



## 240<sup>th</sup> Board of Faculty of Agriculture (BOFA) meeting held

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Tej Partap honoured during the meeting and retiring faculty members given warm farewell

**B**oard of Faculty of Agriculture (BOFA) in its 240<sup>th</sup> meeting hosted in Gandhi Hall with proper social distancing received an opportunity to invite Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor as a special guest in BOFA and felicitate him for his achievements, contributions and leadership. It is to mark that the Vice-Chancellor has been nominated as the President of Association of Indian Universities (AIU), which is a matter of great prestige for the University.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture and Chairman, BOFA elaborated that the imperative steps taken by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for online classes, online examinations, alumni reforms, financial strengthening, online Diploma and Certificate courses, decentralization of power have created a sense of strong optimism across the University, which are historical in nature and will be supporting the University structure and functioning for long.

Also, Dr. H.S. Chawla, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Dr. S.S. Verma, Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Dr. Santosh Kumar, Professor, Horticulture, Dr. P.N. Singh, Professor, Horticulture and Dr. V.K. Sah, Professor, Agronomy were paid warm farewell for completion of their illustrious tenure at Pantnagar. BOFA remembered their contribution and achievements and dedicated a citation, plaque and shawl to them in their honour.

Dr. Ranjan Srivastava, Professor was unanimously elected as Secretary, BOFA on this occasion while greetings were delivered to BOFA members, Dr. J. Kumar for resuming the responsibility of Registrar, Dr. S.K. Kashyap for being selected as Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr. K.P. Raverkar for being selected as Dean, P.G.S. and Dr. A.S. Nain for being selected as Director Experiment Station.



Dr. Tej Partap honoured during BOFA meeting for taking on the responsibility of President, Association of Indian Universities



Gratitude to all retiring faculty members for their incessant service to the college and inspiring the lives of hundreds of students



Contributed by:  
Vanshika Gupta, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

"An ever-green revolution implies the enhancement of productivity in perpetuity without associated ecological harm."

- M. S. Swaminathan

## Consultative meeting held with AAAP executives and College Core Action Group

The College of Agriculture envisions to provide relevant, need-based solutions to all its stakeholders, and considers the role of alumni as significant in this aspect. On June 20, 2020 a consultative meeting was held online with the executives of Agri Alumni Association of Pantnagar (AAAP) and College Core Action Group, where some senior alumni of the college were also invited. The meeting was initiated under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Dr. Tej Partap, and coordination of Dean Agriculture Dr. S.K. Kashyap and General Secretary AAAP Mr. Virendra Goswami. The agenda of this online meeting was to strengthen the alumni connect and enhance their participation and support for college developmental activities. The meeting witnessed the presence of notable alumni including Dr. Brahm Singh (Padma Shri recipient and Advisor, World Noni Research Foundation), Dr. S.K. Malhotra (Agriculture Commissioner, Govt. of India), Dr. Vasant Gandhi (Professor, IIM Ahmedabad), Mr. N.K. Arora (President, AAAP), Mr. Aleen Mukherjee (Treasurer, AAAP), Dr. V.P.S. Arora, Mr. Kaushal Kumar Jaiswal, Mr. Harish Rawat and several faculty members of the college.

The welcome note of the meeting was presented by Dr. J.P. Jaiswal, Chairman, College Core Action Group. Thereafter, setting up the pace, Dean Agriculture gave quick glimpses of how Pantnagar has evolved over the past 60 years and now it is time to further strengthen bonds with the alumni to take the college to new heights. Even the Vice Chancellor Dr. Tej Partap suggested that though the college has a strong institutional foundation, but the indispensable support of the alumni is must. He added that a five year blueprint is required for the advancement of the college, and creating an alumni based Advisory Council of the college would be the right way to move forward. Following this, the inputs of the alumni were gathered. Dr. Brahm Singh actively



endorsed reskilling and upskilling training of faculty members so that they can nurture students to emerge as thinkers, planners and innovators in the field of agriculture. Adding to it, Mr. Vijay Arora suggested that the Practical Crop Production programme needs to be revisited with inclusion of modern techniques. With respect to the course curriculum and student skill development, Dr. Vasant Gandhi and Mr. Aleen Mukherjee stated that as per changes in the job market, contemporary theoretical and skill based courses should be added in the curriculum. Furthering the association of alumni, Dr. Suresh Malhotra advised that there is a need to map skill sets of current students and accordingly alumni mentoring could be provided to them.

With thought provoking recommendations of the alumni, the meeting reached to a fruitful conclusion and conviction of all for working hand to hand for the cause of the college. Dr. R.P. Singh, Coordinator, College Academic Committee offered the vote of thanks and extended his gratitude to the alumni.



Contributed by:  
Pooja Kaira, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

## Celebrating Pantnagar, Celebrating Friendship

The six decades of Pantnagar journey has bestowed great friendships, eternal alumni relationships, and lifelong learnings for its students. Fond memories of Pantnagar graduates thrive all across the world, and the Pantnagar alumni relish and cherish them. One such momentous occasion was when three graduates of first batch of College of Agriculture and also of the University got together to celebrate the six decades of establishment of Pantnagar University and also their six decades of friendship. Dr. H.L.S. Tandon, Dr. K.K. Arora, and Mr. J.P. Arora got together at Connaught Place in New Delhi to rejoice their togetherness which initiated in Pantnagar. Speaking to College Editorial Team, they said that this get together was spent reminiscing old memories and misadventures during their college days. With countless memories and bundles of fun, the trio talked about the times where everyone on the campus knew everybody else and nothing could be kept secretive. Recounting times where they would often have a cup of tea with Dr. K.A.P. Stevenson, the first Vice-Chancellor of the University and share familial rapport with him, the trio expressed immense joy and



Friends since 1960 celebrating 60 years of Pantnagar

pride. Over the years, Pantnagar has not only seen different batches coming and going, but also seen everlasting memories and friendships, like that of these three distinguished individuals.



Contributed by:  
Abha Belwal, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

## B.Tech Food Technology programme launched

The College of Agriculture launched the all new B.Tech Food Technology degree programme with approval from the Academic Council and affiliation from the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). This new degree programme with advanced course curriculum and industry aligned learning will be replacing the earlier B.Sc Food Technology programme running in the college. The degree programme is open to all aspiring candidates from the 2020-21 academic session. This all new degree programme is being offered by one of the departments of the college, the Department of Food Science and Technology which was established in 1971, and has produced many brilliant students.

The B.Tech Food Technology programme will be a four year degree programme with 30 seats and candidates with PCM (physics, chemistry, mathematics) or PCMB (physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology) background would be eligible to join it. The programme will offer a rich course curriculum with a blend of regular industry visits, integrated industrial training and foreign exchange programmes. Also, the students will get an opportunity



to work under the guidance of renowned scientists and teachers alongwith international faculty. Moreover, with access to advanced scientific laboratories, library with over four lakh documents, central computing facility and other large scale facilities of the University, this degree programme is a lucrative option for any individual who wishes to pursue the emerging dynamic career opportunities in the food industry.



Contributed by:  
*Sumit Tewari, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year*

## Certificate and Diploma courses to be launched at Pantnagar

In the recent Academic Council meeting of the University, the proposal for initiating skill based certificate and diploma courses was approved. In the path of history, this is for the first time that the University would be imparting such courses. It is an important initiative with respect to catering to the larger segment of learners and enhancing the reach and impact of the University. These courses will be run by different colleges of the University and will fulfil the requirement of generating skilled individuals. Also, many of these courses will be multidisciplinary in nature, and hence will provide a vast opportunity to learners from all across the domains to enrich their understanding and knowledge.

The College of Agriculture will be launching eighteen courses initially. These courses would be provided in online mode and the duration would be ranging between three-six months. The fee for each certificate course will be Rs. 5000 only while for diploma course it will be Rs. 10,000 only. A complete structured portal would be released wherein students will be provided with a unique account to access the course content. The content would be in the form of text material, video lectures, webinars with national and international experts, live interactive sessions, and other suitable forms. Online registration for these courses will begin in near future and further details will also be provided. The courses are being designed in a way so that learners have a saturating and overwhelming experience. The leading experts from Pantnagar will be conducting these courses and hence, through this the intellectual power of Pantnagar would be available for global learners. Following courses are approved by the council:



Contributed by:  
*Vishwas Bandhari, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year*

### List of Courses Approved for College of Agriculture

- Certificate course on Indian Monsoon, Weather Forecasting and Agromet Advisory Services
- Certificate course on Integrated Farming System
- Certificate course on Organic Farming
- Certificate course on Beekeeping
- Certificate course on Mass Production Technology of Important Bio-control Agents
- Certificate course on Sericulture
- Certificate course on Dairy Production Technology
- Certificate course on Bakery Products Technology
- Certificate course on Technology of Processing of Fruit & Vegetable Products
- Certificate course on Seed Production Technology
- Certificate course on Commercial Horticulture
- Certificate course on Protected Cultivation of Horticultural Crops
- Certificate course on Nursery Production & Management
- Certificate course on Commercial Floriculture & Landscaping
- Certificate course on Mushroom Cultivation Technology
- Certificate course on Production and Application of Organic Manure
- Certificate course on Rapid Soil Testing and Nutrient Management
- Certificate course on Biofertilizers: Their importance Constraints and Method of Application

## Potential of Indian seed industry unraveled by MD Rijk Zwaan India Seed

The Indian seed industry is one of the most mature and vibrant one in the world having an annual turnover of approximately 9000 crores. To further have an insight about the same, a webinar was organized on June 26, 2020 and Mr. Harendra Singh, Managing Director, Rijk Zwaan India Seed Private Limited was invited to deliberate on *Overview and Future Outlook of Seed Industry: Opportunities for Agriculture Students*. The content of Mr. Harendra Singh's talk included an overview of seed industry, changing trends, challenges, future outlook, and opportunities for agriculture students. While elaborating on the potential of the seed industry, Mr. Harendra Singh shared some interesting statistics regarding seed business in India, and trends of general seed market and vegetable seed market. He even stated that due to increasing world population, we should increase the production capacity, crop yield, cultivation efficiency, and improve harvesting and processing systems. Explaining the effect of urbanization, Mr. Singh stressed upon the importance of hydroponics and discussed the repercussions of changing lifestyle and unhealthy food pattern. Towards the end, he gave information related to industry challenges and opportunities available for agriculture graduates in seeds and other allied industries. He showed affirmation regarding supporting the college students with placements and internships at his

### Brief Profile of Mr. Harendra (Harry) Singh Alumnus of College of Agriculture, Batch 1980



Presently working as Managing Director at Rijk Zwaan India Seeds Pvt Ltd (world's fourth largest vegetable seed company from Holland), Mr. Harry Singh graduated from Pantnagar in 1983, and then pursued Diploma in Import and Export Management from Bangalore and Certificate Course in Leadership Management from IESE Business School, Barcelona, Spain. In his last 35 years of professional career, he was in multiple leadership roles like National Head India, Regional Head for South East Asia, Global Head of Sales and Marketing with various organizations like GK Seeds, Pioneer Seeds USA, ProAgro Seeds India, Nunhems Seeds Holland. He is also an active member of Seed Association of India and Asia Pacific Seed Association, Bangkok.

organization. The webinar concluded with an interesting round of question answer between Mr. Harendra Singh and the participants.



Contributed by:  
Anubhav Singh Raj, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

## Executive Vice President NCDEX talked about agriculture derivatives market in India

The Indian market presently is a lucrative option for business organizations around the world. The agriculture derivatives market in India is also one such prosperous market, and the leading Indian organization in the sector is NCDEX. The Executive Vice-President of NCDEX, Mr. Aleen Mukherjee is a college alumnus and was invited for a webinar to talk about *Agriculture Derivatives Market in India*. The webinar was held on June 22, 2020 and witnessed extensive participation of students and faculty members of the college. It initiated with the welcome address by Dr. V.C. Dhyani, Member, College Academic Committee who introduced the guest speaker and stated that it is a joint initiative of various college committees to strengthen our connect with the college alumni. Thereafter, Mr. Mukherjee took the baton and began carving out the story of Indian agriculture derivatives market. Starting out, he described some basic concepts related to what a commodity is, what is pricing, pricing strategy, why do commodity prices fluctuate on a daily basis, how to manage price fluctuation using techniques of contract farming, diversification of crop, pooling of inputs, using substitutes etc. Moving ahead, he talked about different prevalent categories of market where commodity trading is practiced and this included physical market (like mandi, haat) and future market (where buyers and seller do not interact physically like e-commerce platforms). He even explained the objective and features of commodity derivatives, the trading processes and price volatility of derivatives market, and methods to reduce

### Brief Profile of Mr. Aleen Mukherjee Alumnus of College of Agriculture, Batch 1987



Currently serving as Executive Vice President of Business Strategy at the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) and COO of NCDEX Institute of Commodity Markets and Research (NICR), Mr. Aleen Mukherjee graduated from Pantnagar in 1993 after pursuing his graduation and masters and the did advanced certificate course in Food Safety and Trade from the World Bank and in Strategic Thinking and Leadership for Growth from the Wharton School. In a career spanning 25 years across countries including India, West and East Africa, he has donned multiple hats as a development professional, roles in the private sector and as an entrepreneur. He has had significant leadership roles with organizations such as Winrock International, Tata Farms and USAID and has consulted for agencies like FAO, UNCTAD and KPMG. He specializes in developing implementation plans for large-scale projects on building agricultural supply chains, back-end integration and connecting farmers to export and forward markets.

commodity price risks. With such a descriptive session by Mr. Mukherjee, the participants were all convinced about the virtues and challenges associated with derivative markets.



Contributed by:  
Mohit Singh Bohra, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

## Chief Agronomist Israel Chemicals Limited invited for a technical webinar

The advancements in agricultural science over the years have offered economic and yield benefits for the farming community. In context of fertilizers, which are considered important for enhancing production to serve the mankind, the role of coated or specialty fertilizers is also gaining prominence. To further understand this in detail, Mr. Sanjay Naithani, Chief Agronomist, Israel Chemicals Limited, who is also a Pantnagar alumnus was called upon to conduct a webinar on the same aspect on June 27, 2020. Dr. M.A. Ansari initiated the session and welcomed all on the online platform. Thereafter, Mr. Naithani began by explaining the concept of coated/specialty fertilizers. He told that this concept has been in practice in the industry for decades but it is a new concept in India. He very precisely explained the benefits and importance of this concept and how this controlled release technology works and its application in different sectors. Mr. Sanjay Naithani detailed how this CRFs can reduce the environmental footprints in agricultural crops by lowering the fertilizer inputs of water soluble fertilizer. With an example of phosphorous application in potato, he detailed how a developing plant demands different nutrients at different stages for its optimal growth and how the coated fertilizer is efficient in meeting the differentiated demand of plant as per the requirements and reduces the leaching of nutrients. Continuing further, he talked about the controlled release of nutrient through physical barriers, organic and inorganic coatings. An interactive question answer session was held after the talk of Mr. Naithani. In the valedictory part, Dr. Sumit Chaturvedi, Associate Professor, Agronomy informed that our

### Brief Profile of Mr. Sanjay Naithani Alumnus of College of Agriculture, Batch 1983



Presently working as Chief Agronomist at Israel Chemicals Limited, Mr. Sanjay Naithani graduated from Pantnagar in 1988 after pursuing his graduation and masters. He has had a productive professional career of 27 years with expertise in domains of sales, marketing, business excellence and product development in agriculture sector and related industries. In the past he has lead important initiatives while working with Tata Chemicals for 16 years in the capacity of Deputy Manager (Business Development, Technical Training) and Assistant Manager (CRM). He has been an active member of AAAP and coordinates the AAAP Ratna Scholarship programme for undergraduate students of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar.

college is working under NICRA project for climate change initiated by ICAR under which our college has developed coated and intercalated fertilizer with natural materials like plant residue and converted them into polymers and used them. He told that it is the fourth year of experiment and it is working good in the fields. A vote of thanks was then delivered by Dr. Omvati Verma, Staff Counsellor, Agriculture Society.



Contributed by:  
Sheetal Bhagat, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

## Webinar on Pearl Millet led by recipient of MS Swaminathan Women Scientist Award

The contribution of agricultural scientists of the country in sustaining the food security of the country has been immense. One such well known scientist who has been working on the pearl millet crop is Dr. Tara Satyavati, Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Pearl Millet, Rajasthan. She was invited by the College Academic Committee for a webinar on June 18, 2020 whereby she delivered a lecture on *Pearl Millet: A Climate Resilient Crop for Food and Nutritional Security*. The welcome address was given Dr. V.C. Dhyani, Member, College Academic Committee to begin the webinar, and followed by it was the talk of Dr. Satyavati. She highlighted various challenges that farmers face during the production of crops then suggested how millets crop can help in overcoming those challenges. She then elaborated on pearl millets including the taxonomic history, origin, distribution, ecological adaptation, area under production, and requirement of hybrids. She also focused on the nutrition composition of millets and biofortified pearl millet hybrids and its varieties. She even advised that pearl millets are effective immunity boosters, and now is the time to rethink and redesign our food system to deliver nutritious as well as affordable food to the consumers. The lecture of Dr. Satyavati was highly appreciated and it provided the

### Brief Profile of Dr. Tara Satyavati



Currently serving as Project Coordinator ICAR - AICRP on Pearl Millet, Rajasthan, Dr. Tara Satyavati earlier worked as Principal Scientist in the Division of Genetics, IARI, New Delhi. She pioneered the work on pearl millet nutritional improvement through biofortification and has made immense contribution in developing hybrids and varieties of pearl millet. She has published 80 research papers in reputed national and international journals. She has written six books and handled 20 research projects financed by DAC, Govt. of India, DBT, AP Cess fund, GLDC Innovation fund, BMGF and ICAR. She is a proud recipient of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Women Scientist Award 2019, Outstanding Millet Scientist Award 2018, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Outstanding Woman Scientist Award 2016, etc.

solution for improving agriculture production in climate stresses and maintaining the food and nutritional security of the country.



Contributed by:  
Anubhav Singh Raj, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

## New HoDs appointed for six departments in the college

The HoD (Head of Department) is the leading figure to manage the developmental activities of the department to improve its teaching and research contributions. The five years tenure of the HoD is an opportunity to take the departmental achievements to the next level and indeed the relieved six HoDs of the college provided exceptional services. As per the directives of Additional Chief Personnel Officer, these HoDs were relieved from their post on June 21, 2020 on successful completion of their tenure. In the interest of the University and well-being of the college, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Tej Partap decided that now the respective departments will be led by the senior most professor of the department for the next tenure. The details of newly appointed HoDs are given below. Dr. S. K. Kashyap, Dean College of Agriculture, greeted and welcomed the newly appointed HoDs. He said that he expects that these new designations will add new feathers to the cap and will bring

laurels to the college through the dedication and determination of all.

- Department of Agricultural Economics, Dr. H.N. Singh succeeded by Dr. M.L. Sharma
- Department of Entomology, Dr. Pramod Mall succeeded by Dr. S.N. Tewari
- Department of Food Science and Technology, Dr. C.S. Chopra succeeded by Dr. S.K. Sharma
- Department of Horticulture, Dr. Ranjan K. Srivastava succeeded by Dr. D.C. Dimri
- Department of Soil Science, Dr. P.C. Srivastava succeeded by Dr. G. K. Dwivedi
- Department of Vegetable Science, Dr. Manoj Raghav succeeded by Dr. D. K. Singh



Contributed by:  
*Simran Pundir, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year*

## Practical Crop Production (PCP) area getting renovated

Pantnagar University is popularly acclaimed for its experiential learning curriculum, of which the Practical Crop Production (PCP) programme of College of Agriculture is an integral part. The PCP is an extensive, rigorous programme undertaken by third year undergraduate students. A large piece of land (almost one hectare) is provided to a group of 6-8 students where they cultivate the rice and wheat crops. The complete task of land preparation, sowing, irrigation, weeding, fertilizing, harvesting, storage and selling is managed and executed by the students. This entire process provides students with a lifetime experience of farming and inculcates a sense of dignity and respect for farmers and farming community. The students face several challenges as for many it is a first time

washroom and the procurement of water purifier cum cooler for drinking water facility. Also, the erratic power supply issue has been addressed and shade lights have been installed to reduce the difficulties of working in evening hours. Moreover, the machinery and tools which were defunct from years such as the seed drill and tractors were mobilized and repaired to ensure their functionality and usage. The different stores constructed for the storage of harvest and fertilizers were also cleaned, disinfected and affixed to avoid any post harvest loss. This prominent task of renovation was executed under the guidance of new PCP incharge and coordinator Dr. Sunita T. Pandey, Professor, Agronomy and a new team of faculty members. It is desired that all these infrastructural developments will ultimately



occasion of entering into an agricultural field and working under such tough conditions. In this regard, the college took the initiative of improving the infrastructural support in the PCP area, so that the students find it convenient as well as encouraging to work under the PCP programme. In the initial phase of renovation, setting up of basic facilities for students and working members was considered which included the construction of

boost the spirit of students and will favour them in terms of congenial working environment and facilities, systematic working process, better quality and quantity of crop yield, and increased profit.



Contributed by:  
*Anureet Kaur Sandhu, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year*

## College faculty members received training for Microsoft Teams application

The COVID-19 pandemic critically disrupted the working of academic institutes during the initial period of lockdown. However, with time most institutes have resumed their teaching, research, and administrative works online. Even Pantnagar University restarted its various activities in online mode. To further integrate and systematize the functioning of the University online, especially with regards to its teaching-learning activities, the University has decided to adopt a common platform of Microsoft Teams. The Microsoft Teams software applications has been purchased and the license version of it will be provided to all faculty members and students of the University. This software application provides a platform for real time learning through video conferencing, screen sharing, chat boxes and all other required conveniences which facilitate the learning process. It also provides a facility of team formation where teachers can create classrooms for each course separately to manage the live classes, attendance process, related assignments, share notes, group discussions, personal student queries, etc. This helps create differentiation and help impart knowledge on a more individual basis. Also, online examinations can be conducted through this application. To ensure smooth transition into using the Microsoft Teams application, regular training programmes are being organized for all faculty members of College of



Agriculture. The training is conducted in small groups as well as personal mentoring is being arranged to ensure effective learning for all. The training programme related to Microsoft Teams applications is being supported and executed by the team of Institutional Development Plan of National Agricultural Higher Education Project (IDP-NAHEP) at Pantnagar. The University and the College of Agriculture have proven their mettle time and again and such deliberate and concerted efforts will make sure that we emerge victorious from this global crisis situation.



Contributed by:  
**Chetan Joshi, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year**

## College students enthusiastic about experience of online classes which is making them future-ready

The wave of online teaching-learning has now engrossed the academic world, and there seems to be no looking back. The COVID-19 global pandemic has pushed all academic institutes, i.e. schools, colleges, universities, coaching centres, training institutes, into adopting the digital paradigm of teaching, training, and learning. Nonetheless, those who accept, adopt, and amalgamate with this emerging paradigm will appear as winners, and those who crunch, crib, and complain will definitely lose on a big opportunity. This occasion to equip our systems and skills will eventually help an institute to cater to a wider audience. The College of Agriculture and Pantnagar University however, are leaving no stones unturned to build on this opportunity and ventured into the online classes in the initial phase of lockdown itself. It has been almost three months into this online system, and so far students and faculty members have made tremendous efforts to align their regular academic tasks.

Reflecting on their experiences of online mode of classes, the students of the college provided optimistic and invigorating feedback. They said that in the initial phase of attending online classes, there were lots of speculations, but gradually we are enjoying this different format of classes. Also, being in Pantnagar the schedule of classes was hectic and hence after a period of time the students were missing it. But now, the online classes and online events are keeping everyone fruitfully engaged. As far as the features of online teaching are concerned, many students of the college found it more interactive and stimulating as there is a chat option through which they can easily connect with the teachers.

The other most useful feature is that the online lectures can easily be recorded and students can even refer to those later for better learning and understanding of concepts. When enquired about the not so formal structure of online mode and its repercussions, the students answered that the online mode has actually led us towards introspecting the need to take personal responsibility of our learning and growth. Ultimately, it is one's own development and career prospects that have to be nurtured, and thus one needs more self-induced discipline and focus. Apart from the regular teaching-learning activities, the students also applauded the efforts of the College Academic Committee which has been regularly organizing webinars and interactive sessions with renowned scientists and practitioners as well as with distinguished alumni of the college. The students told that the plethora of knowledge and skills that they gathered through online workshops and trainings would not have been ever possible in the offline mode. Thus this online experience in a way is making them future ready, market ready, and ready to fulfil their professional aspirations in a much more prepared way.

Looking into the spirit of the students and the efforts of the faculty members of the college, the COVID-19 predicament is turning into a good opportunity for all of to get upskilled even while hibernating and the online teaching-learning is setting a new trend and can be continued into the future.



Contributed by:  
**Gautam Harbola, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year**

## CDSC creating and acquiring different platforms to showcase the college achievements

The College Documentation and Showcasing Committee (CDSC) was recently constituted in the college. The committee is being led by Dr. Sumit Chaturvedi, Associate Professor, Agronomy and is supported by a team of six other faculty members of the college. The aim of the CDSC is to showcase the exemplary contribution and achievements of the students, faculty members, and staff of the college through diverse platforms.

A digital board will be installed at the entrance of college which will display all the achievements of the college fraternity, as well developmental initiatives of the college. Also, the CDSC will prepare a monthly progress report in which the awards/honours, research publications, research grants received, scholarship/fellowships received, patents, prototypes developed, varieties released, entrepreneurial initiatives will be mentioned. Even, an annual progress report of the college will be prepared including an exhaustive compilation of all yearly activities, initiatives, and achievements of the entire college fraternity. Further, to strengthen and showcase the alumni strength, the services of an online portal AlmaShines are being procured. Through this online portal, the alumni interaction and



Home page of AlmaShines portal

participation will increase and hence their expertise will be utilized. The CDSC has already initiated the task of collating the alumni data right from the first batch of 1960. Thus, through the dedicated efforts of the CDSC team, the visibility of the college and the college fraternity will definitely improve which will be beneficial in making the college a more renowned and preferred centre of higher education, research innovations, entrepreneurial activities and policy making.



Contributed by:  
Sheetal Bhagat, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

## Pantnagar team emerged as second runner-up in innovation contest organized by IIT Roorkee and MHRD

The world together is creating unique, different solutions to fight back the obstacles of COVID-19 pandemic. In this pursuit of chalking out solutions, a team of Pantnagar students participated in *Covidscape: An Innovation Challenge* which was organized by Design Innovation Centre (DIC) of Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee in association with Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The contest required the student participants to design devices and equipment that would be useful in the post-COVID period with respect to concerns of mass scale sanitization, disinfection practices, social distancing norms, reuse and recycle of masks and PPE kits, agriculture challenges, and other relevant issues. The entries for the contest were invited only from five institutes namely IIT Roorkee, NIT Uttarakhand, NID Haryana, IIM Kashipur and GBPUAT Pantnagar. The selected 46 teams from these institutes were invited for final presentation. The Pantnagar team *Critical Minds* comprising of Mr. Shubhranshu Vardhan (first year student of Ph.D., Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, College of Basic Science and Humanities), Ms. Preeti Lohani (second year student of Ph.D., Genetics and Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture), Ms. Sheeba Hasan (third year student of B.Tech. Industrial and Production Engineering, College of Technology), and Mr. Shivansh (third year student of B.Tech. Industrial and Production Engineering, College of Technology) was declared as the second runner-up of the contest. The idea proposed by the team will be funded by DIC, IITR for prototyping and intellectual property right support. On this gratifying occasion, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean College of Agriculture, Dr.

Sandeep Arora, Dean College of Basic Sciences and Humanities, and Dr. Alaknanda Ashok, Dean College of Technology, greeted the team for their achievement and expressed their delight for making the entire University proud.



**Shubhranshu Vardhan**  
1<sup>st</sup> year student of Ph.D.,  
Molecular Biology and Biotechnology  
College of Basic Science and Humanities



**Preeti Lohani**  
II<sup>nd</sup> Year student of Ph.D.  
Genetics and Plant Breeding  
College of Agriculture



**Sheeba Hasan**  
III<sup>rd</sup> Year student of B.Tech.  
Industrial and Production Engineering  
College of Technology



**Shivansh**  
III<sup>rd</sup> Year student of B.Tech.  
Industrial and Production Engineering  
College of Technology



Contributed by:  
Simran Pundir, B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

# The Narrative of Agriculture Society of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar

Dr. Omvati Verma and Dr. S.K. Maurya

**A**griculture Society is the professional society of College of Agriculture which intends to work for the holistic development of college students. The objectives of the society are:

- To provide a forum for the organization and development of professional activities amongst its members.
- To provide facilities for development of professional talent among the members.
- To arrange healthy professional competitions and aesthetic recreation for the members.
- To create good will and unity amongst the members.

All the enrolled students of the college are members of the

Agriculture Society, while the activities of the Society are managed under the guidance of the Patron (Vice-Chancellor) and



**Dr. Omvati Verma**  
Staff Counsellor



**Dr. S.K. Maurya**  
Co-Staff Counsellor

the President (Dean Agriculture), Staff Counsellor and Co-Staff Counsellor. Further, being a student led body, the student representatives of the Society, i.e. Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, General Secretary, and Joint General Secretary are selected to manage the key activities and events with the support of all other student members. Through its various endeavours, Agriculture Society provides a path for improving professional skills of the students in order to develop them as responsible professionals, aware citizens, and sensitive human beings. Till date, it has played a major role in harnessing and shaping the plethora of talent that exists among students. Its range of literary, cultural, and management activities such as quizzes, debates, poetry composing, essay writing competitions, agro fun fair, etc. are indeed significant from the perspective of honing the young minds. A brief glimpse of the activities organized by Agriculture Society in academic year 2019-20 is given below.



**Mr. Tarukh Ahmad**  
(Id No. 49852)  
Chairperson



**Ms. Sadaf Hasan**  
(Id No.51392)  
General Secretary

## Glimpses of Activity of Agriculture Society in 2019-20



## Vice-Chancellor Dr. Tej Partap elected President of Association of Indian Universities (AIU)

It is a matter of great honour for the University that Vice-Chancellor Dr. Tej Partap has been elected as President of Association of Indian Universities (AIU). With his long and dynamic consecutive tenures as Vice-Chancellor in four Universities, he has long experience of academic leadership. The Academic Council of the University and the Board of Faculty of Agriculture (BOFA) paid greetings to the Vice-Chancellor in their meetings for this well-deserved responsibility. The homepage of the website of Association of Indian Universities (AIU) reads the profile of VC Dr. Tej Partap as follows:



*Prof. Tej Partap, the 98th President of the Association of Indian Universities is an internationally renowned Policy and Strategy Expert of Mountain Farming Affairs, Mountain Agriculture and Organic Agriculture Development Strategies. He is currently serving Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar as the Vice Chancellor. A breakthrough leader, Prof. Tej Partap carries with him a long experience of institutional leadership at national and international level particularly as Vice Chancellor of CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, Palampur for two terms; Sher e Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology, Srinagar and APG Shimla University, Shimla for one term each. At international level, he served as Programme Leader at Mountain Agriculture Division, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu. A visionary and passionate Agricultural Scientist, Prof. Tej Partap was instrumental in preparing the Vision and Mission 2020 of Organic Agriculture in India. He initiated Organic Agriculture movement in India by setting up International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA). The National Commission on Farmers used his services to formulate hill agriculture sector and organic farming sector reports and to lead the team which prepared the Organic Sub-sector Proposal for 11th Five Year Plan. An International Mountain Agriculture Development Policy Expert, he made significant contributions as Head of the Mountain Agriculture Programme at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) for 13 years. He was on the Steering Committee of the Global Mountain Program of CGIAR for three years and represented Asia Pacific as elected representative on the Governing Board of the Global Mountain Forum (2000-2002). He is one among the rare few who had the credit of working in the Andean region of South America, Alps in Europe, African highlands, Asian uplands from Thailand to Philippines and Japan and every part of the 8 countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region from Afghanistan to China to Myanmar. Some of his widely acknowledged exceptional achievements include the Tibet Agriculture sector Institutional Capacity Building programme; bringing China's sea buckthorn success story to outside world and bringing the Sloping Agriculture Land Technology of Philippines to our part of the world. Recognizing his outstanding contributions, he was conferred with Himachal Ratan award in 2001 by H E Governor of Himachal Pradesh. He is also a recipient of award of Honorary Professor of Mountain Agriculture by Tibet Academy of Agriculture and Animal Sciences (TAAAS), Lhasa, China in 1994 and Honorary Professor of Mountain Agriculture by Institute of Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing in 1995.*



*Keep reading for more updates !*



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### Official Youtube Channel of the College

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMw8k8\\_iO5zeor\\_LQx6VFg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMw8k8_iO5zeor_LQx6VFg)