



AAU *Newsletter*

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From Vice-Chancellor's Desk ...

'I have big shoes to fill in' was the first feeling that came to my mind when I was handed over the role of the Vice-Chancellor in-charge of AAU by my illustrious predecessor, Prof. K. M. Bujarbaruah on Jul. 31, 2019.

The remarkable achievements of Prof. Bujarbaruah during his two tenures spanning over a decade, from Jul. 27, 2009 to Jul. 31, 2019, are hard to emulate. Enumerating the accomplishments of Prof. Bujarbaruah is a task in itself. Establishment of three new colleges (SCS College of Agriculture, Dhubri, College of Sericulture, Titabar and College of Horticulture, Nalbari), rejuvenating the Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, the addition of two centres-DBT-AAU at Jorhat and ADMaC at Khanapara, successful international institutional collaboration with IRRI, Norwegian Government funding of AAU-NIBIO Climate Resilience project, NEATEHUB (Northeast Agri Technology Entrepreneurs Hub) to nurture and support agricultural and allied sector technology startups, which has since been recognized as Centre of Excellence, are a few of the accomplishments of Prof. Bujarbaruah during his term here at AAU. These are exceptional achievements and are more than enough for any Vice-Chancellor to justify his tenure. The dynamism of Prof. Bujarbaruah transcended the set boundaries. The quintessential leadership quality of Prof. Bujarbaruah came to the fore when students, scientists, and teachers started receiving awards, rewards, acknowledgements both individually and institutionally. The pinnacle of glory was attained by AAU when it was conferred the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award in 2015 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

However, resting on laurels is a dangerous habit. Although these achievements did not come easy, it is certainly going to be much more challenging to uphold this position. To sustain the prosperity attained by the University under Prof. Bujarbaruah, we must put aside our tentativeness and display a quick-thinking surefootedness while executing our assigned jobs. AAU, with nearly three thousand students in its nine constituent colleges under four faculties, six regional agricultural research stations in the six agro-climatic zones of Assam, five commodity research centres and 23 KrishiVigyan Kendras in 23 districts of Assam, is an imposing entity, and I am sure that with this strength,

AAU has the proficiency to rise above its potential and be ranked among the very best in the country and in the world at large. I strongly believe that each one of us has it in him/her to do it.



AAU has a rich heritage to be proud of. This university is the first of its kind in the entire northeast. The agricultural departments of the seven northeastern states are largely manned by the alumni of AAU. Most of the executives of Tea Industry are alumni of AAU. A fair number of alumni are in the administrative services and banking sector. This is a very happy and satisfying scenario. But like almost all things that bring us satisfaction, this present state of progress has also come with a price-tag. The price-tag here is the huge responsibility of delivering the performance that is now expected of us. We must be ready to shoulder the burden of this responsibility. We have to maintain and in many fronts upgrade our education system, our research work, and our training programmes-to make these more educative and effective. We need to keep challenging ourselves, and we must keep ourselves relevant at all times, for the day of reckoning may be just round the corner.

Challenges for us are many-escalating population, dwindling farmlands, smallholdings, declining soil health, annual flood damage to standing crops and livestock, general lack of interest in agriculture among the productive population of the state, etc. We have to rise to the occasion and do our bit, always remembering that we are answerable to the farmers, to the society, to the state of Assam and the Nation. Certain things are beyond us naturally, but we must work towards getting our foothold on those things which are under our control, and who knows, even the things beyond us may hear our bidding.

In many fronts, we are in the right direction. My belief was reinforced when Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Prof. Jagadish Mukhiji in a meeting on Aug. 3, 2019 at Raj Bhawan, Guwahati, bestowed on us the responsibility of preparing the action plan for doubling farmers' income

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VC'S DESK...

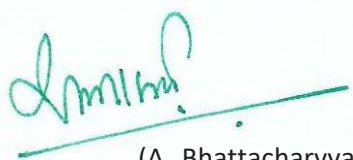
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From VC's Desk...

by promoting participatory seed production, integrated farming system and marketing linkage in his Excellency's adopted district of Morigaon. It is also worth noting that, World Bank through its representative, in the wrap up meeting for the review of APART at the chamber of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, entrusted AAU with two collaborative programmes-World Fish and International Livestock Research Scheme in addition to the continuing programmes under International Potato Centre and World Vegetable Centre. AAU will fulfill all these responsibilities by working towards them with utmost sincerity and diligence.

I am fortunate enough to have received the support and help from all concerned. The Academic Council and the Board of Management have always been present with their requisite assistance. Faculty members, students and the other staff contribute enthusiastically whenever their participation is sought. Press and Media have also been kind to us, highlighting our achievements and pointing out our duties.

I strongly believe, come what may, we will do our duty to the best of our ability because we all have a sense of belongingness and wish to see our university attain greater heights with each passing day. We only have to keep working hard and believe in ourselves.



(A. Bhattacharyya)

Important meetings attended by the Vice-Chancellor

- Attended EEI General Body Meeting at Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati on Apr. 25, 2019
- Attended APCU (Journalist Organization) Public Meeting at Dergaon on Apr. 30, 2019
- Attended the 1st Meeting of the SITA constituted Body for revival of Tocklai Tea Research Center, at AAU Conference Hall, Khanapara, Guwahati on May 6, 2019
- Inaugurated RAWEP exhibition and interaction programme with students at Nalbari on May 7, 2019
- Visited Balya Bhawan, Jorhat and delivered inspirational lecture to the students on May 11, 2019
- Chaired RAC Meeting of IVRI, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh on May 16, 2019
- Visited Tocklai Tea Research Institute as member of SITA constituted body for revival of Tea Research Center on May 21, 2019
- Attended an advisory meeting for setting up of a Horticulture College at Imphal on May 25, 2019
- Attended High Power Committee meeting of ICAR at New Delhi on May 29, 2019
- Attended inaugural function of ICAR building at Barapani on Jun. 1, 2019
- Attended award judging committee meeting of ICAR at New Delhi on Jun. 3, 2019
- Attended SITA meeting at Khanapara, Guwahati on Jun. 6, 2019
- Flagged off the NAHEP overseas educational programme at Khanapara on Jun. 14, 2019
- Visited CSIR-NEIST Jorhat to attend the get-together on Jun. 16, 2019
- Attended SITA meeting at Khanapara, Guwahati on Jul. 2, 2019
- Attended the BOM meeting of Central Agricultural University at Agartala on Jul. 11, 2019
- Delivered the Krishna Kanta Handiqui Memorial Lecture on "Assam of My Dream" at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati on Jul. 20, 2019
- Chaired the 252nd meeting of the Board of Management of the University at Khanapara on Jul. 30, 2019
- Attended meeting with the His Excellency the Governor of Assam at Rajbhawan, Guwahati on adoption of Morigaon District on Aug. 3, 2019
- Attended Freshman Social as the Chief Guest at CKK College, Teok on Aug. 10, 2019
- Attended Prof. Kamal Malla Bujarbaruah Auditorium inauguration programme at College of Fisheries, Raha on Aug. 22, 2019
- Attended ZREAC meeting of Barak Valley Zone at Karimganj on Aug. 28, 2019
- Attended meeting on the occasion of 'Coconut Day' at HRS, Kahikuchi on Sep. 2, 2019
- Attended ZREAC meeting at Gossaigaon on Sep. 4, 2019
- Wrap-Up meeting with World Bank representative for the review of APART at the chamber of Chief Secretary, GoA on Sep. 23-24, 2019



Golden Jubilee Closing Ceremony of AAU

The Golden Jubilee Closing Ceremony of Assam Agricultural University (AAU) was held at the Dr. M. C. Das Memorial Auditorium in the Jorhat campus on May 16, 2019.



Finance Minister, Govt. of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma acted as the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony of the year-long golden jubilee celebrations. In his address, Dr. Sarma said that futuristic thinking was the need of the hour in agriculture and other sectors in this fast-paced world. “Non-tax revenue from oil revenue is decreasing, the tea industry is not making any difference



and contribution of agriculture is being marginalized every passing day,” said Dr. Sarma. He said that the university had reached a plateau in terms of infrastructure and research and it was time that they gave to society a direction by which agriculture could be revived and made more vibrant as Assam was mainly an agricultural state. Citing the example of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Karnataka, Dr. Sarma said these three states were so developed because all three verticals, *i.e.*, – agriculture, manufacturing and services were contributing equally to the economy.

Dr. Sarma appreciated the performance of the scientists after his visit to the Bio-Technology department where



he interacted with a galaxy of agri scientists and then inaugurated the AAU Museum which is one of its kind in the entire region. A documentary on AAU on the past 50 years including its achievement and development was released by Dr. Sarma. Dr. Jayanta Deka, the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture delivered the vote of thanks. Among others present were Dr. R. Sharma, Director Physical Plant, Sri Bhaben Bharali, MLA of Dergaon, Palit Bora, Chairman of Assam Marketing Board, professors and students from all the six colleges of AAU.

Sri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Rajya Sabha MP, who was present on the occasion as the special invitee, congratulated the AAU fraternity for completion of 50 years by the institution and called upon AAU scholars to guide and inspire the upcoming new generation towards farming in order to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s dream of doubling income of farmers by 2022.

Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of AAU, spoke about the overall performance of the agricultural



college and KVKs. He also thanked the State Finance Minister for his quick intervention to release arrears of the teaching staff and pensioners and also urged him to release a huge amount for various pensioners.

SPECIAL FEATURES

21st Convocation of AAU

The 21st Convocation of the University was held on May 4, 2019 at Jorhat campus which was presided over by His Excellency, the Governor of Assam and Chancellor of the University, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi.

Addressing as the distinguished special guest, the Chief Minister, Assam, Sjt. Sarbananda Sonowal in the keynote address announced that the government has decided to set up an Organic Agriculture University and a Veterinary University in the state and said that these universities would fulfil a long-felt need of the region and that the first would promote conservation of the environment and ecology. Sjt. Sonowal while praising the students for academic achievements and bringing laurels to the state by winning awards and international

improve the overall agricultural development in the state, the focus should shift from rice based to multiple cropping which needs to be practised extensively. He further said that research activities should be extended to address the emerging issues and skill upgradation of farmers needs to be strengthened. He called for scientific soil based land use planning which would definitely ensure doubling of economy of the state's marginal farmers.

State Agriculture Minister Sjt. Atul Bora said that during his visit to Vietnam, the government there had assured him of working in collaboration with Assam Agricultural University, which was looked upon as disbursing quality education. He said that AAU was yet to map the productivity and profitability of some of the agriculturally developed states in the country. "This is in fact some of the grey areas for all of you to concentrate and hammer out technology, frame a policy and lead from the front to reap the desired harvest from the sector, bridging the productivity and profitability gap," he said.

In his welcome address, Vice Chancellor K.M. Bujarbaruah gave a detailed account of the University's achievements in the past two years.



recognition, said the students should also go to the doorsteps of the farmers and make a difference by guiding them on scientific methods of farming in order to increase yield as well as to go for integrated and multiple cropping.

Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, HE the Governor of Assam and chancellor of AAU, in his presidential address said that Assam's economy was mainly agrarian and in order to



The University conferred D.Sc Honoris Causa to Dhruva Jyoti Sharma, an agripreneur and Panjab Singh, President of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Altogether 1,426 students were eligible to be conferred degrees out of which more than 900 were present in the occasion.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Inauguration of Professor Kamal Malla Bujarbaruah Auditorium

The newly built state-of-the-art auditorium of the College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha has been dedicated on Aug. 20, 2019 in the name of Dr. Kamal Malla Bujarbaruah, former Vice-Chancellor of AAU, Jorhat



in recognition of his immense contribution for the development of the College. The auditorium with a capacity of 300 seats was inaugurated by the Minister



of Fisheries, Excise, Environment and Forest, Sjt. Parimal Suklabaidya in the presence of Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, former Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Jorhat; Dr. K. K. Tamuli, Dean (i/c), College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha; Sjt. Dimbeswar Das, MLA, Raha; Sjt. Jadav Saikia, DC, Nagaon; Sankar Brata Raimedhi, SP, Nagaon; Pubali Dutta Bujarbaruah, Social Activist cum Advocate of Shillong Bench of Gauhati High Court along with faculty members, administrative officials of the College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha as well as other

faculties of AAU were present on this occasion. At the beginning of the inaugural programme, Dr. K. K. Tamuli, Dean (i/c), CoF, AAU Raha delivered the welcome speech and presented a brief overview of the College from the beginning of the establishment. Speaking on the occasion, Sjt. Parimal Suklabaidya said that it is very important to recognize a great man's contribution and the College has taken a unique initiative to salute the work of the great educationist Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya said that it was not possible to express our gratefulness to Prof. K. M. Bujarbaruah. This is a small gesture to express thanks our mentor, guide and well wisher. At the end, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah said that it was an exceptional moment of his life and expressed his gratitude to the College, especially the University, faculty members and well wisher of AAU. A new girls' hostel named "Yamuna" was also opened for the students of the college on the same day.

AAU donated Rs. 40 lakh to CM's Relief Fund

Dr. Kamal Malla Bujarbaruah, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, AAU, on behalf of the teachers and employees, handed over a cheque of Rs 40 lakh to Chief Minister's Relief Fund on Jul. 20, 2019. The



cheque was given to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Sjt. Sarbananda Sonowal in presence of University officials at the CM's office in Dispur.



SPECIAL FEATURES

62nd Annual Maize Workshop

The 62nd Annual Group Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Maize (AICRP-Maize) was held at AAU, Jorhat during April 5-7, 2019. The group meeting was spread to 12 sessions over three days. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat. Dr. R. K. Singh, Assistant Director General (CC & FFC), ICAR was the guest of honour.



Dr. Sujay Rakshit, Director, IIMR presented the Annual Report of AICRP on Maize and the highlights of achievements in various disciplines. He also presented the work plan of various disciplines.

Dr. R. K. Singh, ADG (CC & FFC), ICAR, in his remarks mentioned that during the last 60 years, maize production has increased progressively. Demand is increasing rapidly due to change in food habit. Last year was challenging for maize due to drought and fall armyworm. There is an immediate need to identify the areas where maize crop could be expanded particularly in NEH region. IIMR should take a lead to address the yield gap in maize production and there is need to optimise the production technology in different regions.

The Chief Guest of the function, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat, emphasized on increasing the area and production of maize in India and particularly in North Eastern states. He urged the maize fraternity to identify the bottlenecks in maize cultivation starting from sowing to procurement and value addition. In NE region, there is tremendous scope for maize cultivation, particularly speciality corn (baby corn and sweet corn) and these are to be promoted in this



region. The research efforts must be synchronised with the global level. He mentioned that more emphasis should be given on resource use efficiency, artificial intelligence, IT etc. to propagate maize in NEH region.

Dr. Ashok Bhattacharya, Director of Research (Agri), AAU in his address, suggested the need of post-harvest management to be included in AICRP trials.



During the programme, Sh. Debonath Mushahary, progressive farmer from Gossaigaon and Sh. Dibankar Rai, entrepreneur, were also felicitated.

The workshop ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Mrinal Saikia Organizing Secretary of the Workshop. This was followed by visit to labs and field by the delegates.

Academic/Administrative

Approval of degrees

The 251st meeting of Board of Management held on May 3, 2019 gave approval to for awarding of degrees during the 21st Convocation. The number of students and awardees are given below.

Degree Programme	No. of passed out students
B.Sc.(Agri)	390
B.Sc (Seri)	23
B.Sc (Horti)	22
B.Sc.(H.Sc.)	54
B.V.Sc.	169
B.F.Sc.	33
M.Sc.(Agri)	332
M.Sc (Food Technology)	9
MBA	14
M.Sc.(H.Sc.)	49
M.V.Sc.	150
M.F.Sc.	17
Ph.D. (Agri)	110
Ph.D.(H.Sc.)	14
Ph.D.(Vety)	40
Ph.D (Fisheries Science)	1
Total	1426



SPECIAL FEATURES

Workshop on Package of Practices Organized

The Workshop on Package of Practices of Field & Horticultural crops jointly organized by AAU, Jorhat and Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam was held at the Dr. M. C. Das Memorial Auditorium on April 2, 2019.

Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, Director of Research (Agri) in this welcome address appraised the preparation of high quality Package of Practices covering latest agricultural technologies.



Sjt. M. S. Manibandhan, Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam in his lecture, gave importance on translating the Package of Practices in Assamese language for the benefit of farming community. Dr. P. K. Mahanta, Director, Horticulture, Govt. of Assam gave the importance on inclusion of latest varieties and technologies of horticultural crops. Sjt. Vinod Seshan, Director, ARIAS Society, Govt. of Assam hoped that the Package of Practices will solve the problems of farmers of Assam.

Agriculture Production
Commissioner, Govt. of Assam, Sjt. Rajesh Prasad suggested to prepare the Package of Practices after every 2 years by including the new and latest technologies of agriculture. He also suggested to translate the Package of Practices in local languages like Assamese, Bodo and Bengali.



In his presidential lecture, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah described the development made in agriculture sector during the last 10 years and suggested to include the small and large modern agricultural technologies in the proposed Package of Practices. He also assured that the Package of Practices will be published very shortly and steps will be taken. Vote of thanks was conferred by Dr. R. K. Saud, Associate Director of Extension Education (P&I), AAU, Jorhat. In the day long programme, a draft on Package of Practices was published by the scientists of AAU and line department officials present.



51st Foundation Day of AAU

The 51st Foundation Day of Assam Agricultural University was observed with a day-long programme on April 1, 2019 in its main campus at Jorhat.

Mr. Arpan Saikia, Registrar of the University in the welcome address, briefed about the progress of the University during last couple of years.

Agriculture Production
Commissioner of Govt. of Assam, Sjt. Rajesh Prasad appraised Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah about the progress of the University. He assured to work together with AAU and Govt. of Assam for the all round agricultural development of the state.



Dr. Mridul Hazarika, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University who was the chief guest of the function, touched upon in his speech, every aspect of agricultural development in the state. He laid particular emphasis on involvement of the young generation in the agricultural sector.



Dr. Bujarbaruah, in his address, thanked teachers, employees and students community for their support and efforts in bringing about the positive changes in the University. He stated about the performance of the teachers and students at the national and international levels.



The Dharmananda Das Memorial Award for best



graduate in the Dept. of Tea Husbandry & Technology was given away to Ms. Himashree Dutta. Vote of thanks was conferred by Dr. Anup Das, Joint Registrar, AAU, Jorhat.

Among the other programmes there was a friendly football match between Teachers' XI & Employees' XI.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Foundation Day Programme of College of Agriculture celebrated

The 71st Foundation Day Programme of College of Agriculture, Assam Agricultural University was held at Dr. M.C. Das Memorial Auditorium, AAU, Jorhat on August 16, 2019.

Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, the former Vice Chancellor of AAU who attended as the chief guest, during his address said that all three colleges viz., Agriculture, Veterinary and Fishery will be separated under three different universities as the three faculties had already lasted for over 50 years and it will be no longer under one roof, which will be separated with a holistic approach for the growth of each other.



The former Vice Chancellor also said as world is opening up in different direction, so for every three years the course curriculum needed to be change for stiff competition which is on the pipeline for a different way and here from this college the graduates needed to get prepared for different queries and questions, they will be facing now and then at various levels, and so they need to keep themselves fit for the same.



Dr. Arun Kumar Pathak, former Director of Research (Agri) who attended as the Guest of Honour spoke about the great concern of migration of farmers to big cities and towns due to bad return from the agricultural sector, which needed to be thought of by the agricultural scientists, how to attract the upcoming new generation

to the agricultural side that needed to be materialized to make it a success and ask to give extra skill, power to the farming youths for doubling the farmers income through various skills which the university had toiled for the last 71 years.

Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor (i/c) of AAU during his address on the completion of the 70 years of the College of Agriculture said that it is time for us to mould our students for national or international level tests which needed to change the mind set and to pin point the structure for which the mind set has to be changed, as it is not a overnight business. Out of 100 we find only one to crack at the national level test which is a heavy load for clearance that needed at this hour by the teachers of AAU. The people of the country is looking for us for guidance and help, he said.

Training program on Aqua Clinics & Aquapreneurship

College of Fisheries, AAU, Raha organized an one month training program on Clinics & Aquapreneurship Development Programme (AC & ADP) during Aug. 27 to Sep. 25, 2019 in collaboration with National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad at CFSc., AAU, Raha Campus. In the inauguration programme, Mrs. Dipmala Roy, Sr. Executive



(Tech) & Officer In-Charge, NFDB, NE Region was present as the chief guest. There were 30 research scholars from different colleges and universities of North East India who participated in this one month residential training programme. In the closing ceremony, Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Jorhat released some publications and Dr. Bhattacharyya appreciated the College of Fishery for organizing this kind of training programme. During one month training, scientist and teachers from different parts of North East India came as resource person.



SPECIAL FEATURES

4th Interactive Meet of Nodal Officers of SAU/DU/CU

Assam Agricultural University hosted two-day interactive session of nodal officers of about 80 agricultural universities of the country during April 9-10,



2019. The fourth workshop of nodal officers representing about 80 agricultural universities of the country began the task of chalking out education, research and extension plans and programmes for their respective universities keeping in mind the objectives of the 14th five year plan to start from this year.

Dr. P. S. Pandey, ADG (EP&HS), briefly described the purpose of the meeting and Dr. M. K. Agnihotri, ADG, HRD, ICAR and Dr. Jayanta Deka, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, AAU spoke on how nodal officers could strengthen and develop higher education in agriculture.

Dr. N. S. Rathore, Deputy Director General (Agri Education) called upon the Nodal Officers first to create a right type of awareness in their respective universities as they are the brand ambassadors working in respective universities who is responsible to create right type of awareness among stake holders in the universities, among students, faculty members, non-teaching staff and even management staff too.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah said that the nodal officers should come up with good visions and that whatever reforms are made would be for 'our own success'. He further said that support from ICAR was fantastic. AAU was annually given Rs 30 crore which was a very good amount for infrastructure development and other works. He also suggested an additional Rs one or two crore for each university which the university could

utilize for priority areas, which sometimes could not be done for lack of this fund. Dr. Bujarbaruah further said that the elevation would reflect the overall status of the university and that the plans and project proposals would go through a lot of debate and should be fundable.



ACHIEVEMENT

- * Dr. Bibha Chetia Borah, Principal Scientist & Incharge, was awarded the Best Scientist Award of the Society of Life Sciences in the year 2019 in the International conference on "Advances and Innovations in Biotechnology" at A.K.S University SATNA, Madhya Pradesh, India on Apr. 5, 2019.
- * Dr. R. K. Saud, Associate Director of Extension Education (P&I) attended Advanced Course on Rice Production and Mecanization for Assam at IRRI, Pilippines during Jun. 24-27, 2019 under APART.
- * Dr. Nabaneeta Gogoi (as nodal officer), Professor, Dept. of Textiles and Apparel Designing, Faculty of Community Science attended a workshop on Environment and Social Safeguard Policy under NAHEP at NASC, ICAR, New Delhi on May 6, 2019.
- * Dr. Bulbul Baruah, Professor, Dept. of Textiles and Apparel Designing, College of Community Science, AAU., Jorhat was invited as a Resource Person in the National level seminar organised by Duliajan Girl's College and sponsored by ICSSR during Apr. 26-27, 2020.
- * Dr. Kalyan Pathak and Dr. Bipul Deka visited International Fertilizer Development Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh for a study tour on Urea Deep Placement (UDP) technique to International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC), Dhaka, Bangladesh during Sep. 9-13, 2019 under APART
- * Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, DR (Agri) & VC (i/c) has been nominated as Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Tea Research association for the term 2019-2022.
- * Dr. B K Sarmah, Director, DBT-NECAB has been nominated as Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Tea Research association for the term 2016-2019, 2019-2022.
- * Dr. B K Sarmah, Director, DBT-NECAB has been nominated as Expert member for Rajasthan Public Service Commission recruitment, 2019
- * Dr. B K Sarmah, Director, DBT-NECAB has been awarded as Outstanding reviewer certificate, 2019 by the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, New Delhi.
- * Dr. B K Sarmah, Director, DBT-NECAB has been nominated as Expert Member for Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), DBT, GoI to identify priority research areas in the field of "Agriculture & Plant Sciences", 2019.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Interactive National Workshop on Biotechnology

The DBT-North East Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology (DBT-NECAB) at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat has organized, a National Workshop on "Potential Biotechnology Programmes Using Bioresources of the NE Region" during Sep. 12-14, 2019. After inaugurating the workshop as the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, emphasised that the symposium has been designed as an ingenious attempt to active learning wherein upcoming Assistant Professors, early career scientists and researchers have



been offered the opportunity of closed-door interaction with the country's best minds in the field of Agricultural Biotechnology. Innovative ideas on the theme will be discussed in the technical sessions wherein pioneers and the best brains of India will help transform shared ideas to implementable research programmes with the support of funding agencies such as the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Gol.

Dr. T Madhan Mohan, Senior Consultant Adviser, DBT-NERBPMC, Gol, New Delhi addressed the gathering as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Kuldeep Singh, Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi and an eminent biotechnologist Prof. Prabhakar Ranjekar, Retd, Director, Interactive Research School for Health Affairs (IRSHA) & Retd. Head, Biochemistry, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune expressed importance of such workshop involving scientists from N E India as there is immense potentiality of conducting fruitful research using bioresources of N E India. Dr P M Bulakh, Director BCUD, Ex Dean B J Medical College, Pune was present as a resource person.

In his address, Prof. B. K. Sarmah, ICAR National Professor (Norman Borlaug Chair) and Director DBT-

NECAB, expressed that it is high time for the scientific community of North East to make the best possible use of bioresources available in the region for an all-round socio-economic development of the region and the nation as a whole with the intervention of cutting edge biotechnological intervention. Prof. Sarmah concluded by immensely thanking the Department of Biotechnology, Gol, New Delhi for generously allocating funds for organizing a workshop of this scale and hoped to motivate people within the region and outside to tap the potential of the hub of biological diversity-NE India.

National Level Competition for Bio Science Students

A national level workshop cum competition for bioscience students on the topic "Development of smart antimicrobial; agent to fight AMR" was held at the Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology, AAU, Khanapara during Sep. 27-28, 2019 . The workshop was held in association with



Fest Shastra IIT Madras event. A total of 37 students from the College of Veterinary Science; University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya and Assam Don Bosco University have attended the workshop cum competition. Dr. Aparna Mazumder was deputed by the Shastra IIT-Madras to act as Mentor to enhance the skill of the participants. Dr. B.N.Saikia, Dean, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara inaugurated the programme. At the end of the workshop a written test was conducted amongst the participants and the best three participants were selected. The entire programme was coordinated by Dr. Dilip Kumar Sarma, Prof. & Head, Dept. of Microbiology, C.V.Sc.,Khanapara, Guwahati along with Dr. Pankaj Deka and Dr. Rajjyoti Deka of the C.V.Sc., AAU, Khanapara.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Swachata Rally, 2019

As a part of Swachata Pakhwada (1st August to 15th August, 2019) launched by GOI, a Swachata Awareness Rally was organized on Aug. 15, 2019 by the NSS unit of SCS



College of Agriculture, AAU, Dhubri. To mark the occasion, a rally comprising of teachers, students and employees marched through the various routes of villages and the main market adjacent to the college to create awareness among the people about the importance of cleanliness and hazards of single use plastic in day to day life.

World Ozone Day celebrated

Celebration of World Ozone Day was organised by Dept of FRMCS on Sep. 16, 2019. The programme was inaugurated by the welcome address of Dr. Babita Sharma,



Asst. Prof. Dr Leena Das Prof and Head Dept of FRMCS, Dr Pronoti Das, Prof and Head Dept of FSN and Dr I. C Boruah, Prof. Dept of Agronomy, F.A., addressed students during the inaugural session of the programme and highlighted different aspects of importance of celebration of Ozone day. Dept of FRMCS also organised a poster competition among UG students CCSc with a theme of "Save Ozone Save Yourself". World Ozone Day celebration ended with a rally programme by First year students of College of Community Science and Food Nutrition & Dietetics to create awareness on the theme.

World Handloom Day celebrated

Department of Textiles and Apparel Designing, College of Community Science celebrated the National Handloom Day on Aug. 8, 2019. In this connection, an exhibition was organized on "Handloom Textiles of North East India" and was inaugurated by Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) of AAU, Jorhat.

46th Foundation Day of College of Community Science

The 46th Foundation Day of College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat was celebrated on Aug. 8, 2019. Mrs. Roshni Aparanji Korati, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat



graced the inaugural programme as Guest of Honour. The programme was inaugurated by lighting of ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries. Dr. Ruplekha Borah, Dean, College of Community Science, AAU, Jorhat welcomed all the invited guests, Faculty members, staff & students of



College of Community Science highlighting the achievements of College of Community Science. Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) presided over the function and emphasized in his address, the role and responsibilities of the College in Community development. Dr. Sangita Datta, MD (Psychiatry), the invited guest speaker of the Foundation Day, delivered a very interesting talk on "Life Skills, Emotional Intelligence and Stress Management for Mental Health and Resilience" to mark the event. The inaugural session was followed by a short cultural programme.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Activities under NAHEP

Students training abroad: Altogether 60 students underwent training in 4 international institutes viz., AIT, Bangkok, Thailand; ICTPH, Philippines; ETH, Zurich, Switzerland and IOWA State University USA. Dr. Bijoylaxmi Bhuyan, Faculty from Dept of FRMCS, College



Community Science, AAU, undertook the responsibility of escorting the students at Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand during Jul. 22 to Aug. 10, 2019.

14 faculty members attended Seminars / Symposia/ Conferences in various international forums.

A Workshop on Nanotechnology was organized on Aug. 22, 2019



During the semester break, altogether 127 students of AAU in 8 batches underwent internship training in institutes within and outside the state.



World Environment Day celebrated

World Environment Day with the theme 'Air Pollution' was observed by the National Service Scheme; Students Society, AAU Jorhat; All India Agricultural Students Association; Assam Science Society, AAU Jorhat Branch and AAU Students' Union on June 5, 2019. The programme was inaugurated by planting saplings of Neem by Sri Arpan



Saikia, Registrar, AAU; Dr. Jayanta Deka, Dean (FA) and Dr. Ruplekha Bora, Dean (C.Sci) within the premises AAU, Jorhat campus. Dr. Deka during his inaugural lecture called upon the AAU fraternity, teachers, students and employees to reach the target of planting 1 lakh saplings of Neem and other medicinal plants in all possible areas within the campus, including the premises of hostels and departments. He also spoke about the importance of observing the day and said that climatic change could be controlled only after planting and growing trees.

World environment day 2019 was also celebrated at SCS College of Agriculture, AAU, Dhubri with an



introductory lecture by Dr. Ranjit Sarma, Associate Dean. The NSS volunteers of the college planted saplings in the college premises.



STUDENTS' WELFARE

Career oriented talk organized

The students of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat attended a talk by Mr Sunil R. Parekh on "Dream and Passion: StartUps" in the Dr M.C.Das Memorial Auditorium on May 10, 2019. Mr Parekh is the Chief of Strategy and Corporate Affairs, Zyduz Cadilla, Ahmedabad; Founding Curator, World Economic Forum (WEF) Geneva, Board Member of 2 (two) business incubators viz., National Design Business Incubator (NDBI) at the National Institute of Design (NID) and Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at IIM, Ahmedabad. The lecture was followed by an interactive session that benefitted the students immensely.

International Yoga Day celebrated

International Yoga Day was celebrated on Jun. 21, 2019 by NSS units, faculty members, employees in the different



campuses of the University. Resource persons with expertise, both from within and outside the University, along with the yoga enthusiasts performed various asanas for peace, health and harmony. In the Jorhat campus, resource persons were invited from Vivekananda Kendra to facilitate the event. Dr Seuji B Neog, faculty member and her group assisted the resource persons besides performing the asanas.

Career Orientation Workshop

Agripositions.com and Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat conducted a "Career Orientation Workshop" in



different constituent colleges of AAU, viz., CFSc, Raha and CVSc, Khanapara on Sep. 2, 2019; AAU, Jorhat campus on Sep. 3, 2019; LCVSc on Sep. 4, 2019; SCSCA, Chapar and BNCA on Sep. 5, 2019, to sensitize the students about

future career prospects in Management in Agriculture, Agri-Engineering, Dairy Tech., Veterinary, Fishery, Food Tech, Horticulture and other allied streams. Mr. Saurabh K Pandey, CEO, ISAB & Skill Advisory and an alumnus of GBPUA&T, Pantnagar and IIM-Ahmedabad and Mr. Narayan Singh Rao, Director, Prakritik Power Pvt Ltd and CEO, the Indian Iris and an alumnus of IIT-Roorkee and IIM- Ahmedabad, acted as Lead Speakers.

Independence Day, 2019 celebrated

Independence Day was celebrated in Assam Agricultural University with great enthusiasm. On the occasion, a 'Swachh Bharat Awareness' procession by NSS volunteers/students, in and around the AAU Campus was held. A Placard Competition on the theme "Swachh Bharat - Clean Campus, Green India", was held amongst the NSS volunteers. The procession was flagged off by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (i/c) Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, in presence of statutory officers, teachers and students of AAU, Jorhat. An essay competition was organized by NSS on the theme: "Swachh Bharat - Clean Campus, Green India".

Cleanliness drive (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan)

A Cleanliness drive (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan) was organized by the NSS Units of AAU, Jorhat campus during Aug. 6-14, 2019. Hostel boarders cleaned their respective hostels, surroundings and nearby locations around the AAU, Jorhat campus. Special cleanliness drive in each hostel was also undertaken on Sunday the 11th August, 2019 where the sole objective was to remove all plastic scrap in and around hostel campuses.

NSS training

Three faculty members of the National Service Scheme (NSS), namely Dr. Pranjit Sutradhar of College of Agriculture, Jorhat, Dr. Aditya Boruah, NSS Programme Officer of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Joyhing, Mr. Rituraj Boruah, NSS Programme Officer of College of Horticulture, Jorhat attended a "Training for Trainers on Life Skills" at the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh during Sep. 16-20, 2019.

NSS Workshop attended

Dr. Pranjal Pratim Neog, NSS Programme Officer, Biswanath College of Agriculture; Mr. Apurba Das, NSS Programme Officer, College of Sericulture, Jorhat and one NSS student volunteer, Sri Nirvikar Shahi, College of Community Science, Jorhat attended a workshop on "Challenges and Opportunities in NSS in the state of Assam, for NSS volunteers and Programme Officers of NSS" at the Don Bosco Institute, Kharguli, Guwahati, during Sep. 26-27, 2019.



State Level Workshop on Spices

A state level workshop entitled "Current trends in production, processing and marketing of spices in Assam" was organised by the Dept. of Horticulture under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture during Aug. 21-22, 2019. Dr. Babulal Meena, Assistant Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut, Kerala was present as chief guest in the inauguration programme of the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Ashok Bhattacharya, Vice Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Jorhat. Dr. P.K. Pathak, Director of



Extension Education, Dr. Mrinal Saikia, Associate Director of Research (Agri.), Dr. Modhumita Choudhury Talukdar, Professor & Head, Dept. of Horticulture, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Saud, Associate Director of Extension Education (P&I) were the other dignitaries present in the programme. Six numbers of extension bulletins on spice crops were also released in the programme for the benefit of the spice farmers of Assam. Four progressive spice farmers of different parts of Assam viz., Mr. Kusheswar Lahon (Saraidoo district), Mr. Sanjib Biswakarma (Golaghat district), Mrs. Jyoti Sonowal (Titabor, Jorhat district) and Mr. Jayanta Gogoi (Titabor, Jorhat district) were felicitated in the inaugural session of the workshop. 100 farmers related to spice production throughout the state participated in the workshop.



The workshop dealt with the scope and constraints of production, processing and marketing of the major spice crops of the Assam. The entire workshop was smoothly conducted by the MIDH team including Mr. Sanjib Sharma, Mr. Soumitra Goswami and Mr. Apurba Das.

Quinquennial Review meeting of AICRP on Weed Management

AAU hosted the Quinquennial Review Meeting of AICRP on Weed Management (Eastern Zone) on Jul, 9-10, 2019 at Jorhat. The team led by the Chairman Dr. A. K. Singh, Ex DDG (NRM) of ICAR and constituted with renowned scientists like



Dr. R. P. Singh (Former Director and Dean, Institute of Agri. Sciences, BHU), Dr. R. D. Gautam (Ex-Professor, ICAR-IASRI), Dr. Siddaramappa (Former Dean, UAS-Bengaluru), Dr. P. Samal (Retired Agricultural Economist), Dr. M. Gopal (Emeritus Scientist, IARI) and Dr. R. P. Dubey (Principal Scientist, Directorate of Weed Research) had evaluated the AICRP-Weed Management Centres of Assam, West Bengal, Orissa and Chhattisgarh. The inaugural session of the meeting was graced by then Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah and the delegates were welcomed by Dr. Ashok Bhattacharyya, Director of Research (Agri). Despite the in-house deliberations



and experimental fields, the QRT Members and other delegates were highly impressed by seeing the Weed Herbarium and the Weed Information Cell - the two unique setups developed by the AAU Jorhat Centre of the Project. The QRT Members are also honoured by the faculties of the Dept. of Agronomy in a separate meeting, where the famous Agronomist, Dr. R. P. Singh offered several valuable suggestions to the young scientists.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT POOL

Title of the Project	Principal Investigator	Funding Agency	Amount (Rs.)
Design and Development of Digital Image database with an Android Apps and Web system for the detection of major pests and diseases of Coconut of Assam.	Dr. N. Mazumdar	Coconut Development Board	18.42 lakh
Morphometry soil erodibility and productivity potential of flood prone basins of Dhemaji district using Remote Sensing and GIS	Dr. B. Deka	NESAC, Govt. of India	24.13 lakh
Moving towards a sustainable private sector by creating responsible business behavior in tea industry in Assam	Mr. D. Kashyap	NGO_ Bal Raksha Bharat	3.28 lakh





Awareness programme for sustainable fisheries of flood affected areas of Assam

An awareness programme for sustainable fisheries of flood affected areas of Assam was organized during Sep. 27-29, 2019. The programme was organized by the Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Khanapara in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai and Jeevan Suraksha, an NGO based at Dibrugarh. The programme took place at two different districts of Assam viz. Kamrup and Morigaon- adopted district of Hon'ble Governor of Assam.

The inauguration of this program took place at Uttar Dharamtul Gaon Panchayat Complex of Morigaon district.



The Chief Guest of the programme was Hon'ble Vice Chancellor cum Director Dr. Gopal Krishna, ICAR, Central Institute of Fishery Education, Mumbai. Deputy Commissioner of Morigaon, Mr. Rituraj Bora attended the function as Guest of Honour. The program was attended by Mr. Utpal Bora, District Fishery Development Officer of Morigaon, Dr. P. P. Srivastava, Principal Scientist cum Nodal Officer of CIFE, Mumbai for North East India, Dr. B.C. Mahapatra, Principal Scientist, CIFE, Kolkata Centre, Dr. Megha Kadam Bedekar, Principal Scientist, CIFE and Anagha Joshi LDA, CIFE.

Dr. Atul Borgohain, Associate Director of Extension Education, AAU, Khanapara presided over the meeting and Dr. Ranjita Bania of Jeevan Suraksha, an NGO from Dibrugarh was co-coordinating the entire programme. About 105 nos. of farmers were provided training on scientific fish rearing and were provided with Jayanti Rahu, advance fingerling and feeds to the farmers of the area.

Hands-on training on weaving

A hands-on training on "Improved techniques of weaving and product diversification for capacity building" was organized by Dr. Nabaneeta Gogoi, Principal Scientist, AICRP-Home Science (CT-Component), in the Dept. of



Textiles and Apparel Designing, College of Community Science during Jul. 29 to Aug. 2, 2019. Thirty (30) weavers from five different AICRP adopted villages, namely, Pirakata Bharaluwa, Mudoijan Bharaluwa, Naopam Bharaluwa, Badulipukhuri Majgaon and Bharaluwa gaon participated in the training. The main objective of the training programme was to make the weavers aware and skilled on improved techniques of pre-weaving process like drum warping, denting, heddle formation and design development by using doobby attachment and ideas about diversification of handloom products, its marketing and entrepreneurship development. Dr. Ruplekha Borah, Dean, College of Community Science, HoDs, faculty members and Principal Scientists of AICRP-Home Science were present in the valedictory function of the training programme. Certificates were distributed among the weavers after completion of training programme.

World Coconut Day Celebrated

World Coconut Day 2019 was observed at the Horticultural Research Station, Kahikuchi on Sep. 2, 2019. Addressing the inaugural meeting of the event, Chairman, Assam Tourism Development Corporation, Mr. Jayanta Malla Barua, said that coconut is a potential commodity to strengthen the socio-economic status of rural Assam and urged upon all stakeholders to rejuvenate the coconut sector in the state.



Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor (i/c), AAU, Dr. A. Bhattacharyya, said that a scientific and strategic roadmap for development of the coconut sector is the need of the hour. Dr. Lunghar Obed, Director, Coconut Development Board; Dr. P. Mahanta, Director of Horticulture & Food Processing, Govt. of Assam and Dr. Sarat Saikia, Chief Scientist, Horticultural Research Station spoke about the development of the coconut based farming.

To commemorate the day, a ceremonial plantation of coconut seedlings was undertaken in the campus of Horticultural Research Station. The programme also included training and field demonstration of coconut-based technologies as well as farmer-scientist interaction.





EXTENSION

Training Programme on Mushroom Cultivation

A skill training programme on 'Mushroom cultivation for self-employment' for rural youths were conducted at KVK, Tinsukia during Aug. 27 to Sep. 2, 2019 under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) scheme of Sub- Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE) of National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, in association with National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad and State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Assam. In the programme, 15



trainees were enlightened upon the cultivation techniques of different types of mushroom while covering other aspects such as nutritional value, health benefits, management of post mushroom substrate, value addition and role of SHGs in production and marketing of mushroom. Special importance was given to market linkage opportunities for self-employment of rural youth.

Skill Development Training programme on Fishery

A Skill Development Training programme on 'Hatchery (Fishery) Production Workers' of 200 hrs under Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India was conducted in Fisheries Research Centre, AAU and EEI (NER) from Jun. 17 to Jul. 16, 2019. Twenty nos. of trainees from different district of Assam 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 and breeding of Kawoi.

NEWS FROM ATIC

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

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

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

Clinical Training to the Paravets of Sikkim

The Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Khanapara organized a training programme on "Clinical Training to the Paravets of Sikkim" during Jul. 20 to Sep. 2, 2019. A



total of 16(sixteen) nos. of paravets from Deptt. of Animal Husbandry & Vety, Sikkim attended the training. They were provided training on skill upgradation in veterinary clinical aspects and diagnostic techniques, both theory as well as practical.

Large Scale Tree Plantation Programme

A Large Scale Tree Plantation programme was organized by KVK, Sonitpur on Sep. 17, 2019 at the office premises. At the beginning of the event, 25 nos. of fruit as well as agro forestry plants were planted in the campus. Speaking at the occasion, DAO, Sonitpur, Mr. Prakash Kr. Borah highlighted the importance of tree plantation to curb the increasing pollution in the environment. He also briefed about Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PMKMY) and requested the farmers to register under the scheme. Smt. Shamim Aktar, RFO, Sonitpur West Div.(T) detailed about the forest cover area in Sonitpur District and asked the farmers to go for more plantation of forest as well as beneficial trees. Mrs. Morjina Begum, President, Gaon Panchayat, Napam talked about the reducing forest cover of Napam GP area and requested Deptt. of Forest, Sonitpur to provide tree saplings to them. More than 100 farmers from different parts of the district were present and more than 500 plants were distributed among them. All the KVK staff was present at the programme.



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