 5th position in Men's High Jump and entered into 100 m Quarter Finals, Semi-Final stage in 4 x

100 m Relay but the volleyball team bowed out at the Round-II stage. In the Women's 200 m event, lone AAU athlete reached up to the Quarter-Finals. The performance of AAU



Team in Badminton was outstanding and it clinched the medals in this highly competitive Team event. In the Women's section, AAU defeated PAU, Ludhiana in Quarter-Final but went down to the eventual Champion TNAU

in Semi Final. However, the team easily tamed BAU, Ranchi for the Bronze medal. On the way to the Final, our Men's team smoothly overpowered ANGRAU, Hyderabad in Semi-Final and defeated CCSHAU, Hisar in straight sets to clinch the maiden Team Gold medal for the University. The brilliant individual performance by Mr Anshuman Raj Saikia in Badminton and Ms Ajupi Phukan in Table Tennis could win the hearts of spectators, players and the team coaches alike.

## Annual College Meet of BNCA

The XXX Annual College Meet of BNCA was organized during Nov., 23-26, 2019 in a befitting manner. Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) of Assam Agricultural University graced the occasion as Chief Guest on Nov. 24, 2019 and inaugurated the drama competition in the auditorium. Mr. Alongber Basumotary, the best



athlete (Boy) and Miss Parinita Borah, the best athlete (Girl) lighted the Olympic flame.

## Annual College Meet, 2019 of SCS College of Agriculture, Dhubri

The Annual College Meet, 2019 of SCS College of Agriculture, AAU, Dhubri was celebrated during Dec. 2-4, 2019. The Meet was inaugurated by Dr. A.K. Bhattacharyya, Vice Chancellor (i/c), AAU. In his inaugural address Dr. Bhattacharyya emphasized on healthy academic environment in the college campus and urged upon the students to devote in their studies with a competitive mind. He pointed out that games and sports are integral part of students life and advised the students to participate in all events of the Meet with the spirit of sportsmanship. He also stressed on absolute cleanliness in the campus



and alerted against the hazards of single use plastic in his speech. Dr. Bhattacharyya appreciated generous support of all concerned for overall growth of this college. Attending the inaugural function as the Guest of Honour Dr. J. Deka, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture expressed satisfaction over the academic performance of this youngest constituent college of AAU. He appreciated the teachers, students and employees of the college for maintaining a healthy academic atmosphere.



# STUDENTS' WELFARE

## Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was celebrated by the NSS units of the University, to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 144th Birth Anniversary, on Oct. 31, 2019. Speaking to NSS volunteers of the AAU, Jorhat campus, Dr. R.P. Bhuyan, DSW and Programme Co-ordinator, NSS and Dr. S. Borua, Professor & Programme Officer, NSS, mentioned about the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his



extraordinary services for the country to keep India united. A Run for Unity was organized, to spread awareness about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution to Indian history.

## NSS Special Camp

A NSS Special Camp was organized by the NSS Cell of AAU, Jorhat successfully concluded on Nov. 24, 2019 at the Na-Ali Dhekiajuli Yuva Sangha Hall. Dr. P. K Neog, Director, EEI (NE Region), AAU, Jorhat was the Chief Guest, wherein Dr. R. P Bhuyan, DSW cum NSS Programme Coordinator was present. The Closing programme was presided over by Shri Hemanta Mangal Bordoloi, President, Na Ali Dhekiajuli Yuva Sangha, Jorhat. Above



250 NSS volunteers participated in the week-long NSS Camp. After a sapling planting programme, a colourful cultural presentation was presented by NSS volunteers and students of University.

## Pre-Republic Day Parade Camp

Four students viz. Mr. Kishor Jyoti Bhuyan, 3rd year; Mr. Bicky Boro, 3rd year; Ms. Barsha Das, MSc 1st year Ms.

Prerana Das, 3rd year participated in the Pre-Republic Day Parade Camp organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, NSS, Govt. of India at Regional Centre at National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, West Bengal during Nov. 8-17, 2019.

## Constitution Day, 2019

Constitution Day was observed on Nov. 27, 2019, by all NSS units where the pledge to uphold the dignity and the prestige of the Constitution was administered.

## Republic Day Parade Camp

Ms. Prerana Das, 3rd Year, College of Sericulture was selected for the Republic Day Parade Camp-2020 organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, NSS, Govt. of India, Regional Centre, at New Delhi during Jan. 1-31, 2020.

## Agri-Unifest

Assam Agricultural University participated in the 19th All India Inter Agricultural University Youth Festival (Agri-Unifest) held in IGKV, Raipur during Feb. 8-12, 2020. The AAU team was represented by a 27 member students group led by two officials, viz., Mr Milan Jyoti Konwar and Ms. Mahima Begum, Jr. Scientists of AAU. Notably, the AAU contingent bagged the fourth prize in the One Act Play competition.

## MINDFIT Workshop for Skills Development

NAHEP sponsored a 3-day workshop on Personality Development for 3rd Year Undergraduate Students of the AAU Jorhat campus, at the IDA Building (Seminar Hall), Jorhat during Feb. 18-20, 2020. Mr. Arpan Saikia, Registrar, AAU, inaugurated the Workshop in presence of Dr. J. Deka, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Ruplekha Borah, Dean, Faculty of Community Science, Dr. C. Hazarika, Chief



Librarian and senior faculty members. Ms. Navya Jain Dangra, Director, Be Being + Becoming, UNESCO-CID Expressive Arts Therapist and Counseling Psychologist, acted as resource person in the Workshop. There were 50 student participants in the Workshop, on completion of which, certificates were awarded.



## ZREAC meeting for *kharif*, 2020

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

Zone	Venue	Date
Upper Brahmaputra Valley Zone	RARS, Titabar	06.02.2020
Lower Brahmaputra Valley Zone	RARS, Gossaigaon	06.02.2020
Hill Zone	RARS, Diphu	06.02.2020
Central Brahmaputra Valley Zone	RARS, Shillongani	10.02.2020
North Bank Plain Zone	RARS, Lakhimpur	10.02.2020
Barak Valley Zone	RARS, Karimganj	10.02.2020

## Technical Committee Meeting for *Kharif*, 2020

The schedule for holding the Technical Committee Meeting for *Kharif*, 2020 was :

Technical Group	Department	Date
Social Science	Agri. Economics and FM and Extension Education	Feb. 12, 2020
Plant Protection	Plant Pathology / Entomology/ Nematology	Feb. 29, 2020
Crop Management and Farming System	Agronomy/Soil Science/Agril. Engineering/Plant Physiology/ Agril. Meteorology / IFS/Sericulture/Fishery/Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Mar. 3-4, 2020
Crop Improvement	Plant Breeding & Genetics/ Agril. Biotechnology/ Biochemistry and Agril. Chemistry	Mar. 13, 2020
Community Science	All five Departments of College of Community Science	Mar. 14, 2020

## Package of Practices for the selected crops

The Package of Practices for the selected crops under Assam Agri Business and Rural Transformation (APART) has been developed by Assam Agricultural University where recent developments in production technology of crops, new varieties/hybrids and agro chemicals developed by national and international organizations and private sector have been included to be used by farmers of Assam for increasing productivity.

The revised and updated crop varieties along with their market-led and climate resilient production technologies in respect of the prioritized commodity value chains under the project APART have now been incorporated in this Hand Book on "Package of Practices of Selected Crops of Assam under APART, 2019."



This hand book was formally released on Jan. 24, 2020 by Dr. Ashok Battacaryya, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Jorhat in presence of Director, ISAAC, Varanasi; Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat; Associate Director of Research; Associate Director of Extension Education (P&I); Nodal Officer, APART\_AAU & Resident Consultant, APART\_IRRI, Assam at AAU, Jorhat.

## RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT POOL

Title of the Project	Principal Investigator	Funding Agency	Amount (Rs.)
Quality Improvement of Til pitha, a traditional rice product of Assam	Dr. Barnali Baruah	DST, GOI	30.91 lakh
Upliftment of Tribal population of Golaghat district of Assam through bio-input based organic ginger production	Dr. L. C. Borah	DST, GOI	46.35 lakh
Exploring Agribusiness opportunities in Indigenous fruits of Assam	Dr. Manoshi Gogoi	ICSSR	5.00 lakh
Detection of a mushroom toxin using nano-particle based sensor	Dr. R.C. Boro	DBT	30.87 lakh
Climate Smart management practices under DSRC	Dr. K. Pathak	IRRI_ICAR	2.88 lakh
Integrated Development of Turmeric Sector in North Eastern and Bundelkhand Region through sustainable Technological Interventions for improvement of Productivity, Quality and Post harvest processing technology under Good Agricultural Practices and organic production system	Dr. P. Mahanta	DBT	129.06 lakh





## Demonstration of fodder seed cultivation

A demonstration programme on superior quality fodder seed cultivation was organised on Feb. 19, 2020 at Goat Research Station, AAU, Burnihat in collaboration with Regional Fodder Station, Hessaraghatta, Bangalore.



Mr. R. N. Pandey, Agriculture Expert & Coordinator and Mr. N. Ashwathappa along with the scientists of GRS, Burnihat conducted the programme. During the programme a highly productive, palatable and persistent perennial grass *Rhodes callides* suited to both acidic and sandy soils of low fertility and African Tall Maize were sown. An interactive session between farmers and scientists was also conducted. The programme was attended by 105 farm women from different parts of Assam.

## World Soil Day celebrated

World Soil Day was observed at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Karbi Anglong on Dec. 5, 2019 with the theme "Stop Erosion,



Save Our Future". The programme was attended by Dr. S. Maibangsa, Head, KVK, Karbi Anglong, Dr. A. Roy, Chief Scientist, RARS, Diphu who advocated the importance of soil testing and asked everyone to take advantage of Soil Health Card Scheme of India. A total of 100 farmers along with officials from NRLM and NGOs attended the programme where Soil Health Card was also distributed.

## Skill Training Programme

KVK, Karbi Anglong has been recognized as a Training Provider cum Training Centre under Agricultural Skill

Council of India (ASCI), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India during 2019-20. As a part of Prime Minister's Kaushal Vikash Yojana (PMKVY) two numbers of 25 days duration skill development training programmes on two job roles viz., Organic growers and Mushroom growers were organized during February-March, 2020.



The training programme was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Karbi Anglong Mr. Mukul Kr. Saikia. The programme was also attended by Mr. Sashi Timung (Project Director, DRDA, Karbi Anglong); Mr. Prasanta Sharma (Director SBI-RSETI, Diphu); Mr. S.K. Singh (DDA Hills, Agri., Diphu); Mr. P. Bulte (DDM, NABARD, Karbi Anglong); Mr. Rajyajit Saha (LDM Karbi Anglong); Dr. A. Roy (Chief Scientist, RARS, Diphu); Mr. B. Sarmah (DFE-FI, ASRLM, Karbi Anglong); Mr. Jiten Sarangfangsa (CEO, Jirsong Agro Producer, Diphu); Mr. Raju Teron (Organic consultant, Diphu) along with Dr. S. Maibangsa (Head, KVK, Karbi Anglong).

## Training programmes under ICAR-AINP on Vetebrate Pest Management (VPM)

A training programme was conducted under ICAR-AINP on VPM on "Ecofriendly insect pest management in toria" at RARS, North Lakhimpur on Nov. 1, 2019. The programme was focused on the benefit of the people through management of insect pest by utilizing beneficial birds in the fields. Toria seeds viz., TS-36, TS-46 and TS-38 were distributed among 26 beneficiary farmers. Information regarding the production technology of toria was delivered by the scientists of RARS, North Lakhimpur.





# EXTENSION

## Krishak Divas celebrated at RARS, Titabor

The 30th Krishak Divas was celebrated at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Titabor, on Nov. 7, 2019 which was inaugurated by Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), AAU.

Inaugurating the Farmer's Day, Dr. Bhattacharyya called upon the farmers to come forward to take the latest



technical tips from AAU scientists. He said that because of the 45 new varieties of paddy findings at RARS, Titabor, the station would soon get national-level status from the Govt. of India.

Mr. Hemanta Das, a progressive farmer from Merapani, was felicitated in the presence of farmers from Sivasagar, Majuli, Charaideo, Golaghat and Jorhat; agricultural experts and faculty members from four colleges of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture and Community Science; and students.

## Farmer-Scientist Interaction programme organized

A Farmer-Scientist interaction programme jointly organized by AIR, Dibrugarh and the RARS was held at RARS, North Lakhimpur on Oct. 21, 2019. Several farmers



### NEWS FROM ATIC

**Farmers' visit :** A total of 2175 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*

of the district participated in the programme where Mrs. Hemakanti Payeng, National Krishi Karman award winner and Mrs. Kabita Shyam, a woman entrepreneur also participated. Dr. Prabal Saikia, Chief Scientist; Dr. Bhabesh Deka, Head, KVK, Lakhimpur and other scientists of RARS and KVK participated as resource persons in the programme. AIR Dibrugarh coordinated the programme.

## Exhibition on Handloom Products

After successful completion of Tribal Sub Plan project 2018-19 entitled "Diversification of Handloom Products for Entrepreneurial Development", the Department of Textiles and Apparel Designing, College of Community Science organized an exhibition at Silapathar on Nov. 13, 2019 in collaboration with KVK Dhemaji.



Three weaving units were established, for which looms with Jacquard attachment, accessories and sewing machines were given under the TSP project. Designs were developed and different diversified products were prepared and showcased in the exhibition.

## Webcasting Programme on Awareness of Fertilizer Application

Awareness Programme on Fertilizer Application was held at KVK, Karbi Anglong Campus on Oct. 22, 2019. A total of 188 farmers and farm women attended the

programme. The address by the Central Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Mr. N.S. Tomar was webcasted in the programme. During the programme, proper use and benefits of fertilizer application, importance of soil testing and Soil Health Card Scheme were also discussed.

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