



AAU

Newsletter

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From Vice-Chancellor's Desk ...

Doubling Farmers Income - Road Ahead

The desire of our Hon'ble Prime Minister to double the income of our farmers by 2022 has to be taken with all the needed seriousness both for realizing his dream and benefiting the farming community in the process. Once Mahatma Gandhi had said, To a hungry man, God comes in the form of Bread. This hungry man could be an economically underprivileged one or even a billionaire depending on the situation. The point to bring home is FOOD and its importance irrespective of one's standing and this food producer is today experiencing multiple obstacles ranging from environmental issues to a good price for his harvest. On the face of these obstacles, how we proceed to double his income is the core issue. Notwithstanding the argument as to whether this proposed income increase is in nominal term or real time income, let us analyze how can we go about it.

We need, first of all, to understand that a farmers income does not come from the farm alone. A farmer also does other jobs like running a pan shop, having a road side tea stall or working in MNREGA type of programs. Supposing, out of an income of Rs.100 in a day, Rs.70 and Rs.30 comes from farm and non-farm sources respectively, the income doubling target will have to cover both these sources of income i.e Rs70 has to be taken to Rs.140 and Rs.30 to Rs. 60. Stakeholders engaged in delivering the farm deliverables will be responsible for doubling the farm income and other players for the non-farm part of the income.

Going by the milestone fixed, we have exactly 5 years time from now to achieve the target. We will have to start from this year itself (AAU has started in a modest way through the KVKs) for which following go ahead path is suggested :

- Select at least 20 districts, for first two years, identifying 2 villages in each under 2 cereal crops, 4 horticultural crops, 2 spices and 2 flower crops besides cattle, goat, pig, poultry and 1 fish crop enlisting the cropping pattern followed therein and the niche/ commercially attractive crops of the village together with diversification options and then assess the current level of farmers income in the selected villages based on their categorizations like small, medium and large.
- Immediately after identification of the villages applying PRA type of technique, carry out soil quality assessment together with nutrient application schedule, water availability and quality, quality of seed (including animal and fish seeds) and planting materials used and identify intervention points.
- After their identification, arrange village wise awareness and training including skill development program.
- Simultaneously, assess support needs in a realistic way taking into consideration the accessible support from the already launched Gol schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai

Yojona, Fasal Bima Yojona, Soil Health Cards, RKVY, MNREGA, Technology Missions both on Animal and Horticulture as well as programs under NFDB (National Fisheries Development



- Board) etc and also articulate the linkage chain among these schemes. Separate demands for additional support that might be needed may also be placed to the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Since entire North east is being converted to organic mode of agriculture, plan the interventions accordingly right from seed to other inputs like fertilizers/ pesticides promoting thereby non-farm sector income growth through their production.
 - Prepare contingency plans, arrange short and medium range weather forecasting, use ICT for technology and information (including fund utilization aspect) delivery right at the village community centre, demonstrate resource efficiency doubling methodologies and also attend to farmers stresses by minimizing their labor through suitably designed farm implements.
 - Having done these, foresee the likely output, fix MSP for the crops produced and strengthen procurement machinery as wells as storage infrastructure.
 - Assess post harvest infrastructure and competitiveness of the existing manpower to effectively handle the produce and add value to them. Since they are, by and large, not very sound, draw up a plan to first train the manpower and then infrastructure updating and/ or creating newer ones as the need be.
 - Encourage the youths to adopt secondary agriculture covering the areas of seed, organic fertilizer/ pesticide production, start ups with farm implement manufacturing, food grading, packaging, branding and marketing thus providing locally the backstopping support need to tighten both the back end and forward end linkage chain as well as for creating the missing platform for non-farm earning and employment and also for doing away with the middlemen involved in supplying inferior inputs or taking away the major profit portion at the cost and labor of the farmers. Each penny so saved shall add to the income of the farmer.
 - Take the advantage of Gol initiative for establishing 2 Primary markets in each district and 2 Secondary agricultural markets in each block followed by around 5-6 terminal markets across the state. Also plan for linking the state with e-NAM after a year or two.
 - Skillfully empower the extension agents both for technology and its delivery technique as well as on market intelligence

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From VC's Desk...

gathering so as to pave the way for regional market within the NE Region specially through the trading of niche area crops/commodities of one state to plug the weakness of the other states in producing the same, ie., promote complimentary and supplementary agriculture trading within the region.

- Similar assessment and intervention identification for livestock/ poultry and fisheries sector either on Integrated Farming or on independent farming mode as per the call of the resources and aptitude.
- Plan to develop the village community halls with electronic facilities, the facilities for custom hiring centers for farm machineries as well as with e-choupals.
- Explore the possibility of roping in private players in a partnership mode to translate the currently pursued CDR (Complex, Diverse and Resource Poor) form of agriculture to a semi-commercial to commercial mode.
- Pool 25 percent of CSR fund from the corporate sector for this cause and also involve NABARD like organizations.

After two years of doing the program in the villages suggested above, the other districts and villages will have to be covered in remaining 3 years. The target is achievable. We have committed

man power and also the willing farmers to be the beneficiaries. What is needed is the convergence among the players implementing various government schemes. For example, agriculture department of the state is learnt to have been allocated Rs. 40 crore this year for carrying out demonstration under RKVY. This amount needs to be utilized for doubling farmers income together with the fund available under departments like Irrigation and soil conservation, social welfare, rural development etc. 10 percent fund from these and other related departments needs to be earmarked for this cause and a nodal department/ agency formed under the direct supervision of either the Agriculture Minister or the Chief Minister. We have to realize that lending a helping hand to the farming community who produces food for all of us, is much better than joining the two hands for prayers. we are ready to transform the state's agriculture and the fate of the farmers - Are You?



(K M Bujarbaruah)

Important meetings attended by the Vice-Chancellor

- Chaired the DAC & FW meeting at NEDFI house on Oct. 19, 2016
- Attended Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Chankuchi Public School at Nalbari on Oct. 23, 2016
- Attended the Search-cum-Selection Committee meeting for National Professors, New Delhi on Oct. 24, 2016
- Attended QRT meeting of CIRB, ICAR at Hisar on Oct. 25, 2016
- Attended meeting at RARS, Titabar and attended Sivasagar Book Fair on Nov. 8, 2016
- Attended Regional Agricultural Fair at College of Agriculture, Imphal on Nov. 10, 2016
- Attended inauguration function of Sports Meet at Khanapara on Nov. 16, 2016
- Attended the 52nd meeting of Academic Council of ICAR - Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai on Nov. 18, 2016
- Attended Farmers Fair at Shillongani on Nov. 23, 2016
- Attended meeting with the Agriculture Minister, Govt. of Assam at Guwahati on Nov. 23, 2016
- Attended ADMAC meeting at Bangalore on Nov. 25, 2016
- Attended RAC meeting of NIVEDI at Bangalore on Nov. 26, 2016
- Attended Pig Expo meeting at Rani on Nov. 28, 2016
- Meeting with NITI Aayog at Guwahati on Nov. 29, 2016
- Attended Annual Sports Meet at Dhubri on Dec. 1, 2016
- Attended Sports Meet and assess the developmental activities at CFSc, AAU, Raha on Dec. 2, 2016
- Attended meeting of APART at Guwahati on Dec. 13, 2016
- Attended meeting with SDG at Assam Administrative College, Guwahati on Dec. 14, 2016
- Attended Search-cum-Selection Committee meeting at ICAR for National Fellows on Dec. 18, 2016
- Attended IAUA meeting at Gandhinagar on Dec. 20, 2016
- Attended the Selection Committee meeting for the "Establishment of new centers Advanced Faculty Training" at ICAR, New Delhi as a member on Jan. 3, 2017
- Attended 4th Assam International Agri-Horti Show at Khanapara on Jan. 5-7, 2017
- Attended CPC meeting at Khanapara on Feb. 1, 2017
- Attended the RAC meeting at Bangalore on Feb. 3, 2017
- Attended meeting at IAUA, New Delhi on Feb. 13, 2017
- Attended the Annual VC's Conference at ICAR, New Delhi on Feb. 14-15, 2017
- Attended 2nd National Youth Convention on "Agricultural Innovation in Sustainable food system for improving livelihood on Feb. 20, 2017
- Attended Agricultural Science Congress at Bangalore on Feb. 21-22, 2017
- Attended SAC meeting at KVK, Golaghat on Mar. 14, 2017
- Attended National Professor Selection meeting at New Delhi on Mar. 17, 2017
- Chaired the Selection Committee meeting for Chief Scientists at Khanapara on Mar. 18-19, 2017
- Attended meeting on Doubling Farmers Income as Chairman for Assam on Mar. 20, 2017
- Chaired the meeting on Doubling Farmers Income as Chairman for Meghal'aya on Mar. 21, 2017
- Attended the SAC meeting at KVK Nalbari and Kamrup on Mar. 29, 2017



20th Convocation of AAU held

20th convocation of AAU was held at Dr. M. C. Das Memorial Auditorium on Feb. 28, 2017.

Altogether 676 graduates and postgraduates received their degree certificates and as many as 30 students



received gold medals and cash prizes for their academic proficiencies. Dr. Kamal Malla Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of AAU, in his welcome address said, "Convocation is a very special occasion for a university, more so for a premier university like AAU which has been producing quality human resources in the field of agriculture and allied sciences not only for the service of the north-eastern region but also for the nation as a whole".



Addressing the students, teachers, researchers and other staffs of the University, His Excellency the Governor of Assam and the Chancellor

of the University Sjt. Banwarilal Purohit and the Director General of ICAR, Dr. Trilochan Mahapatra



said that this esteemed institution of the north-eastern region had already set outstanding records in agricultural research and education for larger benefits of the farming community of the country.

Eminent space scientist, Dr. J. N. Goswami; Director General of the New Delhi-based Borlaug Institute for South Asia Dr. H. S. Gupta; eminent veterinary scientist and former Professor of College of Veterinary Science Dr. C. K. Rajkonwar were conferred with Doctor of Science (DSc) degrees (Honoris Causa).

Gold medals and cash prizes were awarded to 30 students for their proficiency in different academic programmes

including B. Sc. (Agriculture), B Sc in Veterinary Science and animal husbandry, BFSc, BSc (Horticulture) and in subjects like Entomology, Food Science and Nutrition.

The coveted AAU gold medals were received by Pratiksha Baishya and Bandana Saikia in BSc (Agri) course for the academic year 2015 and 2016 respectively while Vishal Rai was



conferred with the University gold medal for his proficiency in BVSc and Animal Husbandry programme

in 2016.



Hon'ble Governor of Assam visits AAU, Jorhat

HE the Governor of Assam and the Chancellor of AAU Sjt. Banwarilal Purohit visited Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat on January 18, 2017. Addressing the staff and students of the University at the Dr. M.C. Das Memorial auditorium, expressed that the government will work in partnership with the University so that research and technology benefit the farmers. He also asked the students not to go for blue-collar jobs and research, though this was important, but to go back to farming to show the villagers the potential in agriculture. He said that agriculture was a culture and even today 68 per cent of India's population was dependent on it.

He said earlier, each agriculture-based village economy in India had been self-sufficient but regretted that these villages had now been denuded of youths who were moving out in search of greener pastures. "We have to bring them back and make agriculture as profitable as any other industry." He also praised the University for being proactive in trying to make the state 100 per cent organic in the next five years, saying then he would come back and present a *sarai* and *gamosa* if AAU succeeds.



Earlier, Sri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MP, Jorhat also proposed that full autonomy should be restored to the University despite the Memorandum of Understanding it signed in 2006. Tasa said the University should be given a free hand in producing rice seed for the state, which was being procured from outside. "The University is equipped with needed technology and will promote local varieties as well as those suited to particular soil types," he said.

Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor described the various achievements of the University, the national and international awards received, the good work of 23 Krishi Vigyan Kendras involved in extension work and adoption of more than 900 villages in different districts of Assam.

National Conference on Farmers First

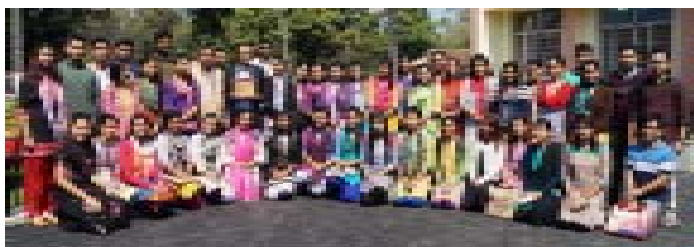
National Conference on Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources in Northeastern Region (FFCSWR-2017) was held from Feb. 9-11, 2017 with College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara acting as the local organizer. Sri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam inaugurated the conference as the Chief Guest. Dr.



K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat and Dr. A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi also graced the occasion by their kind presence. The conference was organized by Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

AAU bagged Best Centre award at IIT, Guwahati

Assam Agricultural University (AAU) bagged the 'Best Centre' award at Research Conclave, IIT, Guwahati (IITG) that was held during Mar. 16-19, 2017. The students of AAU received the award from Dr. Gautam Biswas, Director, IITG on behalf of the University. Research Conclave is organized under the banner of Students Academic Board (SAB) of IITG and its main



objective is to nurture the young minds towards research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Apart from winning the best centre award, Udit Nandan Mishra, Ranima Mishra, Priyam Sharma, Pompei Deka, Murchana Malakar, Pallavi Devi, Afsana Rehman, Gargee Baruah, Panthoi Changtham and Dr. Rinumoni Buragohain of Assam Agricultural University were adjudged for the best poster awards among 400 participants in the category of Life sciences and Social Sciences. About 500 students from different institutions like JNU, IITG, JB College, Students from Bhutan participated in the Research Conclave. The winners of the 'Best Poster' awards received certificates along with cash prizes and trophies. Among many universities of the country, AAU was selected as best centre due to its excellent research and scientific quality and structure of the presentations.



Annual Conference of Indian Poultry Science Association (IPSACON 2016)

The Indian Poultry Science Association and the Dept. of Poultry Science, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara organized XXXIII Annual Conference of Indian Poultry Science Association (IPSACON 2016) & National Symposium on Rural poultry for livelihood, Nutritional and Economic Security on Nov. 3-5, 2016. This conference held for the 1st time in N.E region was attended by 305 numbers of delegates, 50 numbers of entrepreneurs and more the 150 numbers of farmers. The Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Sri Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated the



conference and gave a constructive & encouraging speech for overall improvement of rural poultry sector for economic development of rural community. Sri Atul Bora, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture & Food Processing, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Assam enlightened the gathering with an illuminating speech. Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU delivered the welcome address and briefed about the poultry scenario of the country with special emphasis on economic upliftment through poultry rearing. The other dignitaries present were Dr. R.S. Gandhi, ADG (AP&B), ICAR; Dr. A. Jalaludeen, President, IPSA and host of dignitaries from different parts of the country including the host organization. The outcome of the conference were important recommendations for development of poultry sector of the entire country.

Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics

76th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE) was held during Nov. 21-23, 2016 at the Jorhat Campus of AAU.

Participating in the conference, Dr. Ramesh Chand, member of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Ayog, said that the country requires an annual

growth rate of 10.4 percent in agriculture to double the income of farmers by the year 2022, as per the directive of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister referred to doubling farmers' income by the year 2022, which is seven years away from the base year 2015-16. And, if anything is to be doubled by the year 2022-23, it will require an annual growth rate of 10.4 percent," justified Dr. Chand.

Stressing on the importance of proper implementation of Government policies for effective growth in agriculture and farmers' welfare, the NITI Ayog member said that if



the well coordinated efforts are successfully made effective by the Centre and the States, then the country can achieve the goal of doubling farmers' income within a period of 7 to 10 years.

"Some recent development initiatives of the Central Government aims to raise output and reduce cost. They include Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana. Another major initiative that provides insurance against crop and income loss is Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana," he said.

A galaxy of agricultural economists from India and abroad participated in the Conference. Dr. Abhijit Sen, ex-member, Planning Commission and President of the Executive Committee, ISAE; Dr. R. B. Barman, Chairman, National Statistical Commission; senior officials from NABARD, RBI, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune; Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad participated in the Conference.

Expressing optimism about achieving the targeted growth rate through effective implementation of the Government schemes and innovative measures, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah said that he was confident of making various positive changes in agriculture.



SPECIAL FEATURES

NE Zonal Meeting of IPS-2016

The Annual zonal meeting of the North East Zone of Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS) was held successfully at the Dept. of Plant Pathology, AAU, Jorhat during Nov. 4-5, 2016. Emphasizing on organic mode of disease management, a National Seminar on "Facilitating a shift from Chemo Centric to organic mode of Plant health Management in the North East" was held where more than 100 research workers from various institutes of the NE



participated and presented their research findings through oral and poster presentations in 3 technical sessions.

The Zonal President, Dr. K C Puzari welcomed the delegates. Inaugurating the meeting, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah opined that organic agriculture is the need of the day, but a multidisciplinary approach is required to implement it successfully. A souvenir cum abstract of research papers was released by the VC in the inaugural session. Besides the technical sessions for presenting the research works, a competition was also held for nomination to the M. J. Narasimhan Merit Academic award contest which was bagged by two PhD scholars of the Dept. of Plant Pathology, AAU. Another competition was also held for the American Phytopathological Society's travel grant, in which another Ph. D scholar of the Dept. of Plant Pathology got selected for the final contest to be organized by IPS, New Delhi. The vote of thanks was offered by the Zonal Councillor Dr. A. Bhattacharyya.

Conference on "Linking Food Entrepreneurs With Govt. Schemes & Markets"

A Conference on "Linking Prospective Food Entrepreneurs With Government Schemes & Markets" was organized on Feb. 16, 2017 by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) in collaboration with Ministry of Food & Processing Industries (MoFPI), Govt. of India and Assam Agriculture University,

Jorhat for providing a platform to aspiring food entrepreneurs, existing SMEs in food, agriculture professionals & students, progressive farmers, Self Help Groups, etc. for sharing their views and learn about latest initiatives and opportunities available in the field of Agro Food Industries and inform them about the different scheme of Government for promoting food processing industries in Assam and North Eastern Region of India.

Inaugurating the Conference Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Jorhat appreciated ASSOCHAM and MoFPI, Govt. of India for addressing the issue of linking farmer with market. He asked the



government, industries and scientists to formulate policies to attract youth of Assam toward agriculture and make agriculture a carrier objective.

Dr. Om S Tyagi, Senior Director, ASSOCHAM, in his welcome address said that the food processing industry had made some significant progress in North Eastern region of India.

Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, in his address said that present government is optimizing farming system for doubling farmers income. Assam Agricultural University through its different programs encourages entrepreneurship among farmers of the state. Farmers of Assam appreciated the work done by AAU for development of agriculture in north east. He also informed about the different scheme of the central and state governments for development of agriculture in the state.

Dr. D. Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST, discussed various financial schemes funded by government agency to help farmers and rural youths to develop into successful Agri entrepreneur.

Dr. D. K. Bora, Director of Extension Education, AAU proposed the vote of thanks to all the speaker and farmers, scientists and students for their warm participation.



PCRA-AAU Joined hand to save fuel in Agricultural Sector

Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Govt. of India and Assam Agricultural University signed a MoU at Jorhat on Oct. 28, 2016. Under this MoU, PCRA and AAU will work collaboratively to spread awareness on efficient use of energy and conservation of petroleum product among the farmers of Assam.

The MoU was signed by Shri Prabir Kr. Raychaudhuri, Director & Chief Regional Coordinator, PCRA (Eastern Region) and Dr. Dipak Kumar Bora, Director, Extension



Education, AAU in presence of Dr. M. Neog, Associate Director of Extension Education (T), AAU and Shri Indrajit Kaman, Dy. Director, PCRA, Guwahati. During the signing ceremony other AAU Senior officials like Dr. R.K Saud, Associate Director of Extension Education (P&I), Dr. M.K Sarma, Sr. Extn. Specialist, Dr. J. Goswami, Sr. Extn. Specialist, Dr. U. Goswami, Sr. Extn. Specialist, Dr. R.C Baruah, Sr. Extn. Specialist and Mr. S.P Saikia, Asst, Comptroller were also present.

Programme on Livelihood promotion of tribal farmers through vegetable cultivation launched

Tribal Sub Plan programme on Livelihood promotion of tribal farmers through vegetable



cultivation was launched at Neulgaon, Jorhat by the AICRP on Nematodes in Cropping System, Dept. of Nematology, AAU, Jorhat on

Nov. 7, 2016 by the Professor and Head, Dept. of Nematology, AAU, Jorhat. Beneficiaries were distributed with quality seeds of brinjal and tomato, vermicompost, bioagents against nematodes and

inorganic fertilizers. A training programme was also organized on the occasion.

Workshop on Conservation of Lac Insect Genetic Resources

To review the activities of the Network project on Conservation of Lac Insect Genetic Resources, a workshop was held during Dec. 6-7, 2016 at AAU, Jorhat with active participation of sixteen eminent lac scientists and researchers from nine different states of the country along with about fifty scientists of AAU. Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU; Dr. K.K. Sharma, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums (IINRG), Ranchi; Dr. D.K. Borah, Dean, FA, AAU; Dr. C. Hazarika, DPGS, AAU; Dr. G.N. Hazarika, Former DR (Agri), AAU and many other dignitaries graced the



occasion. Dr. L.K. Hazarika, Organizing Secretary and Head, Dept. of Entomology, AAU welcomed the delegates and briefly narrated about lac insects.

Dr. K.M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU inaugurated the workshop and in the Chairman's remarks, he urged the scientists to develop scientific technologies needed to improve traditional lac cultivation to a scientifically advanced commercial venture so as to attract youths. Expansion of traditional lac growing areas might be possible through inter-state collaboration. Dr. Bujarbaruah also emphasised on possible replacement of harmful plastics with products made of natural resins and gums. He also accentuated initiation of collaborative works with State Biodiversity Board and Forest Research Institutes to know more about the insect as well as to bring commerce into lac production in the future.

During the workshop, with the financial assistance from the ICAR-IINRG, Ranchi, a newly established "Lac Park" at AAU, Jorhat was inaugurated by Dr. K.K. Sharma, Director in presence of scientists from all the collaborating centres.

SPECIAL FEATURES

AAU and CCRI Nagpur sign MoU to promote Citrus output

Assam Agricultural University (AAU) and Central Citrus Research Institute (CCRI), Nagpur signed an MoU at AAU, Jorhat on Mar 6, 2017 to boost and promote citrus production in the North Eastern region. As per the MoU, a sub-centre of the CCRI would be opened at the BN College of Agriculture, AAU, Biswanath Chariali. Dr. M. L. Ladaniya, Director, CCRI, Nagpur and Sri Arpan Saikia,

Registrar, AAU signed the MoU.

The Regional Centre will be providing all required



technical guidance and assistance to citrus growers of Assam and other seven states of NE region.

Allocations for scientific, technical, administrative and supporting staff would be proposed in the budget of the institute, apart from setting up office buildings, to be built in a phased manner in the next four years. The fund provision is being made in the new budget for the institute's development.

The centre will propel citrus production, particularly Khasi mandarin in the region, with scientific eco-friendly technologies and also engage in transfer of technology programmes.

World Wetlands Day, 2017 organized

A day long awareness programme on 'Conservation and judicious utilization of wetlands' was organized at Fisheries Research Centre, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, on Feb. 2, 2017 to celebrate the 'World Wetlands Day, 2017' with the theme 'Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction'. The programme was attended by 60 nos. of wetland managers and other stakeholders of wetlands of Jorhat and Golaghat districts. In the inaugural session,

a brochure on conservation and judicious utilization of wetlands was released in the presence of Dean (FA), Dr.



D.K. Borah; DSW, Dr. D. K. Borah; DFDO, Jorhat, Shri C.K. Gogoi and Principal Scientist & Incharge, FRC, Dr. Bibha Chetia Borah. Resource Persons from AAU, NFDB and DFDO, GoA enlightened the participants on the importance of wetlands for water conservation, conservation of environment and biodiversity and possible judicious utilization for enhanced production.

GI tag for Joha rice of Assam

The Trademarks and Geographical Indication (GI) Authority, Govt. of India has awarded the GI tag for Joha rice of Assam under The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat facilitated this registration process and the application was filed by Seuj Satirtha, an NGO of Sivasagar district. This is the first time that the State has received GI registration for rice varieties. The GI registry has approved 43 different varieties of Joha rice.

Academic/Administrative

Decisions of the 244th meeting of BoM :

- * Dr. G. N. Hazarika was appointed as the Director of Research (Agri), Dr. H. C. Bhattacharyya as the Director of Extension Education, Dr. R. K. Saud as the Associate Director of Extension Education (P&I), Dr. M. Neog as the Associate Director of Extension Education (Training), Dr. P. K. Pathak as the Associate Director of Research (Agri), Dr. R.N. Barman as the Associate Dean of Biswanath College of Agriculture and Dr. U. R. Tamuli as the Associate Dean of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science. Dr. P. Chowdhury and Dr. Abdul Hafiz were appointed as Sr. Scientist & Head of KVK, Cachar and Karimganj respectively.
- * Superannuation age of the medical doctors serving in the University has been raised from 60 to 65 years.

Decisions of the 225th Meeting of the Academic Council :

- * Shri Arpan Kumar Saikia, ACS who served the Govt. of Assam in various capacities joined the Assam Agricultural University as the Registrar on Feb. 7, 2017.
- * The new nomenclature of the Faculty of Home Science as the Faculty of Community Science, as recommended by the 5th Deans' Committee was accepted by the Academic Council.
- * The total credit requirement for B.Sc (Hons), Community Science Programme was approved as 170.
- * The students pursuing Master Degree have been allowed to submit their synopsis within the 2nd semester as in the case of PhD programme.



Workshop on Lac Cultivation Technology

A workshop was organised at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, on March 24, 2017 to create an awareness on "Scientific Lac Cultivation Technology" among twenty-one farmers from different districts of Assam, under the Network Project "Conservation of Lac Insect Genetic Resources".



The farmers took keen interest on lac cultivation and were given hands-on-training besides providing the theoretical knowledge of the insect, host plants,

its associated problems and marketing. Participating farmers also formed a cooperative society with the name and style "All Assam Lac Growers' Cooperative Society".

Visit of eminent scientist

Assoc. Professor Hui-Shung (Christie) Chang, Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Rural Futures, School of Behavioural Cognitive and Social Sciences, University of New England, Armidale, Australia visited the department as Visiting Scientist for a period of 3 weeks (Oct. 14-Nov. 9, 2016). During her stay she took classes for M.Sc (Agril.Economics) and MBA (Agri Business) students. Dr. Chang also delivered a talk on "Research, Extension and Capacity Building of Sweet potato Farmers in Papua New Guinea: Lessons Learned and Recommendations" at the faculty level and another talk at the department level. She visited the farmers' field at Majuli, Teok, Titabor and had discussions with the farmers.



Best Centre Award for AICRP on Agrometeorology

Jorhat centre of All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology has been adjudged as the Best Centre for Dissemination of Agromet Advisory services for the year 2015-16. Dr. Bondita Goswami, PI of the project received the Award in XIV Biennial Workshop of AICRP on Agrometeorology held during Dec. 5-7, 2016 in Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.



XXII Biennial Workshop of AICRP on Home Science

The XXII Biennial Workshop of AICRP on Home Science was organised by College of Home Science and hosted by AAU, Jorhat, Assam on Feb. 10-11, 2017. In the inaugural function, Dr. G. N. Hazarika, DR (Agri) and Dr. S. Kaur, Dean, College of Home Science, welcomed all the dignitaries, experts, delegates and participants from SAUs. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Narendra Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Deputy Director General (Education Division), ICAR, New Delhi as chief guest. In his inaugural speech, he urged upon the scientists to give a new view to enhance the visibility



of AICRP on Home Science. Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, in his presidential address emphasized the importance of Home Science education and urged to bring up the visibility of AICRP-Home science. Dr. Jatinder Kishtwaria, Director and Project Coordinator ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar, in her key note address expressed that this Biennial Workshop is a momentous occasion as this offers opportunities to deliberate future goals and strategies in attaining the objectives of medium term plan commencing from 2017-2020. Ms. Zerifa Wahid, Ambassador, Assam Autism Foundation and Special Olympics Bharat (Assam Chapter) and special guest on the occasion appreciated the role of Home Science in empowering womenfolk of the nation. Dr. Ruplekha Borah, Principal Scientist and Organizing Secretary of the workshop said that the workshop was attended by scientists from ten coordinating centres from SAUs across the country and eminent experts were invited for each component to bring out strategic action programme models. An exhibition was put up for showcasing the technologies and publications of the scientists under AICRP-Home Science during the 12th five years plan.

SPECIAL FEATURES

ACHIEVEMENT

- * Dr. B. K. Sarmah, Director, DBT-AAU centre earned the following peer recognitions : (i) Member Screening committee DBT-UExcell programme since Sept, 2016 and (ii) Member, Task Force (DBT-Agricultural Biotechnology), since Dec 2016
- * Dr. Ajit Baishya, Principal Scientist, IFS published a book entitled, "Waste Recycling Through Integrated Farming System : An Assam Agriculture Experience" by Editions Universities European, Germany.
- * Dr. Chandan Hazarika, Director of Post Graduate Studies has been nominated as a member of the Board of Management of IARI, New Delhi.
- * P. Deka, K. Pathak and A. Sarma of Dept. of Agronomy received Best Poster Award in the 1st Asian Conference On 'Water and Land Management for Food and Livelihood Security' organized by IGKV, Raipur and Soil Conservation Society of India during Jan. 20-22, 2017.
- * Dr. D. Bhattacharyya, Professor, Dept. of Soil Science has been nominated as Member of the Academic Council of Gauhati University.
- * Mr. Sundar Barman, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Extension Education has been conferred Best Extension Professional Award -2017 during Jan. 28-31, 2017 by the Society of Extension Education, Agra for his outstanding contribution in the field of extension Education.
- * Ms Angelena Patro, postgraduate student of Dept. of Extension Education, FA AAU, Jorhat bagged the Best Paper presentation Award in 8th National Extension Education Congress-2017 during Jan. 28-31, 2017
- * Mridupawan Saikia, Ph. D. Scholar of the Dept. of Soil Science received the Best Poster Award in 1st Asian Conference on "Water and Land management for food and livelihood Security" during 20-22 January, 2017 at IGKV, Raipur
- * Ms Babita Tamuli, postgraduate student of Dept of Soil Science was awarded the UGC sponsored Rajib Gandhi National Fellowship for OBC candidates to pursue higher studies leading to Ph. D. degrees for the year 2017-18.
- * Ms Luna Baruah, M.Sc. (Agri) student and Ms Dorodi Priyam Duara, PhD(Agri) student of Dept of

Horticulture received Bayer fellowship for PG programme.

- * "MJ Narashimhan Award" was received by P. Khan, P. K. Borah and L. C. Bora during Annual meeting of IPS at ICAR-Barapani, 9-11 Jan, 2017.
- * Best poster award was received by Ranima Mishra, B. Raigond and P. D. Nath at Research Conclave, IIT-Guwahati, 16-19 March, 2017.
- * Mr. Anurag Kashyap, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, AAU, Jorhat was awarded with Netaji Subhas ICAR International Fellowship 2016-17 for pursuing Ph.D. at Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics, Barcelona, Spain.
- * Dr. Probodh Borah, Professor & Head, Dept. of Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara was nominated as a Member of the Committee constituted by Dept. of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India to review the progress of five DST-sponsored projects implemented at NRC, Mithun, Medziphema, Dimapur and Nagaland State Science & Technology Council, Kohima, Nagaland during Oct. 13-15, 2016.

Dr. Borah was also invited by DBT, Govt. of India as an Expert for participating and addressing the 2nd Review and Monitoring cum Mentoring Meeting of DBT-BLISS programme held at Imphal on Nov. 3-4, 2016.
- * Dr. R. K. Thakuria, Chief Scientist and Dr. K. Pathak, Pr. Scientist, AICRP on Irrigation Water Management and Ms. Bebi Gogoi, PhD student, Dept. of Agronomy presented their research papers in the Fourth International Agronomy Congress on Agronomy for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Environment, Energy and Livelihood Security to Achieve Zero Hunger Challenge, organized by Indian Society of Agronomy, held at New Delhi during Nov. 22-26, 2016.
- * Ms. Sontara Kalita, PhD student of Dept. of Agronomy, AAU, Jorhat received Chancellor's Gold Medal from Sri Kalyan Singh, the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan for outstanding performance in M.Sc. (Agri).
- * Ms. Rinumoni Buragohain, a Ph. D student of the Dept. of Agril. Econ. & FM received one of the 10 best Ph.D student's presentation award in the 76 Annual Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Economics.



Regional Crop Planning Workshop

A Policy Advocacy Dissemination workshop, "Regional Crop Planning for Improving Resource Use Efficiency and Sustainability" was organized by the Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Farm Management, AAU, Jorhat under the ICAR-NIAP SSN project on Jan. 28, 2017. Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU presided over the inaugural session. Dr. Rajni Jain, Principal Scientist, NIAP and P.I of the project attended the workshop along with Dr. S.K. Srivastava Scientist, NIAP.



National Symposium on Molecular Insect Science

The National Symposium on Molecular Insect Science organized by the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat was inaugurated by Dr. K.M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat and Dr. M.K. Bhattacharyya, Professor, Iowa State University, USA and Dr. P.K. Talukdar, Registrar (i/c), AAU, Jorhat attended the inaugural session as special guests. Altogether 120 numbers of scientists, teachers, researchers and students across the country participated in the symposium.

Dr. Bujarbaruah in his chairman's address stated that insect pests had always been reported as threat to the national food security.



Agricultural biotechnology had revolutionized the agriculture worldwide. He urged upon the scientists to explore the fields of molecular science and biotechnology for addressing the pest problems and generating viable technologies for overall progress in agriculture. In connection with the symposium a Souvenir and Abstracts was released by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. Dr. Bhattacharyya delivered the key-note talk on 'Soybean-Phytophthora interaction; GmDS1 enhances SDS resistance in particular', which was found to be useful in enhancing resistance against two spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae* in transgenic soybean.

Workshop on "Emerging Pest Problem in Assam - Preparedness to Mitigation"

Dept. of Entomology, AAU, Jorhat organized a day long workshop on "Emerging Pest Problem in Assam - Preparedness to Mitigation" on Oct. 24, 2016 to understand the natural phenomenon, scientific theories and principles related to insect outbreaks and also to design mitigation strategies. Thus, 60 entomologists working in the University system deliberated in a brain storming session. Impact of pesticides, changing cropping pattern and climate change on pest bioecology was discussed. Increase in temperature, erratic rainfall pattern and monoculture were adjusted as the factors responsible for recent pest outbreaks. Under the changing scenario, the IPM as well as extension or transfer of technologies that could be considered appropriate were also discussed. This yielded useful recommendations, amongst which the most important were development of a pest monitoring system and establishment of commercial insectaries under PPP mode. Appointments of scouts for pest surveillance may be taken up in project mode, which may be helpful in reducing pest outbreaks in future.



Outstanding Centre Award for AICRP-MSPE Project to AAU

Jorhat Centre under All India Coordinated Research project on "Micro and secondary nutrients and pollutant elements in soils and plants (AICRP-MSPE), AAU was adjudged as the Outstanding AICRP-MSPE Centre at 28th National Workshop & Interface Meeting held on Mar. 21-23, 2017, Bhopal. The award was given to Jorhat Centre for its outstanding contributions in research activities in the field of delineation of micro and secondary nutrients status in soils of Assam, development of technologies for amelioration of micro and secondary nutrients, establishment of critical limit of zinc, boron and sulphur in soils and plants and different activities for improvement of crop production for management of secondary and micronutrients for tribal farmers under Tribal-Sub Plan.



STUDENTS' WELFARE

28th AAU Inter-College Meet

The 28th AAU Inter-College meet was organized at the C.V.Sc, Khanapara from Mar. 3-6, 2017. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah. Shri Hiren Ch. Nath, IPS, Commissioner of police, Guwahati was the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour was Mr. Dhruva Jyoti Hazarika, IAS, APSC member. All the nine constituent colleges of AAU participated and the College of Veterinary Science was adjudged as the best college.



Experts from ITC Ltd. delivers a talk

Mr. Nazeeb Arif, Executive Vice President and Chief of Corporate Communications of ITC Ltd. has delivered a talk on "Creating a Sustainable and Secure Future - The Triple Bottom-line Approach" on Mar. 17, 2017 at the IDA seminar hall of AAU, Jorhat campus. The talk was attended by teachers, scientists and more than 120 post graduate students. The presentation included the various activities of ITC, environment friendly policies, sustainability issues and their future strategies. The talk was followed by a very lively interaction session. It was organized by Dr. C. Hazarika, DPGS, AAU, Jorhat. After the discussion, Mr. Arif has shown his interest for building up future collaborations in the field of Research.



Workshop on Digital India

A University-level Workshop on Digital India was held at Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat on Oct. 31, 2016 with the active participation of the NSS Volunteers and Programme Officers of 8 (eight) constituent Colleges under



AAU. The workshop was sponsored by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India through the stewardship of National E-Governance Division with the theme of "Power to Empower". Inaugurating the Workshop as the Chief Guest, Dr K M Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU stated that rural masses need to be digitally educated in order to transform the dream of Digital India into a reality and AAU shall utilize the presence of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras and the RAWEP students in the nook and corner of the state in reaching them out.

Krishi Siksha Diwas

Assam Agricultural University organized "Krishi Siksha Diwas" on Dec. 3, 2016 in a befitting manner. The College of Agriculture has organized a Debating competition on the theme "Agriculture of Assam to be totally transformed into organic" and a Fine Arts competition on the theme "High-tech Agriculture" organized in the Academic Complex Building of the University. The debating competition with 70 student participants was chaired by Dr. D.K. Borah, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture. Three cash prizes were awarded in each of the



competitions. The College of Home Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat also organized Krishi Siksha Diwas by conducting "Poster Making" competition on the theme "Agriculture". Further, a Farmers-Scientist interaction programmes were organised by 10 KVKs viz., Dhubri, Baksa, Darrang, Dhemaji, Kokrajhar, Sonitpur, Karimganj, Bongaigaon, Golaghat and Kamrup.

AAU organizes NSS Special Camp

National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Assam Agril. University, Jorhat successfully organized a Special Camp from Nov. 28 to Dec. 4, 2016 in Balijan Shyam Gaon and Na Shyam Gaon of Kachukhat, Titabar which is under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) in Jorhat District (Assam). About 250 student NSS volunteers of Agriculture, Home Science and Sericulture presented various messages as a part of the Awareness Programme amongst the villagers, majority of whom are farmers.





Ceremonial Release of Pig Variety HD- K75

A ceremony was organised on Oct. 14, 2016 at AAU Khanapara to release a synthetic variety of pig developed under ICAR-All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Pig, AAU, Khanapara. The variety was named HD-K 75, where "H" signifies 75% Hampshire, "D" signifies Desi (Indigenous) pig of Assam and "K" represents the place of its development i.e. Khanapara. Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor, AAU, Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah presided over the release ceremony. Dr. Habibur Rahman, DDG (AS), ICAR, released the variety. Dr. R S Gandhi, ADG (AP&B), ICAR; Dr. D K Sarma, Director, ICAR-NRC on Pig, Rani; officials from the Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Govt. of Assam; Dr A Chakraborty, DR (Vety), AAU, Khanapara and hosts of other dignitaries from AAU attended the ceremony. The pig variety with 75% Hampshire and 25% indigenous inheritance (75%H: 25% I) had been stabilized through 16 generations of inter-se mating. The first litter of this variety was obtained on 11.11.1988. The 16th generation of inter-se mating had been completed in 2016. The coat



colour of this variety of pig is usually black with a white belt in the shoulder region, which might extend up to the

forelimbs. The ears are erect. This newly developed variety of pig is found to be far superior to the indigenous pigs of Assam in terms of productive and reproductive performances. Already this pig variety has gained popularity among the farmers of Assam as well as the entire North Eastern Region of India because of its high production potential, consistency in performance and adaptability to the local environment.

Awareness and Distribution of Soil Health Card in Majuli

An Awareness and Distribution programme of Soil Health Card (SHC) was organized under RKVY project "Mapping and soil testing of macro and micro nutrients for precise fertilizer recommendations to the farmers of Assam", Dept. of Soil Science, AAU, Jorhat,



in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Majuli on March, 21-22, 2017 in Majuli. Dr G.N. Hazarika, DR (Agri); scientists of Dept. of Soil Science, AAU and Officers of the line Depts. along with farmers attended the meeting. Dr D. Bhattacharyya, Professor, Soil Science acted as resource person. In this programme 241 number of farmers of Majuli and 166 farmers of Ujani Majuli, Block of Majuli district were provided Soil Health Cards.

Horticultural Show & Competition

29th Horticultural Show & Competition was organized by the Dept. of Horticulture, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat on Feb. 17, 2017. More than 400 farmers from different places of Assam like Jorhat, Bokakhat, Sivsagar, Titabar, Dhekiajuli participated in the various sections (fruits, vegetable, mushroom, cut flower, potted plant, flower arrangement, nursery, jam, jelly, marmalade, pickle, salad, juice, etc.) of the competition. The show and competition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr K.M. Bujarbaruah. The event ended with the prize distribution ceremony. The best exhibit prize of the show given in memory of Late Jyotis Chandra Sarma was bagged by Mr. Bhubesh Bezbaruah.



Celebration of World Water Day

A day long programme was organized by AICRP on Irrigation Water Management (IWM) on Mar. 22, 2017 at 2 No. Bahikhowa village, Bokakhat on the occasion of World Water Day. Altogether, 157 nos. of farmers, farm women, rural youth and students participated in the programme. Field visit was followed by an awareness meeting. The meeting was chaired by Sri Lakshmi Nath Kutum, a social worker of the locality and attended by Dr. B. Guha, Professor and Head, Agronomy; Dr. K. K. Sharma, Principal Investigator, AICRP on Forage Crops; Dr. R.K. Thakuria, Chief Scientist, and Dr. A. Sharma, Principal Scientist, AICRP on IWM; Dr F. Ahmed, Sr. Scientist and Head, Dr. (Mrs) M. Barthakur, KVK, Golaghat and Sri Bikash Bhorali, a successful Agri-preneur. The distinguished speakers highlighted about the efficient use of water in crop and animal production and domestic use so that the water could be saved for future use.





RESEARCH

Vegetable varieties and breeding lines developed

The following vegetable varieties and breeding lines have been developed by AAU through multidisciplinary research involving the departments of Plant Breeding & Genetics, Horticulture and Plant Pathology :

- * A variety of ridge gourd, viz., JorRG 09-05 tolerant to fruit rot and flood (even at active fruiting stage) with high yield potential (120-125 q/ha) was developed through pedigree selection.
- * An okra hybrid- AAUOKHYB-1 was developed through heterosis breeding method. It is a high yielder (180-200 q/ha) with moderate resistance to YVMV disease

and flood withstanding ability even at active flowering stage.

- * Two *Amaranthus* varieties, viz. JORAM-1 (Shyamoli) and JORAM-2 (Rodali) developed by selection from local germplasms at AAU have high yield potential and good consumer performance.
- * Two breeding lines of tomato, viz., JorSel-19 and JorSel-35 having resistance to blight and bacterial wilt were developed by crossing *Lycopersicon esculentum* and *L. pimpinillifolium*.

All these varieties and lines are now being conserved at NBPGR. The ridge gourd, okra and *Amaranthus* varieties have shown good performance at various AICRP centers across the country.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT POOL

Title of the Project	Principal Investigator	Funding Agency	Amount (Rs.)
Identification of genes contributing resistance <i>Alternaria brassicae</i> from a non-host plant and their characterization in Arabidopsis for durable crop protection against blight disease of <i>Brassica rapa</i>	Dr.P. Bharali	DBT, GoI	78.75 lakh
Marketing Strategies for Horticultural Crops in Assam	Dr.K.C.Talukdar	NIAM	10.00 lakh
Induced mutagenesis for early maturing plant type of Indian mustard (<i>Brassica juncea</i> (L) Coss. & Cze	Dr.P.K.Baruah	BRNS, GoI	26.95 lakh
Participatory technology assessment for enhancing farming system productivity and developing entrepreneurship for sustainable rural livelihood	Dr. P.K.Pathak	ICAR	94.25 lakh
Genome and transcriptome sequencing of aromatic rices from N.E. Region	Dr.R.N. Sarmah	DBT, GoI	73.94 lakh
Development of HY non lodging and biotic resistant varieties of black scented rice of Manipur and Jaha rice of Assam through biotechnological intervention	Dr. A.R. Baruah	DBT, GoI	35.84 lakh
DBT scented rice programme for NE	Dr. S.D. Deka	DBT, GoI	16.04 lakh
Development of HY non lodging and biotic resistant varieties of black scented rice of Manipur and Jaha rice	Dr. S.K. Chetia	DBT, GoI	36.77 lakh
Biodiversity studies of aromatic rice in N.E. India	Dr. M.K. Modi	DBT, GoI	49.79 lakh
Genome and transcriptome sequencing of aromatic rices from N.E. Region	Dr. M.K. Modi	DBT, GoI	35.79 lakh
Biodiversity studies of aromatic rice in N.E. India	Dr. T. Ahmed	DBT, GoI	49.27 lakh
Establishment/strengthening of biofertilizer and biocontrol production units for increasing pulse production in India	Dr. Rajen Baruah	DBT, GoI	123.00 lakh
Defining miRNA mediated regulation of secondary metabolite accumulation in <i>Cymbopogon winterianus</i>	Dr. Kamalkashi Devi	DBT, GOI	34.23 lakh
Wild mushroom from N.E. India: Evaluation of their nutritional status and medicinal properties	Dr. Robin Ch. Boro	DBT, GOI	19.23 lakh
Augmentation of Agriculture through Efficient Resource Utilization With Participatory Approach	Dr. M. Saikia	Oil India, GoI	164.36 lakh
Conservation of indigenous pig of Assam through handmade cloning technique	Dr Nikhil Ch Nath	DBT, GoI	62.23 lakh
Isolation, characterization and development of a culture method for long term preservation of spermatogonial stem cell from doom pig.	Dr Arpana Das	DBT, GoI	71.14 lakh
Molecular characterization of fecundity genes in Assam Hill Goat	Dr Farzin Akhtar	DBT, GoI	43.84 lakh
Exploring selected natural plant sources of North East parts of India as potential therapeutic agents useful for the treatment of cancer	Dr. C. Choudhury Barua	DBT, GoI	66.42 lakh
Sero surveillance of Leptospira infection in animals of North Eastern region of India	Dr D. P. Bora	DBT, GoI	39.53 lakh





RARS, Titabar celebrated Farmers' Day, 2016

RARS, Titabar, celebrated the Farmers' Day on Nov. 8, 2016 wherein 2000 farmers from different parts of the state have participated. The Day was inaugurated by Ms. Bornali Baruah, a Progressive Farmer of Sivasagar district. Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU participated as the Chief Guest



of the Function. Four progressive farmers and three Agriculture Officers, Govt. of

Assam were felicitated for their active support for the successful implementation of IRRI- AAU collaborative Project, "STRASA" funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. An exhibition on different aspects of recent development on agriculture and allied areas was also organized on that day. Different government organizations and multi national companies participated in the exhibition along with AAU. A field visit and a Farmer Scientist Interaction were also organized to mark the occasion.

AAU participated in Pig Expo 2016

The Directorate of Extension Education, AAU, Khanapara and KVK, Kamrup under the banner of Assam Agricultural University participated in the 'Pig Expo 2016' organized by ICAR National Research Centre on Pig at Rani on Nov. 28-29, 2016. An attempt was made to focus various scientific and modern technologies related to pig farming developed and recommended by AAU for the benefit of the people in general and the farming community in particular. Live demonstration of recently released variety 'HDK75' of pig together with varieties of processed and value added products of pork was also made which could draw great attention of the visitors and the farmers in the AAU stall.

Training programme at RARS, AAU, Diphu

A training programme on 'Scientific production technology of high yielding direct seeded ahu rice varieties for upland and jhum agro eco-system' was organized at RARS, Diphu on Jan. 11, 2017. Sri Mangal Singh Timung, Hon'ble Executive Member (Agri.) of KAAC inaugurated the programme. Mr. M. Rajbongshi, DAO;



representatives from Irrigation, Veterinary, Agril. Engineering departments along with scientists from RARS, Diphu and KVK, Karbi Anglong and farmers participated in the training programme. EM(Agri) in his inaugural address described the importance of training for socio-economic benefit of the farmers and expressed satisfaction over the activities of the research station as appraised by Dr A.Roy, Chief Scientist, RARS, Diphu.

Custom Hiring Centre inaugurated

The Custom Hiring Centre under TSP project of RARS Diphu was inaugurated at Sarihajan, Karbi Anglong on Jan. 20, 2017. Dignitaries from AAU, Jorhat, scientists from RARS, Diphu and KVK Karbi Anglong, Executive Member, and other Ex Executive Members from Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Officers from Dept. of Agriculture, representatives from KASS and farmers participated in the inaugural function chaired by Dr. G.



N. Hazarika, OSD and Ex Director of Research AAU Jorhat. Dr. Ashutosh Roy, Chief Scientist, RARS Diphu, in his welcome address described about the Custom Hiring Centre for farmers. Dr. Dipak

Bora, Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat and Dr. Mrinal Saikia, Nodal officer of TSP project addressed the farmers. An expo was also organized where TSP related farmers displayed improved breeds of goat, pig, poultry etc.

Awareness camp on "Handmade Paper and Fiber Industry"

An awareness camp sponsored by Khadi and V.I Commission, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, on "Handmade Paper and Fiber Industry" was organized by the Dept. of Extension and Communication Management in collaboration with NGO SNEHPAD, Jorhat on Mar. 18, 2017 to create awareness on entrepreneurial skill and capacity building of the educated rural youths of six states of



North-East region. Vice-President (SNEHPAD) Sri Prakash Thakur detailed the activities and scope of the handmade paper and fiber industry in his speech. A documentary film on hand paper and its use was also shown by the Asst. Director, KVIC, Assam.





EXTENSION

Pre-rabi Campaign cum World Soil Day organized

The Pre-rabi Campaign cum World Soil Day, 2016 was observed by KVKs under AAU on Dec. 5, 2016 in their respective districts. Various agricultural technologies were showcased in the exhibition for public viewing. A total of around 250 Soil Health Cards were distributed among the farmers by each KVK during the programme.



Pre-rabi Campaign by KVK Dhemaji

Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan Week observed by KVKs

The Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan Week commemorating the birthday of former Prime Ministers Choudhury Charan Singh and Sri Atal Bihari Vajpai on 23rd and 25th December, respectively, was celebrated by Krishi Vigyan Kendras under Assam Agricultural University holding a



Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan Week celebration by KVK Barpeta



Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan Week celebration by KVK Dibrugarh

series of programmes like vocational training, distribution of poultry birds, organizing kisan goshies, conducting method demonstrations, undertaking farm visits etc. during Dec. 23-29, 2016. In all the

programmes the farmers' response was overwhelming which encouraged the scientists of KVK.

Launching of the Project "ARYA"

The project 'Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)' was launched in the month of Nov. 11, 2016 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Karbi Anglong in their district. To attract the rural youth of Karbi Anglong towards agriculture and allied activities for and to own agriculture as their profession four awareness cum training programmes were organised under the

NEWS FROM ATIC

Farmers' visit : A total of 2254 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

chairmanship of Dr. Akhil Kr. Deka, Programme Coordinator of the KVK. During the



events a total of 200 youths from 8 villages of the district were imparted training on commercial production technology of pineapple, pig, poultry, mushroom, the enterprises selected for inclusion in the project activities. The process of beneficiary selection for the project is in progress and majority of the youths have been selected from among the youths who have received the training. The project is expected to bring some of the entrepreneur youth to the field of self employment in a sustainable manner.

Skill Development Training on Decorative Candle Making

A Skill Development training programme on "Decorative Candle Making", sponsored by Numoligarh Refinery Limited, Golaghat was organized by the Dept. of Family Resource Management, College of Home Science during Nov. 7-12, 2016. The training was successfully completed



under the supervision of Dr. (Mrs) Ruplekha Borah, Prof. & Head, Dept. of Family Resource Management. Dr. (Mrs) Nandita Bhattacharyya, Professor, Dept. of Family Resource Management acted as Co-coordinator of the training. Twenty five youths from different areas of Jorhat district participated in the programme. Mrs. Moitree Hazorika from Guwahati was the resource person in the training programme. Techniques of preparing decorative candles were clearly demonstrated for skill development of youth participants so that they can become self-dependent.

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