



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

### Commercialisation of Agriculture

Sustainable Development Goal of UN has targeted a hunger free world by 2030. This is despite the fact that Millennium Development Goal earlier could not reduce the population of hungry mouths to half as envisaged within 15 year period. Since that could not be achieved, it is all the more reason to achieve the SDG goal of a hunger free world which could only be achieved if the countries with the potentiality to double food production, do that and facilitate their shipment at an affordable cost to those countries where there is food shortage. In that sense India appears to have huge scope to meet the hunger of around a quarter billion people worldwide by actively engaging itself in escalated food trade and business through capacity building of the actors engaged in food production to processing and export.

With Gross Value Added of Rs. 18.53 trillion (USD 271 billion) by agri-forestry and fishing in the year 2018, India's agri-export grew at an CAGR of 16.45 percent in 2018 to reach USD 38.21 billion. Export of spices reached 3.1 billion and tea export recorded a 36 year high of 240.68 Million kg. Now to take the export to yet newer height, Govt. of India approved its Agri-export policy in December, 2018 to reach a target of 68 billion USD from the current level of 38.21 billion within 4-5 years and thereafter to around 100 billion USD. In order to adequately backstop the efforts that will be needed to achieve this goal, Govt. of India have announced several schemes like Transport and Marketing scheme, PM-AASHA scheme to facilitate procurement, Pradhan Mantri Kissan Samman Nidhi Yojana transferring Rs. 2021 crores directly to the bank account of 10 million farmers and Agri-UDAAN scheme to promote innovation and mentor agri-start ups to connect the farmers with potential markets in addition to the e NAM market, among others. The Govt. is also planning to triple the

capacity of food processing sector from the current 10 percent of agri produce with a commitment of Rs. 6000 crore under the scheme SAMPADA.

If these schemes are properly and dutifully implemented, the target of 68 billion USD export may not be a far cry and if achieved, this will add to the filling up of world food basket particularly in those regions where this basket is half full.

It is in these backdrops that commerce has entered into a big way in the agri sector. Agri Incubation Centres, Agri-Start Ups and Agri-business ventures have started witnessing the days it was craving for. Our University has also geared up itself to establish its Agri Incubation centre with the support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the NITI Aayog, Govt. Of India. Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) is a unique scheme of Govt. of India which is aimed at strengthening infrastructure in Agriculture and Allied sectors to promote Agripreneurship and Agribusiness by facilitating financial aid and nurturing a system of business incubation.

In order to embrace commerce into the agriculture of Assam and the North East, Assam Agricultural University is establishing an agri-innovation and centre of excellence set up with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as knowledge partner in addition to the partnership with NITI Ayog. The University will try to bring together the agri business experts and expertise and provide one stop solution to all agri-business requirements and hand hold in starting a start up business in agriculture and allied sector. In brief, the university shall facilitate the incubatee to develop skills

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# VC'S DESK...

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*From VC's Desk...*

for start up, encourage idea formulation, learn business plan development, nifty gritty of technology perfection and use for better profit, learn networking with other incubation centres, business houses, marketing outlets and others.

With the establishment of this facility at the Jorhat campus, our unemployed youths will be in a position to update themselves with empowered knowledge and skills to handle the high value but yet unexplored agricultural crops and commodities and thus become a player in promotion of agri-exports particularly at a time when the Act East policy is being unfolded. The provision of modest financial support under the Centre shall definitely attract those youths having newer ideas and thoughts to do agriculture differently for the purpose of trade and business, quality and safety and income enhancement.



(K M Bujarbaruah)

## Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU felicitated

Dr. K. M Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU was felicitated by the Guwahati Senior Citizens' Association (GSCA) on its Foundation Day held at the Sudmersen Hall of Cotton University on August 27, 2018, wherein various stalwarts like eminent writer and thinker Homen Borgohain; senior journalist DN Chakravartty and Dr Ramesh Chandra Borpatra Gohain, Advocate General, Assam were present.



In the function, Dr. Bujarbaruah, in his speech as the guest of honour, stressed the need for a cohesive society to be built with concerted efforts of the general public under the leadership of the elderly and wise sections of society.

## Important meetings attended by the Vice-Chancellor

- Attended the DBT Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting at ICMR-RMRC in Lahowal, Dibrugarh on Apr. 24, 2018.
- Attended International VCs Conference Meeting at IAUA Office, New Delhi on Apr. 30, 2018.
- Attended discussion on MAP Project with Hon'ble Minister, AYUSH at Goa on May 12, 2018.
- Attended ICAR Judging Committee Meeting for Haldar Organic Farmer Award at NASC Complex, New Delhi on May 29, 2018.
- Attended meeting with the Vice Chairman of SITA in Dispur on Jun. 16, 2018.
- Attended the Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) of IAUA at its Headquarters in New Delhi on Jun. 22, 2018.
- Attended Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) at Hyderabad on Jun. 23, 2018.
- Attended MoU Signature Ceremony with ILRI at Khanapara, AAU on Jul. 30, 2018.
- Attended the Meeting of the Peer Review Team (PRT) at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Science University and visit the Veterinary Clinical Complex and College of Veterinary Sciences for accreditation process on Aug. 6, 2018.
- Attended the 249th meeting of Board of Management (BoM) at Khanapara on Aug. 30, 2018.
- Attended IAUA meeting as the Organizing Secretary of International VC Conference at New Delhi on Sep. 14, 2018.
- Attended one-day Brainstorming Workshop on "Genomic Selection & its Implementation in India : the way forward" at ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar on Sep. 17, 2018.
- Attended a Vaccination-cum-Treatment Camp at Kahora Range of KNP to commemorate AAU Golden Jubilee Year on Sep. 30, 2018.



## Opening ceremony of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of AAU

The opening ceremony of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat was organized on April 17, 2018.

The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu acted as the Chief Guest of the inauguration programme chaired by HE the Hon'ble Governor of Assam and Chancellor, AAU, Shri Jagadish Mukhi. Shri

Atul Bora, Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Assam acted as a Guest of honour.



farmer-oriented research activities to improve the agriculture sector of the country.

He said that agricultural scientists have a great challenge ahead in making India self-sufficient in pulses and oilseeds. Stating that India's basic culture was agriculture with agrarian economy developing since ages, Naidu said all the stakeholders should join hands to attract people towards farming so that production of foodgrain and other crops do not decrease.

Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu while lauding the contributions of the Assam Agricultural University as a pioneering institute, towards the growth of the agricultural sector in the north-eastern region, has appealed to the scientists to focus on

Naidu while calling for efforts to bring down the urban-divide gap and rapid migration of people from villages to

urban centres, said the farming should be made an attractive and lucrative career option to accelerate country's progress. He said that all the basic facilities and amenities available in the urban centres should be made available in the rural areas.

HE the Governor Prof. Mukhi and Agril. Minister Shri Bora addressed the gathering. Vice-Chancellor Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah gave the welcome address describing AAU's journey and the achievements so far. Several people were felicitated on the occasion for their contributions to the society in different spheres including farming.

As a part of the ceremony, the Best Teacher of the year Dr. Kulen Das, Professor, Dept. of Soil Science, College of Agriculture; the Best Research Scientist



Dr. Badal Bhattacharjee, Principal Scientist, Dept. of Entomology; and the Best Extension Scientist of the

year Dr. Chinmoy Sarmah, Principal Scientist & Head, KVK, Bongaigaon were awarded. They received their awards from the Hon'ble Vice President of India.





# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Spectacular procession marks University's Golden Jubilee Celebration

A procession was organized to mark the beginning of Golden Jubilee celebration year of Assam Agricultural University on Apr. 3, 2018. Around 3000 people participated in the spectacular procession in the Jorhat Town.



The procession led by the Hon'ble Vice-chancellor Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah and comprising students and faculty decked up in traditional attire of the seven sister states



Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and one brother, Sikkim and tableaux depicting the highlights of the University and agriculture activities, colourfully wended its way along the main thoroughfares of the town.



It may also be mentioned that the Hon'ble Vice-chancellor also officially opened the Golden Jubilee Gate of AAU, Jorhat.

## Academic/Administrative

### New PG Programmes in Fishery Science

The 228th meeting of Academic Council deliberated on the proposal for introduction of PG Programmes under three different Departments of the Faculty of Fisheries Science and considering the newly created infrastructure facilities, modern laboratories and equipments together with available faculty strength, it was decided to introduce PG Programmes in the Departments of Fisheries Extension, Economics and Statistics, Fish Processing Technology and Aquatic Environment Management w e f the Session, 2018-19.

### New Appointment :

- Dean, Faculty of Agriculture: Dr. Jayanta Deka
- Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science: Dr. Bibeka Nanda Saikia
- Dean, Faculty of Home Science: Dr. (Mrs.) Ruplekha Borah
- Director of Research (Vety): Dr. Niranjan Kalita
- Director of Extension Education : Dr. Prasanna Kumar Pathak
- Director of Students' Welfare: Dr. Rana Pratap Bhuyan
- Assoc. Director of Extension Education (Vety): Dr. Atul Borgohain



## Alumni Meet of College of Agriculture

Assam Agricultural University AGRI ALUMNI MEET, 2018 was held on May 3-4, 2018 at its Jorhat Campus. About 900 Agri-graduates engaged in different parts of the country and abroad participated in this two days event. This meet was a home coming event for all the Agri-graduates. The meet was started with Flag Hoisting, *Smriti Tarpan* and a grand Alumni Procession. The Inauguration ceremony of the meet was marked with the Chairmanship Dr K. M.



Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU in presence of Chief guest Dr Mridul Hazarika, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University. During the inauguration of the meet an Alumini theme song was released, composed and directed by Alumnus Rrituraj Sharma, who is based at



London, UK. The alumni also organized a Seminar on Doubling Farmer's Income and held an Open Discussion on Employment Opportunities in Agriculture followed by Cultural programme. Campus and Hostel visits organized for the Alumni were the most nostalgic moments of the meet. The two days meet came to an end, and the alumni left the green AAU campus with heavy hearts, but with hopes and promises to come back in the next meet.

## Interface meeting for Agriculture Policy Development

Interface meeting between The Assam Agriculture Department and the Assam Agricultural University (AAU) on Policy Technology Development for Agricultural Rejuvenation in Assam was organized on Jun. 28-29, 2018 at AAU, Jorhat. An 11-point declaration encompassing varied aspects concerning farmers and farming for



propelling the agri sector into the fast-track growth path was signed between the Assam Agriculture Department and AAU, Jorhat to double farmers' incomes by the year 2022.

The other objectives of the declaration include ensuring adequate remuneration for farmers, facilitating organic farming on a larger scale, taking technological interventions and research to the grassroot farmers, facilitating quality seeds and multiple cropping, and promoting cooperative farming and connecting farming and contact farming.

"We shall strive to promote excellence in agricultural practices by identifying appropriate areas for research and development by the AAU," the declaration said.

The declaration has been signed by Agriculture Minister Shri Atul Bora, Vice Chancellor of AAU Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Additional Chief Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner Mr. V. S. Bashkir, S. Jaganathan among others.

Speaking at the function held on the occasion, Agriculture Minister reiterated the Government's commitment in developing agriculture and ensuring fair prices for the tillers.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Inauguration of the Inpatient Unit of TVCC, C.V.Sc., Khanapara

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, AAU, Dr. K.M. Bujarbaruah inaugurated the Inpatient Unit of TVCC, College of Veterinary Science on Sep. 9, 2018. "Sahay", an NGO, was entrusted the responsibility of managing the Inpatient Unit. Dean F.V.Sc, Dr. B.N. Saikia, all the Statutory Officers, Heads of all the Departments and few invited guests were present in the ceremony, while Mr. Homen Borgohain, an eminent intellectual grace the occasion as the Chief guest.



The Inpatient Unit under the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Campus, which is recognised as a referral unit, is set up with an objective to provide



treatment-cum-shelter to the animals. The Unit can accommodate 42 pet; 14 large and 10 small animal. Besides, providing treatment, the Unit will act as a quality classroom for students of College of Veterinary Science.

## College of Agriculture Celebrated 71<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day

College of Agriculture, Jorhat celebrated its 71<sup>st</sup> Foundation Day on August 16, 2018 with a colourful cultural procession by the students which was flagged



off by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah followed by flag hoisting by Dr. D. K. Bora, Dean, College of Agriculture.

## World Ozone Day Celebrated

Dept. of FRMCS, Faculty of Community Science observed World Ozone Day on Sep. 16, 2018. To bring awareness towards the health hazards and ecological imbalance caused by the depletion of the ozone layer present in the atmosphere, a rally programme was organised by the first year students



of Faculty of Community Science. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Ruplekha Borah, Dean, Faculty of Community Science, with an inaugural speech. Dr. Leena Das Head, Dept. of FRMCS, Faculty of Community Science and Dr. I. C. Boruah, Principal Scientist, Faculty of Agriculture also address the students



## AAU Created History by Entering into India Book of Records for Massive Beetle Collection

The All India Network Project on Soil Arthropod Pests, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat Centre has made "National Record" of "Most beetles collected in 3 hours" by collecting 73700 numbers of white grub beetle (*Lepidiota mansueta*), in collaboration with 100 farmers of Majuli at Maharichuk Village on Apr. 9, 2018. This record was made under the guidance of Dr. B. Bhattacharyya, Principal Scientist & PI of the project. Mr.



Rakesh Kumar Verma acted as the adjudicator of the programme. This record attempt was made under the ongoing Mass Campaigning Programme against white grub beetles. Collection and killing of white grub beetles by exploring "Social Engineering" concept will help exceedingly in reducing beetle menace in Majuli river island, thereby ensuring livelihood security of the farmers.

## Alumni Meet of College of Community Science

A day long programme of Alumni Meet of the College of Community Science was held on Apr. 7, 2018. The Inaugural programme was initiated by lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries present on the dais. Dr. Satvinder Kaur, Dean, College of Community Science welcomed the guests and the 395 alumni who came from different corners of the country. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah showered his blessings on the alumni as Chief Guest of the programme. Ms. Rupshikha S. Borah, Director (Finance), Oil India Limited attended the programme as Guest of Honour and addressed the gathering with her valuable speech. Mrs. Chetana Das, Legendary Assamese actress and Mrs. Pubalee D. Bujarbaruah, Former District Chairman, Inner Wheel District-324 graced the occasion as Special Guests and enlightened the audience with their interesting and informative speeches. An Alumni Directory was released



on this occasion. An interaction programme among alumni was a great attraction of the meet. The day long Meet ended with a beautiful cultural programme performed by alumni and teachers of the College.

## Foundation Day of College of Community Science

46th Foundation day of the College of Community Science was celebrated in a befitting manner on Aug. 8, 2018. The programme started with *Saraswati Vandana* performed by the students of the College of Community Science. Flag of the Faculty was hoisted in front of the new college building by Dr. Ava Rani Phukan, Prof & Head, Dept of Textiles & Apparel Designing & i/c Dean, where



all the staff & students of the Faculty were present. Dr. Phukan briefly informed the august gathering about the developments of the faculty from 1973 till date and thanked Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. K.M Bujarbaruah for his generosity and keen interest in the development of the Faculty. Thereafter, a cultural programme performed by staff & students of the Faculty was held which was followed by light refreshment.

# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Annual Group Meet on Rabi MULLaRP Crops

24th Annual Group Meet on Rabi MULLaRP (Mungbean, Uradbean, Lentil, Lathyrus, Rajma and Peas) crops were held at AAU Jorhat on Sep. 14-15, 2018.

Addressing the inaugural function, Assistant Director-General (Plant Protection, ICAR), Dr. P. K. Chakrabarty said that there had been a significant leap in production of pulses in recent times and the country was nearing self-sufficiency.



Dr. Chakrabarty said that self-sufficiency would be achieved if the present growth rate was sustained. He said that in order to do so, research is needed to be undertaken to produce improved varieties and given to farmers, while pests and diseases had to be kept under control.

He also asked the 60-odd scientists gathered from across the country to formulate a package of practices for herbicides and pesticides and also stressed on producing biofortified pulses which would help to reduce malnutrition in children and lactating mothers.

Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Project Coordinator of MULLaRP from the Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur, in his address said that pulses in the country had achieved highest production up to 25.23 million tonnes (MT) in 2017, which had stagnated at 14 MT continuously for two decades. "While chickpea is a major pulse in the winter season, there is much scope for area expansion for lentil, field pea, lathyrus and rajma," Dr. Gupta said.

Dr. Gupta stated that the Central Govt. has undertaken a programme Targetting Rice Fallow Areas (TRFA) in six states, including Assam, with an outlay of Rs 200 crore.

Dr. H. K. Borah, Principal Scientist and organising secretary, of AICRP on MULLaRP annual group meet also spoke on the occasion.

## Group Meeting on AICRP on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) and betelvine

26th Annual Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) and betelvine was organized at AAU Jorhat on Sep. 28-30, 2018.

Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG, (HS), ICAR, New Delhi, addressing the occasion as Chief Guest said that China contributed about 15 per cent to the global medicinal plant market whereas India's share was negligible with a 0.5% share. The market now was 72 billion US dollars and by 2050 would be 7 trillion US dollars, he said. He further said that the need of the hour was to work out a strategy to compete globally. In Assam, he said that three plants pipali, bhomura and rawoolfia. He urged upon the Vice Chancellor of AAU to press the Assam government to formulate a horticultural and medicinal plant policy for the state.

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah in his presidential address, said that though Assam and the north east which fell in a biodiversity hotspot had huge bioresources, these had not been converted to a bio economy and he called for streamlining of the sector and monitoring in respect of quantity, quality and imports.



Dr. P. Manivel, the Project Co-coordinator of AICRP-MAP &B and Director of ICAR -Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Anand said that during the last five years thousands of quality planting materials and seeds of an improved variety of medicinal and aromatic plants as well as betel vines were produced and distributed to farmers. Many farmer groups from within and outside the State visited centres for learning about technological development for improved medicinal and aromatic plants production. At the same time, high-yielding varieties were released and well adopted by farmers for improving their income.

Delegates from 23 AICRP Centres participated and more than 25 publications from the different centres were released on the occasion including one on success stories.



## Hon'ble Union Minister of State For Railways visited KVK Promoted Village

Apropos scheduled programme, Shri Rajen Gohain, Hon'le Union Minister of State for Railways accompanied by Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Vice Chancellor, AAU; Dr. P. K. Pathak, Director of Extension Education; Dr. A. K. Tripathi, Director of ATARI, Zone VI, Guwahati;



Dr. N. Deka, Head, KVK, Nagaon; Scientists and Staff of KVK, Nagaon, visited the KVK-promoted Doubling Farmers Income village "Borkachari Gaon" on Sep. 30, 2018 with a view to assess various activities implemented by the KVK.

The guests were welcomed by the villagers in a traditional way. A huge gathering was addressed by the dignitaries. The Head, KVK, Nagaon, welcomed the gathering and appraised the motto of the day's programme. The Director of ATARI in his speech urged the villagers to take a step forward and get benefitted from the different activities of the KVK. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, highlighted the recent advances in agriculture and allied sector and encouraged the farmers to take up new ways and practices in order to boost outputs. Hon'ble Union Minister highlighted the flagship programmes and other beneficial schemes implemented by the Govt. of India in extending support to the farmers and BPL families. He focused mainly on enterprises like organic farming, veterinary, fishery, vermicomposting, bee keeping, mushroom cultivation etc.

## ACHIEVEMENT

- \* Ms. Shilpa S., B.F.Sc. student of College of Fisheries, Raha bagged the first rank in AIEEA 2018-19 conducted by ICAR for admission into Postgraduate Degree Programmes in Fisheries Science. Other rank holders in this exam from the institute are Debojit Dekari, Kangkana Das, Vansngewhna Lukas, Pronob Dihingia and Chayanika Das. The said students have also been selected for JRF of 2018-19, ICAR.
- \* Altogether 19 nos. of students from the Dept. of Agricultural Biotechnology qualified the ARS NET, 2018 examination.
- \* Mr. Anupam Gogoi, PG student of the Dept. of Agricultural Biotechnology, got PhD fellowship at Norwegian University of Life Sciences.
- \* Ms. Ruby Gupta, Ph.D. student of the Dept. of Agricultural Biotechnology presented a poster about her research work in the 6th Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Sep. 15, 2018.
- \* Dr. Binita B. Kalita, Professor and Mrs. Momita Konwar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Textiles & Apparel Designing, College of Community Science attended the training programme on Basic Research Tools for Textile Chemistry, organized by Central Sheep & Wool Research Station, ICAR, Avikanagar, Rajasthan from Aug. 13-24, 2018.
- \* Dr. Bibha Chetia Borah, Principal Scientist & Incharge, attended and presented a research paper in the 3rd International Symposium on Aquaculture and Fisheries Education held at ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai during May 16-18, 2018.
- \* Dr. Bibha Chetia Borah, Principal Scientist & Incharge, was awarded the prestigious Fellow (FZS, Cal) of Zoological Society (Calcutta) in its 72nd Annual Technical Meeting of Zoological Society, Kolkata held in Calcutta University, Kolkata on Jul. 26, 2018.
- \* Dr. A. M. Baruah, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry & Agril. Chemistry nominated as Adjunct Faculty, UBKB, West Bengal
- \* Dr. A. M. Baruah, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry & Agril. Chemistry nominated as Member, Research Advisory Group, RFRI, Jorhat, under ICFRE
- \* Dr. S. Baishya, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry & Agril. Chemistry nominated as Member, BSMA-Basic Science, ICAR.
- \* Dr. M. Saikia, Principal Scientist, DoR attended the International Potato Congress at Lima, Peru under APART project during May 29 to Jun. 6, 2018.
- \* Dr. K. Pathak, Principal Scientist, DoR visited Australia on a study tour under APART project during Sep. 21 to Oct. 2, 2018.

## 3rd Interactive Meet of Comptrollers

3rd Interactive Meet of Comptrollers from SAUs, DUs, CUs and CAUs was organized at AAU, Jorhat during June 15-16, 2018.

Dr. N. S. Rathore, DDG, Agricultural Education, ICAR, New Delhi in his detailed speech said that comptrollers



had to follow three Ts namely timely action, trouble free approach and transparency and to put into place the right type of mechanism. He also spoke on transactions being digitized and the new Public Finance Management System and the stringent monitoring from top on all expenditures.

Addressing the meet, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah said that the comptrollers should ensure



that every paisa was judiciously utilized as funds were not easy to come by. "Having been closely associated with ICAR, I have complete knowledge about how the education division of ICAR functions, the sincerity, integrity and effort with which they formulate the various educational policies, projects and fellowship schemes should be reflected in terms of how we implement these programmes. The funds should be utilized judiciously and timely and the comptrollers are responsible for this," he said.

Dr. P. S. Pandey, ADG, (EP and HS), ICAR in his special address spoke on the role of ICAR's Agricultural Education Division and enlightened the gathering of more than ninety comptrollers, nodal and other officials from across the country on the Public Finance Management System.

## Director General, IRRI visited AAU

Dr. Matthew Morrell, the Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, Philippines visited Assam Agricultural University on August 25, 2018 as a part of his week-long visit to implement the World Bank-funded Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project and he addressed the scientists of AAU at Jorhat.



Dr. Morrell said the challenges to meet the world food requirement in 2040 were manifold and mammoth. He said that there would be a requirement of 25 per cent increase in production from the present scenario while there was the possibility of 50 per cent reduction in the number of people engaged in the agriculture sector by 2040.

The internationally-acclaimed scientist also said that in keeping with changing times, there has also been a change in the research pattern of the leading rice research institutes of the world. Innovation, catalysation and to cause a change in the lives of farmers were three areas on which IRRI research was now focused on, Dr. Morrell said.

Dr. Morrell mentioned about the Golden rice, a transgenic variety fortified with vitamin A, produced by the IRRI which would be released in Bangladesh, the US, Australia after the regulatory process was over.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah said that out of the net sown area of 20.11 million hectares in Assam, rice was sown on 24.5 lakh hectares and the amount of rice produced was 5.2 million tonnes which could be increased to 12 million tonnes. He said that if rice production is increased from the 6 million tonnes to 10 million tonnes, then Assam could contribute to the national food basket or to the nearby states. He also spoke about the ongoing research at AAU's three rice research stations - North Lakhimpur, Karimganj and Titabar. He said that till now, AAU has produced 55 rice varieties and 60 per cent rice cultivated in Assam were of these varieties.





## Inauguration of New Building of College of Community Science

New building of the College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat was inaugurated on Jun. 26, 2018 by the Chief Guest Sri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly in the presence of Dr. K. M. Bajurbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU; Sri K. P. Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; Sri Arpan Kr. Saikia, Registrar; Dr. Satvinder Kaur, Dean, Faculty



of Community Science and a host of other dignitaries from within and outside the University. After lighting of the ceremonial lamp, the plaque was unveiled. Dignitaries visited the departments and interacted with the faculties and students. Thereafter, a formal meeting was held in the Dr M.C.Das Memorial Auditorium. Dr Kaur, in her welcome speech gave a brief introduction of the College since its inception and thanked the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for the New Building. The Hon'ble Speaker emphasized on the important role of Community Scientists in the development of the society and offered all possible help whenever asked for. Hon'ble VC, in his address congratulated the faculty, staff and students, and urged upon them to work even harder to bring in more visibility and recognition. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Sri Arpan Kr Saikia, Registrar, AAU, Jorhat. The programme ended with a lunch for all the guests, faculty members, staff and students.



## Regional Level Farmer-Scientist Interaction Organised

Regional Level Farmer-Scientist Interaction (RLFSI 2018) was organised on Sep.29, 2018 by the Dept. of Poultry Science at the CVSc, Khanapara in commensuration with Golden Jubilee celebration of AAU wherein a total of 370 participants joined, out of which



305 were farmers. Dr. D. Sapkota, Prof. & Head, Dept. of Poultry Science welcomed the farmers while Dr. N. Kalita, Director of Research (Vety) explained the importance of holding interactive session and Dr. B. N. Saikia, Dean, FVSc exhorted the farmers to take scientific farming for increasing their profit. The farmers showed keen interest in learning modern techniques for scientific poultry rearing. Also, active participation by the farmers during the interactive session was noteworthy. After the deliberations, two local young poultry entrepreneurs were felicitated. They were Dr. Dwipen Baisya and Dr Hamen Bharali. Offering vote of thanks, Dr Reema Saikia, Asst. Prof., Poultry Science expressed thankfulness to AAU authority for providing physical and logistic supports to take up the event with grand success.

## World Child Labour Day celebrated

A collaborative programme was taken up by the Dept. of Human Development and Family Studies of College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat on World Child Labour Day on Jun. 12, 2018 in convergence with District Social Welfare Office, Jorhat and Legal Service Authority, Jorhat. A street play was enacted by the students of the department to create awareness and to address the issues pertaining to child labour.



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## Awareness Programme on "Misuse of Oxytocin Hormone by the Dairy Farmers" organised

The Dept. of Extension Education, FA organised two awareness programmes in collaboration with "Farmer FIRST" project of the University on "Misuse of Oxytocin Hormone by the Dairy farmers". The programmes were organised at Dangdhara and Paninara village of Titabar



area on Sep 1, 2018 and Sep. 26, 2018, respectively. All total 110 farmers from the two villages participated in the awareness programme. Dr. D. Hazarika, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Dairy and Animal Husbandry; Dr. S. Kalita, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Entomology; Dr. P. Mishra, Professor and Head, Dept. of Extension Education, Mr. J.K. Dutta and Mr. Sundar Barman, Asst. Professors, Dept. of Extension Education took part in the Programme.

All the resource persons highlighted the ill effects of indiscriminate use of oxytocin hormone by the dairy farmers. The programme helped developing awareness amongst them regarding its misuse by Dairy Farmers. In addition to this, few PG students from Dept. artment of Extension Education, FA also participated in the programme and played a street drama on "ill effects of oxytocin hormone".

## Director, EEI (NER), AAU delivers Key Note Address at Regional Workshop at CHF, Pasighat

Dr Pradip Neog, Director, EEI (NE Region), MoA & FW, Govt of India, AAU, Jorhat delivered the Key Note Address in the inaugural session of the Regional Workshop on "Agrarian Crisis and Socio Economic Issues among Rural Tribal Youth In North East Hill Region of India" organised by College of Horticulture and Forestry, Central Agril. University, Pasighat from



May 14-15, 2018. Dr. S. Ayappan, Chancellor, Central Agril. University was the Chief Guest of the session. Dr. Neog highlighted the present magnitude of the agrarian Crisis and suggested policy measures to address it. He also shared various experiences of the rural tribal youth of the NE Region and narrated the prospects as well as challenges for their effective utilisation as a valuable human resource towards agricultural development. Dr. M. Premjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, CAU and other dignitaries attended the Workshop.

Dr. S. Borua, Faculty, EEI (NE Region) delivered the Lead Lecture on "Role of Government agencies in addressing the problem of unemployment and migration in youth of North East India" and highlighted benefits and provisions under Govt of India schemes and programmes, which he stressed was needed to percolate to the grassroots in NE Hill Region.

Agreement between the Norwegian Institute of Bio-economy Research and the Assam Agricultural University on Building Climate Resilience of Indian Smallholders through Sustainable Intensification and Agro-ecological Farming Systems to Strengthen Food and Nutrition Security.

MoU was signed between Utkol Seeds & AAU for feasibility of quality seed production in potato.





## District level Inter College Debate Competition on 5th June, 2018

On the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year Celebration of AAU, the College of Fisheries, Raha organized a district level inter college debate competition on June 5, 2018 at the College campus. The topic of



the debate was "The Present Agricultural Education has contributed substantially in the Development of Agricultural Sector of the Country". A total of 30 participants from different colleges of Nagaon district participated in the competition. Mr. Kripalu Dutta, a student of College of Fisheries won the first prize in the competition.

## Librarians' Day Observed

The Birth Anniversary of the "Father of Library Science in India, Dr. S. R. Ranganathan", which is celebrated as Librarians' Day throughout the



country. The Day was also celebrated in the Rev. B. M. Pugh Library on Aug. 9, 2018 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Librarian, Dr. P. Talukdar. The inaugural speech was delivered by Dr. S. R. Baruah, Deputy Librarian, AAU

Jorhat. The event turned out to be a special one because of the presence of almost all the retired

personnel of the library. Mr Apurba Baruah retired chief librarian was the invited speaker of the event. Other dignitaries present were Dr. Munin Borgohain retired Director of Extension Education and Chief Librarian as well as Mrs. Purnima Sharma eminent writer. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Paresh Saikia, Junior Library Assistant.

## Project Launching Workshop on Fishery

A launching workshop of a project entitled "Assessment of Environmental Health and Ichthyofaunal Biodiversity of Tirap and Tissa rivers of Arunachal Pradesh and Promotion of Fish Centric Supplementary Livelihood Options through a Participatory Approach" was held at the College of Fisheries, Raha on Jul. 9, 2018. The inaugural session of the workshop was attended by Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU as Chief Guest. Mr. J. Taba, Director, Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh and Dr. Chandan Hazarika, Director of Post



Graduate Studies, AAU, Jorhat were present in the inaugural session of the workshop as Invited Guests. At the outset of the inaugural session Dr. K. K. Tamuli, Dean (i/c) College of Fisheries welcomed the delegates. A souvenir was released on the occasion. Dr. S. K. Das, Principal Scientist, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani, Prof W. Vishawanath, a renowned Fish Taxonomist, Dr. A. Pavan Kumar, Scientist, Fish Genetics and Biotechnology Division, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai and number of fish farmers from Arunachal Pradesh participated in the Workshop.



## RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT POOL

Title of the Project	Principal Investigator	Funding Agency	Amount (Rs.)
Development of seedless bhimkol through CRISPR/Cas9 and Mutation Approaches	Dr. S. Singh	DBT	33.07 lakh
Biotechnological interventions through RNAi Approach for management of banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) in North East Region of India	Dr. P. Debnath	DBT	15.81 lakh
Management of low temperature and soil moisture deficit stresses in banana grown in North Eastern India	Dr. P. Kalita	DBT	87.30 lakh
Molecular dissection of defences against sigatoka infection in banana, exploitation of musa germplasm of North East for development of sigatoka -resistant hybrid	Dr. P. Bharali	DBT	37.30 lakh
Harnessing the potential of endophytes against root knot nematode, <i>Meloidogyne incognita</i> in Banana	Dr. B. Bhagawati	DBT	22.01 lakh
Whole genome and transcriptome study of stress tolerant banana cultivars	Dr. M. K. Modi	DBT	60.30 lakh
Biotechnological interventions through RNAi approach for management of banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) in North East Region of India	Dr. P. Sen	DBT	19.85 lakh
Exploring diversity, genomic and transcriptome profiling and phytosemiochemicals of banana pest complex in NER - an ecological and molecular approach	Dr. Inee Gogoi	DBT	20.54 lakh
Development of Fusarium resistant elite banana cultivars of N.E.India	Dr. S. Singh	DBT	22.02 lakh
Screening of banana germplasm from the NE for fusarium wilt resistance and molecular characterization in contrasting genotypes	Dr. A. Bhattacharyya	DBT	14.03 lakh
Study of diversity of rice in Karbi Anglong district of Assam: Implication for biodiversity conservation under changed climatic condition	Dr. R. Das	Extra Mural Fund	11.88 lakh
Downstream processing for utilization of banana wastes for natural fibre extraction, fibre based products , biomass briquettes and utility compounds	Dr. P.K. Borthakur	DBT	27.46 lakh
Development of citrus tristeza virus (CTV) resistant elite mandarin genotypes through RNAi approach to revive citrus industry in North East India	Dr. P. Debnath	DBT	18.50 lakh
Engineering of CRISPR/cas 9-mediated potato virus Y (PVY) resistance in Bhut jalakia ( <i>Capsicum chinense</i> )	Dr. Ratna Kalita	DBT	52.952 lakh
Identification of the Gene Associated with Resistant Starch content in rice for nutraceutical benefits	Ms. Bhaswati Sarmah	DBT	61.139 lakh
Consumption pattern of food and food products/item high in fat, salt and sugar among selected cities/towns and rural population of India- Jorhat	Dr. Pranati Das	ICMR	54.379 lakh
Establishment of Biotech Kishan Hub at Assam Agricultural University	Dr. S. Saikia	DBT	69.50 lakh
Regional -cum- facilitation centre	Dr. I.C. Baruah	AYUSH	149.60 lakh
Multifaceted exploration of edible Mulluses of North East India	Dr. B. Bhattacharyya	DBT	73.969 lakh
Optimizing resources for identification of potential Sorghum forage hybrids using genomic selection	Dr. R.N. Sarmah	DBT	34.299 lakh
Integrative Taxonomy of insect pests of rice and their natural enemies of North East India	Dr. Purnima Das	DBT	31.799 lakh
Engineering resistance against cucumber mosaic virus in king chilli /chilli through RNA silencing technology	Dr. Munmi Borah	DBT	35.299 lakh
Exploring rhizospheric microbiome (PGPR and AM Fungi) for regulating the expression of zinc transporter gene (ZRT) in rice to augment the zinc nutrition	Dr. D.J. Nath	DBT	32.789 lakh
Study of the virome, RNAome and leaf curl disease manifestation in bhut Jolokia ( <i>C. chinense</i> ) and ( <i>C. frutescens</i> ) of North East India	Dr. Basanta Borah	DBT	67.439 lakh







## Dibrugarh KVK bags coveted award

The KVK Dibrugarh was awarded the Best KVK Award for successful implementation of NICRA project for the year 2017-18.

The award was presented at a review workshop organised jointly by ICAR-ATARI Zone-VI and Zone-VII on April 25-26, 2018 at Barapani, Meghalaya.



The award was presented on the basis of successful implementation of different climate-resilient interventions in the farmers' field in adopted villages, horizontal expansion of these technologies to nearest villages and overall way of presenting the activities in the workshop.

## Skill Development Training

A sixteen days long skill development training under the DBT sponsored project on "Management of Green Waste for Economic Benefit and Women Empowerment" was undertaken in the

Department of Family Resource Management and Consumer Science, College of



Community Science from May 16 to Jun. 1, 2018. Twenty numbers of women from Jamuguri area of Jorhat district participated in the programme. Hands on training was provided on green waste management to make various utility items from dried water hyacinth stems and disposable plates and bowls from areca nut sheath with the aim to initiate entrepreneurial abilities for income generation.

## Workshop on digital literacy

A workshop on Digital Literacy - Use of Mobile Phone was held on Jul. 12-13, 2018 at College of Community Science under the Dept. of Extension & Communication Management under the AICRP project. A total of 41 women participated in the workshop. The workshop began with a welcome speech by Principal Investigator of the project Dr. Manoshi Boruah Deka. A general discussion and question-answer session was held with the participants regarding the use of mobile phone and its basic operation, insertion



of SIM card, switching on/off mobile phone, sending & receiving text messages.

## Fish Farmers' Day Celebrated

Like different parts of India, fraternity of College of Fisheries, AAU Raha also celebrated National Fish Farmers' Day on Jul. 10, 2018 along with a large group of fish farmers of Nagaon district. The

purpose and significance of the day were



explained by Dr. K. K. Tamuli, Dean, College of Fisheries and Dr. B. Kalita, Head, Dept. of Aquaculture, College of Fisheries. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Jyotismita Thakuria, Jr. Scientist (Fishery), Livestock Research Station, AAU, Mandira. Two progressive fish farmers of the locality were felicitated on the occasion.

## Package of Practices on Fisheries and Aquaculture in Assam Released

The Package of Practices on Fisheries and Aquaculture in Assam which is developed considering the changes in science and technology, eco-system and necessity for climate resilience technology by Assam Agriculture University and published by the Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam in collaboration with ARIAS Society under World Bank Financed APART project was released by State Minister of Fisheries, Shri Parimal Suklabaidya at Dispur on Sep. 19, 2018.

In his inaugural speech, the Minister said that the new fisheries technology suitable for the agro-climatic condition of the state would be highly useful document for all the stakeholders and especially for the fish and fish seed farming communities of the state for years to come. Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Naba Kumar Doley also graced the function as special guest and appreciated the effort of fishery department to make Assam the leading fish producing state in the country.





## Vaccination cum Treatment Camp

A Vaccination cum Treatment Camp at fringe villages of Kaziranga National Park (Kohora area) was organized by Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Khanapara in association with Deptt. of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Govt. of Assam as a part of Assam Agricultural University Golden Jubilee Celebration year on Sep., 30, 2018. A group of 12 teachers and 14 PG students under the leadership of Dr. A. Borgohain, Associate Director of Extension Education, AAU, Khanapara, participated in the camp, where a total of 697 cattle were vaccinated against



Haemorrhagic Septicaemia and Black Quarter disease. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat. In his speech he mentioned about the importance of vaccination of animals in fringe villages as a measure to form an immune belt as most of the diseases get transmitted from livestock of fringe villages to the wild animals and emphasized the importance of vaccination for the welfare of livestock of fringe villages. Moreover, 1780 livestock and poultry birds were also treated for different ailments including health check-up of elephants.

## Training on seed production held

The KVK, Sonitpur organised a training programme on quality seed production under the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) on Sep.

### NEWS FROM ATIC

**Farmers' visit :** A total of 859 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*

26-27, 2018, where more than 30 farmers participated. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. P. C. Deka, Head, KVK, Sonitpur.

Md Abdul Raof Khan, who is an expert in the agriculture field, acted as a resource person. Pankaj Barman, JRF, IRRI; Mridupawan Saikia, Project Associate and Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya and scientists from KVK attended the programme.

## Training programme on Ornamental Fish Culture

A training programme on "Ornamental Fish Culture and Promotion of Rural Livelihood" was organized at College



of Fishery premises on May 22-24, 2018 under the Pilot Project on "Ornamental Fishes" sponsored by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad and fund provided by the Directorate of Fisheries, Govt. of Assam. There were 50 participants in the training programme. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. K. K. Tamuli, Dean, College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha. In the inaugural speech Dr. Tamuli explained the importance of ornamental fish in North East India.

## Career oriented training programme on Fishery

A career oriented training programme on "Industrial fish and fisheries" under DR College, Golaghat, Assam was conducted in Fisheries Research Centre, AAU on Jul. 10-12, 2018. Twenty five students of DR College,



Golaghat participated in the training programme and were exposed to various technologies such as induced breeding and seed production technique of carp fish, breeding of *magur*, integrated fishery based farming models, water quality parameter analysis, disease diagnosis and control, etc.

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