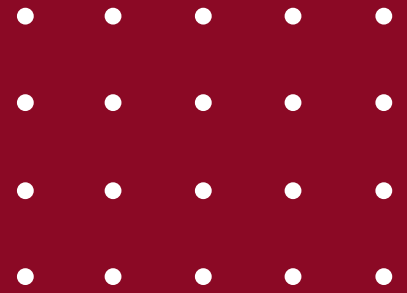


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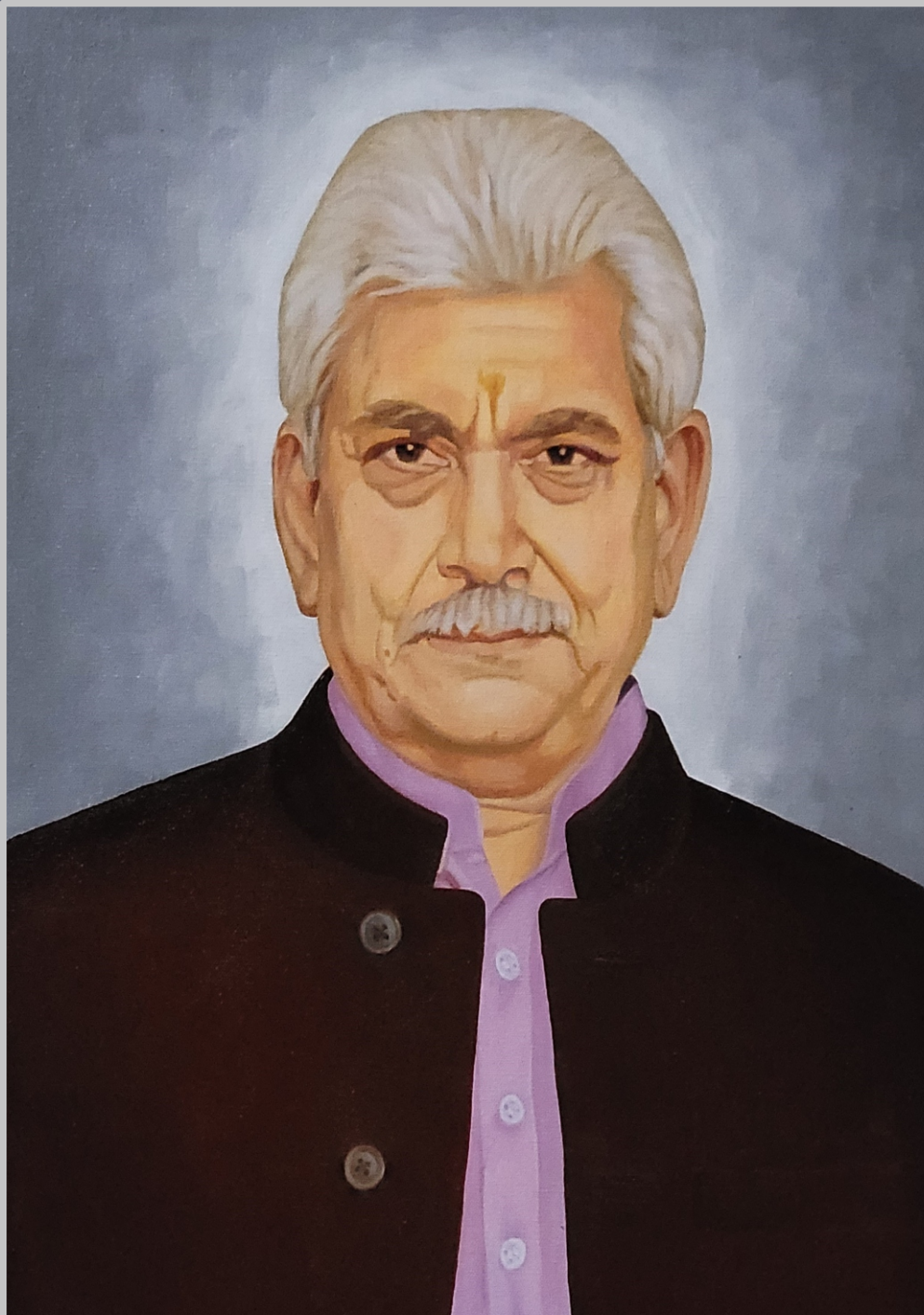
SKUAST JAMMU

Sher-e-Kashmir
University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu

www.skuast.org



Our Chancellor



Shri Manoj Sinha Ji

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Jammu & Kashmir

A Visionary Leader and True Champion of Progress

From the desk of

VICE CHANCELLOR



Dear Esteemed Readers

Greetings from SKUAST-Jammu!

I am delighted to connect with all stakeholders of SKUAST-Jammu through the second edition of our university Newsletter, which showcases the significant achievements and commitment of our staff in driving excellence in agricultural education, research, and extension services.

As a NIRF-ranked agricultural university, SKUAST-Jammu remains dedicated to tackling the challenges faced by the farming community in Jammu and Kashmir. Through innovative research, quality teaching, and impactful extension programs, we aim to empower farmers with sustainable and modern agricultural practices. Our continued focus on promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), smart agriculture technologies, and value-added solutions is enabling us to bring transformative changes amongst rural communities.

I am proud to note our university's strides in hosting a significant event, the National Agriculture Summit 2024, themed 'Harnessing Innovations in Agriculture and Allied Sciences' that attracted more than 20,000 farmers, students and other stakeholders from J&K and neighbouring states. Additionally, our research efforts on sustainable farming practices are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for setting new benchmarks in addressing issues of food security and climate resilience.

It is a matter of pride that SKUAST-Jammu has achieved significant milestones in the last quarter, including the granting of one patent, one copyright, and the signing of five MOUs, underscoring our dedication to innovation and intellectual property development. Furthermore, the university has appointed two Professors of Practice, a significant step towards bridging the gap between academia and industry. Another noteworthy milestone is the organization of the Academic-Industry-FPO-Startup Meet, which fosters collaborations aimed at boosting agricultural entrepreneurship and innovation.

The university's continuous efforts in uplifting the agricultural sector and contributing to societal well-being need to be highlighted, and I am delighted that this Newsletter serves as a comprehensive platform to present them. I particularly applaud the editor and the entire editorial team for their commendable efforts in compiling and presenting the university's activities and achievements of this university in such an engaging and informative manner, and continue to do so for the benefit of our worthy audience.

Wish you all a Healthy and Happy New Year 2025.

(B.N. Tripathi)

Notable Highlights

SKUAST-Jammu hosts National Agriculture Summit 2024

The National Agriculture Summit 2024, organized by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Jammu, was held from November 20–23, 2024, under the theme “Harnessing Innovations in Agriculture and Allied Sciences”. The summit was a comprehensive and multi-faceted event, featuring a Farmers' Symposium, an Agriculture Fair, and several exhibitions, bringing together over 15,000 stakeholders in person and an additional 30,000 virtual participants. This landmark event aimed to showcase cutting-edge innovations in agriculture, encourage collaboration among stakeholders, and promote sustainable practices to uplift the farming community.

The summit drew a diverse audience, including scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, farmers, students, and entrepreneurs, united by a common goal of advancing Indian agriculture, especially in the Jammu region. An estimated 3,300+ students from schools and colleges across the region actively participated in various competitions, interactive sessions, and discussions, inspiring them to explore career opportunities in agriculture. A major highlight of the event was the grand technology exhibition, which featured 220 stalls showcasing advancements in agriculture and allied sectors, including farm mechanization, digital agriculture, and organic farming practices. The exhibition also emphasized sustainable farming techniques, such as drone technology, hydroponics, and vertical farming, and promoted innovations like nano fertilizers, hybrid seeds, and water conservation technologies. The event also spotlighted the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme of Jammu and Kashmir. Contributions from Self-Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organizations, and progressive farmers further enriched the event. Special attractions include drone demonstrations, cultural programs and nukkad natak (street plays) highlighted the agricultural innovations and government schemes during the summit.

Inaugural program

The National Agriculture Summit 2024 officially began with a grand inauguration ceremony on November 20, 2024, marking the commencement of the four-day Kisan Mela 2024. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah as the Chief Guest, alongside other dignitaries, including Deputy Chief Minister Sh. Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Agriculture Minister Jenab Javid Ahmad Dar, MLA R.S. Pura South Jammu Prof. Narinder



Singh Raina, and SKUAST-Jammu Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi. The inaugural address set the tone for the summit, emphasizing the critical need for innovation, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing in agriculture to address the challenges faced by farmers. The Chief Minister lauded SKUAST-Jammu's efforts in organizing such a significant event and expressed hope for the summit's outcomes in shaping a sustainable future for agriculture in the region.

Industry-Academia-Farmer Meet



On November 21, SKUAST-Jammu hosted a landmark Industry-Academia-Farmer Meet, which served as a platform for connecting more than 30 industries, 10 startups, 20 FPOs, and progressive farmers. This event featured panel discussions that focused on bridging gaps

between academia and industry, addressing the challenges faced by FPOs, and identifying actionable opportunities for growth. The meet resulted in the signing of



Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with companies such as Tropical Agrosystems, Bayer Crop Sciences, and Saraswati Agro Chemicals India Pvt. Ltd. These partnerships aimed to foster joint research, skill development, and employability enhancement, ensuring that students and researchers align their work with the needs of the agricultural sector. A notable highlight was the appointment of Sh. Gulshan Singh Rana, Head of Market Development at Bayer Crop Sciences, as SKUAST-Jammu's first Professor of Practice to bridge academic knowledge and industry expertise. Vice-Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi emphasized the need for deeper collaboration to strengthen agricultural education and research while enhancing employability.

Farmers' Symposium on Hi-tech Agriculture

Symposium on Hi-tech agriculture and horticulture, agricultural mechanization, automation, digital agriculture, and national and organic farming practices was held on November 22, 2024 at the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering. The symposium focused on transformative topics such as hi-tech agriculture, mechanization, automation, digital farming, and organic practices, reflecting SKUAST's commitment to advancing agricultural innovation. The event, chaired by Dr. Sushil Sharma, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, aimed to inspire farmers and the younger generation to adopt advanced technologies that boost productivity, reduce costs, and promote sustainability in agriculture and horticulture.

Session on innovative water conservation techniques, mechanization in fruit science, advancements in fisheries etc were discussed in detail by renowned scientists of the respective fields.

Dr. Sushmita Dadhich concluded the symposium with a session on automation in irrigation, IoT-based platforms and Inland Dippers, which enhance water management and precision farming. The event underscored SKUAST's dedication to empowering farmers with knowledge and innovative tools, fostering sustainable practices, and addressing modern agricultural challenges through science and technology.

Farmers' Symposium on Empowering Rural Women

A Symposium on Empowering Rural Women in Agriculture & Beyond was organized on November 23, drawing 250 women farmers and showcasing diverse opportunities in agriculture and allied fields.





Informative talks covered topics like sericulture, animal health, farm tools for women, and vegetable nurseries by scientists of the university. The session was coordinated by Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director (Extension), and convened by Dr. Moni Gupta, Professor & Head, Division of Biochemistry.

Symposium on Agricultural Education Opportunities for Rural Youth and Students



The Symposium on Opportunities in Agricultural Education for Rural Youth and Students was held on November 22, 2024, during the National Agriculture Summit. Attended by 300 students, it featured interactive talks from experts on careers in agriculture. Dr. Rashmi Singh, chief guest of the session Commissioner-Secretary, emphasized the role of agriculture in education and its potential across sectors, urging students to align with NEP-2020 goals as skilled job creators. Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Director of Education, SKUAST-Jammu, highlighted India's agricultural education history, public and private sector opportunities, and the flexibility of ICAR guidelines for customized degrees

Students' Competition on Agriculture and Allied Sciences

The National Agriculture Summit 2024 also featured a student competition on agriculture and allied sciences, which brought together 11 teams representing prestigious institutions from across the country. Participating institutions included the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi,

SKUAST-Kashmir, Dr Y S Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan, CSKHPKV Palampur, and SKUAST-Jammu. This competition provided a platform for students to showcase their knowledge, creativity, and problem-solving skills in agriculture and allied disciplines. It fostered a spirit of innovation and collaboration among the participants, inspiring them to contribute to the future of Indian agriculture through research, innovation, and technological advancements.



Flower, Fruit, and Vegetable Shows

The summit featured grand flower, fruit, and vegetable shows celebrating J&K's horticultural diversity. Over 312 entries in flower shows, 425 entries in fruit shows and 154 live samples of the vegetables showcased the region's potential for cultivating crops such as citrus



fruits, exotic vegetables, and vibrant flowers. Expert panels evaluated the entries, awarded top growers and encouraged farmers to adopt horticulture as a profitable venture.



Livestock, Poultry, and Dog Shows

The livestock and poultry show highlighted elite breeds of cattle, buffalo, equine, sheep, goats, and poultry. A



total of 93 livestock and 50 poultry birds participated in the show. Dog Show 2024 showcased the skills of 95 participating dogs, judged on obedience and agility. Dogs from BSF Paloura Jammu, 6 dogs from CRPF Battalion Katra, 2 dogs from ITBP Jammu and two dogs of Crime branch Jammu showed their talents. Both



events underscored the importance of animal husbandry in diversifying agricultural income and fostering community interest.

Rural Sports

The summit also celebrated rural sports, hosting competitions in Kabaddi, Volleyball, Tug-of-War, and Shot Put. With over 850 participants, including farmers rural youth and students, the events fostered community



engagement and highlighted the importance of physical well-being alongside agricultural activities.



Farm Women Chaff-Cutting Competition

For the first time, a farm women competition was organized during the National Agriculture Summit 2024, featuring a chaff-cutting competition exclusively for farm women. This event saw enthusiastic participation from 150 women farmers, who demonstrated their skills.



Basmati Fest 2024

The Basmati Fest, during NAS, celebrated Jammu's iconic rice variety, known for its heritage, aroma, and market potential. Organized in collaboration with



Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), the fest featured panel discussions, exhibitions, and buyer-seller meets, connecting farmers with national buyers. The event emphasized modern cultivation techniques and export strategies to empower farmers and enhance Jammu's agricultural economy.

Cultural Evenings

Cultural programs were a highlight of the National Agriculture Summit, organized every evening to celebrate the rich heritage and creativity within the agricultural community. On the first day, mesmerizing performances by professional artists from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) captivated the audience. The second evening showcased vibrant performances by students of the Faculty of Agriculture, brimming with enthusiasm and artistic flair. On the third evening, students from the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry presented dynamic performances that reflected their creativity and passion. Farmers and other invited guests thoroughly enjoyed each evening, adding to the festive and engaging atmosphere of the summit



Valedictory Function

The summit concluded on November 23, 2024 with a valedictory function, graced by Jenab Gulam Ali Khatana, MP, as the Chief Guest, Dr. G.R. Bhagat, Hon'ble MLA, and Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, Hon'ble MLA as the Guests of Honour. Chief Guest praised SKUAST-Jammu's efforts in promoting innovation and urged scientists to bring technologies directly to farmers' fields. The event celebrated active participation from Government bodies, NGOs, SHGs, private companies, and farmers, marking a milestone in advancing agriculture in J&K. Prizes were distributed to all the winners of various events by the Dignitaries.



SKUAST-Jammu Team Shines at Agri-Food Tech Expo Asia 2024 in Singapore with Innovative Nanozyme Biosensor

A trailblazing team of students from SKUAST-J, achieved global recognition at the prestigious Agri-Food Tech Expo Asia 2024 in Singapore. Operating under the banner Nanozyme Nexus, team members Simranjeet Kaur, Dikshita Bhasin, and Urishita Sharma, guided by Dr. Neelesh Sharma, unveiled their groundbreaking Nanozyme Biosensor—a transformative innovation for the agricultural and food sectors.

The team's pioneering research captured the attention of global leaders and experts from the agri-tech industry, representing multiple countries.

The Agri-Food Tech Expo Asia, renowned as one of the largest and most influential gatherings in the sector, provided an ideal platform for the SKUAST-J team to showcase their prototype and engage in meaningful exchanges with industry innovators and stakeholders. Their participation underscored the university's commitment to fostering cutting-edge research and highlighted the rising potential of India's talent in agricultural technology.



41st IAVP Conference and National Symposium on Veterinary Pathology held at SKUAST-Jammu

The 41st Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Veterinary Pathologists (IAVP), 15th Annual Meeting of the Indian College of Veterinary Pathologists (ICVP), and a National Symposium on “Exploring Veterinary Pathology and Diagnostic Innovations in Animal and Poultry Disease Amidst Climatic Challenges” were held from November 28-30, 2024, at SKUAST-Jammu under the presidentship and leadership of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST- Jammu. Organized by the Division of Veterinary Pathology, the event saw participation from over 300 national and international delegates with Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, as Chief Guest, and Dr. Naveen Kumar, Director, ICMR-NIV, Pune, as Guest of Honour. The conference featured nine technical sessions, keynote lectures, and poster presentations, with key discussions on climate challenges, One-Health, and veterinary innovations. Highlights included the release of a conference compendium, signing of two MoUs with the National Institute of Virology, Pune, and Biovet Pvt. Ltd., Karnataka, and awards recognizing excellence in Veterinary Pathology. Dr G A Balasubramaniam, Secretary General, IAVP, and Dr R V S Pawaiya, Secretary, ICVP, presented reports on the activities and achievements of their respective organizations. Earlier, Dr Rajesh Katoch, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-J, and Co-Chairman of VPC-2024 provided a brief overview of the conference.

The event, coinciding with the Golden Jubilee of IAVP, concluded with a valedictory session chaired by Prof. B.N. Tripathi. Organizing Secretary Dr. Pankaj Goswami and Co-Organizing Secretary Dr. Shilpa Sood acknowledged the contributions of all participants, sponsors, and supporters, marking the event's success.



10 days Hands on Training Programme on Marker-Assisted Breeding Begins at SKUAST-Jammu

A 10-days Hands-on training programme on Marker-Assisted Breeding in Plants and Animals was organised by the Institute of Biotechnology, with 25 trainees from various universities across Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, and Meghalaya w.e.f. 9th December to 20th December 2024.



Prof. B.N. Tripathi HVC stressed the significance of molecular biology and technical expertise in bio-sciences. He emphasized applying molecular science to develop improved plant varieties, animal breeds, and molecular diagnostics.

Prof. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, and Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education, highlighted the relevance of such training for research. Prof. R.K. Salgotra, Director of the Institute of Biotechnology, welcomed the participants and outlined the programme.

Skill Development through Hydroponics Technology

A Three-days workshop was organized under Mission Youth's AVSAR (A Vibrant and Sustainable Agrarian Revolution) scheme by Division of Plant Physiology Faculty of Basic Sciences SKUAST Jammu Chatha in collaboration with IIT Jammu from November 27 to 29, 2024 at Govt. Degree College Kishtwar. This skill course on Hydroponics to create new options for entrepreneurship in agriculture sector. The training programme was an effort to foster youth engagement in agriculture through modern environment friendly farming techniques.



Seminar on Mental Health and Happiness Organized at FVSc. & AH, SKUAST-Jammu

The Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Jammu, hosted a one-day seminar on "Mental Health and Happiness" on October 23, 2024, at its R.S. Pura campus sponsored by the Jammu & Kashmir Science Technology & Innovation Council, DST-Jammu. The event featured motivational speaker Mr. Mallesh Annamaina from Telangana, who delivered an inspiring session for nearly 300 participants, including students, professionals, and faculty from FVSc. & AH and the Faculty of Dairy Technology. The seminar aimed to address challenges and foster personal growth.



A Two Days National seminar on Agriculture Vocabulary in Hindi & Dogri held at SKUAST-J

A two-days national seminar on Agriculture Vocabulary in Hindi & Dogri was held on 23rd and 24th December 2024 at



SKUAST Jammu in collaboration with the Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology, Government of India aims to standardize agricultural terminology and promote agricultural technologies in Hindi and Dogri for the benefit of field functionaries and the farming community. Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education, emphasized the importance of promoting regional languages in agriculture to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and grassroots implementation. Other notable speakers included Sh. Shalandra Singh, Assistant Director at the Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology, and PCCF, J&K Mr. O.P. Sharma (Retd) . The seminar brought together experts from various institutions, including the University of Jammu, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, and SKUAST-Jammu.

Beej Mela at Purmandal

SKUAST Jammu organized a Beej (seed) mela at village Mandal in Purmandal block of District Samba under the HADP project entitled Development of Seed and Seed Multiplication Chain under PPP mode. Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu and Chief



Guest of the occasion stressed for coordination and better liaisoning between farmers, university and line departments. Other dignitaries who attended the function included Prof. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, Prof. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director Extension, Dr. Tuhina Dey Head, PBG and Coordinator of the project, Dr. Vijay Bharti, Nodal Officer, Mega Seed Project. On this occasion 100 quintals foundation seed of late sown wheat variety DBW-173 was distributed among farmers for further multiplication in 100 hectares of area.



Training programme on preparation of Nutri-Mix formula for lactating and pregnant women

Division of Post Harvest Management SKUAST Jammu in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood



Mission (UMEED) conducted two training programme on preparation of Nutri-Mix formula for lactating and pregnant women to 50 Self Help Group members of block Marh on October 21 to 23 2024 and on December 27, 2024 respectively.

Participation of SKUAST-Jammu team in Jammu Mahotsav organised by LEAD JK on December 12 2024.



Focus in Agricultural Education

SKUAST-Jammu initiated Deeksharambh-2024 Orientation in line with 6th Deans Committee Curriculum

SKUAST-Jammu became the first university in J&K to host Deeksharambh-2024, a foundation program aligned with NEP 2020. Held at Chatha Campus, it welcomed new



students for the 2024-25 session. This initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the 6th Deans Committee Curriculum welcoming undergraduate and postgraduate students admitted for the academic session 2024-2025 marking the beginning of their academic journey. Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, welcomed first-year students, encouraged them to embrace perseverance, curiosity, and innovation in their academic journey. He urged them to develop new competencies, embrace value education, and prepare for the rapid technological transformations of the 21st century. Dr. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education, gave the detailed presentation on implementation of 6th Dean's committee recommendations during the current semester. Dr. Rajesh Katoch discussed VCI regulations, Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi covered student welfare, and Dr. R.K. Samnotra introduced library resources. The event, led by Dr. Anil Kumar, Registrar, included faculty and students, with Dr. Ankur Rastogi conducting proceedings and Dr. Vikas Tandon giving the vote of thanks.

SKUAST-J conducts 'Deeksharambh-2024'

NL CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU TOWN, OCT 15
SKUAST Jammu is proud to be the first university in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to organize Deeksharambh-2024, the foundation course for first-year students. This initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the 6th Deans Committee Curriculum welcoming undergraduate and postgraduate students admitted for the academic session 2024-2025 marking the beginning of their academic journey. The Deeksharambh programme was organized by Directorate of Education at Chatha Campus for Socializing, Associating, Governing



and Experiencing among students. The programme was graced by the presence of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor of the University, who served as the Chief Guest. In his address, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N. Tripathi congratulated and welcomed the first year students for their admission into the agrivarsity. Prof. Tripathi said "SKUAST-Jammu is a gateway to do and achieve something big

and get ready to connect with new people, embrace opportunities and explore innovations and creativity.

He advised students to uplift their calibre and develop new competencies to meet the challenges of 21 century which is experiencing rapid technological transformation. Dr. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education, gave the detailed presentation on implementation of 6th Dean's committee recommendation during the current semester. Dr. Rajesh Katoch, Dean F.V.Sc. & A.H., provided an overview of VCI regulation for B.V.Sc. & A.H. Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Students Welfare highlighted the importance of the Dea

Students welfare wing an outlined the hostel rule and regulations, ensuring a smooth transition for students into hostel life. Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Incharge Counselling and Placem Cell, provided an overview of the cell. Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Ankur Rastogi and vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dean Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry.

SKUAST-Jammu adopts ICAR 6th Deans' Committee Recommendations

SKUAST-Jammu has aligned its curriculum with the ICAR 6th Deans' Committee recommendations, effective from the 2024-25 session. The revised framework incorporates NEP-2020 principles, emphasizing experiential learning, skill development, rural attachment, and entrepreneurship.

Key updates include curriculum revision, flexible course selection, an Academic Banking System (ABC), multiple entry-exit options, skill enhancement courses, and industry-oriented internships. Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, highlighted the initiative's goal to bridge academia-industry gaps, preparing students for global agricultural challenges. The revamped curriculum ensures exposure to advanced research, technology, and field-based learning, fostering collaborations with industries, research institutions and Government bodies.

SKUAST Jammu Leads the way in Implementing UGC Directive on Professors of Practice

In a significant stride towards enhancing student skill development and aligning academic pursuits with industry needs, SKUAST Jammu has taken the lead in appointing Professors of Practice under the University Grants Commission directive. This initiative underscores the university's commitment to fostering strong industry-



academia linkages, as emphasized during the industry-Academia Meet held on July 10, 2024.

Two distinguished industry leaders have been appointed as Professors of Practice fulfilling the guidelines Shri Gulshan Singh Rana, Head of Market Development, Commercial Capability, and Community Lead at Bayer Crop Science, and Sh. Satinder Singh Nandra, Vice President, Technical and Supply Chain at Kandhari Beverages Pvt. Ltd. These appointments mark a pivotal step in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications. This forward-thinking approach by SKUAST Jammu exemplifies its dedication to academic excellence and innovation, setting a benchmark for other institutions to follow.

Focus in Agricultural Research

Newly Sanctioned Externally Funded Projects : 04

1. Evaluation of Bio-Efficacy of Cyantraniliprole 11.14% w/w + Spirotetramat 16.71% w/w SC against Pests in Tomato, Brinjal, and Chillies

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Brajeshwar Singh, Professor & Head, Division of Microbiology
- Funding Agency: ADAMA Pvt. Ltd
- Funding Amount: Rs. 18.00 lakhs

2. Technological Interventions and Capacity Building to Promote Entrepreneurship and Enhance Income in Agricultural Sector in Outer Himalayas of Jammu Region of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Vivak M. Arya, Professor, Division of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry
- Funding Agency: Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi
- Funding Amount: Rs. 102.19 lakhs

3. Assessing the Impact of Jal Jeevan Mission on Rural Water Accessibility, Health, and Livelihood in Jammu & Kashmir

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Anil Bhat, Associate Director Research
- Funding Agency: ICSSR, New Delhi
- Funding Amount: Rs. 9.00 lakhs

4. Up-scaling the Use Potential of Native Agriculturally Beneficial Microbes through Demonstration and Capacity Building in Himalayas

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Vikas Sharma, Professor & Head, Division of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry
- Funding Agency: Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi
- Funding Amount: Rs. 89.82 lakhs

New Technologies Developed at Division of Post Harvest Management

Development and Evaluation of Ready-to-Serve (RTS) Beverage from Grapefruit and Ginger

Development of a ready-to-serve (RTS) beverage using grapefruit and ginger juice blended in ratios of 100:0, 95:05, 90:10, 85:15, 80:20, and 75:25 was analyzed for physicochemical, microbial, and sensory parameters. Among the formulations, the 90:10 ratio recorded the highest sensory scores for color (8.33), flavor (8.40), taste (8.31), and overall acceptability (8.35). Storage studies indicated that the RTS beverage retained its quality for up to 90 days.

Development of Fortified Cookies using Rice Flour, Corn Flour, and Mango Powder

Fortified cookies were developed using rice flour (40%), corn flour (50%), and mango powder (10%). This formulation was identified as the best for cookie preparation, with a storage life of up to three months when stored in PET boxes.



Extraction and Encapsulation of Natural Color from Dragon Fruit Peel for use as a Stable Food Additive

The technology involves the extraction of natural color from dragon fruit peel using a simple and reliable method. This process results in a stable, concentrated, free-flowing powder with high color strength. The red dragon fruit betalains, once encapsulated, demonstrate great potential as a food additive for functional foods, maintaining stability after encapsulation.



Development of Healthy Gummies

High-quality healthy gummies are developed using 40% strawberry pulp and 60% aloe vera pulp. These gummies are rich in nutrients, containing 37.60 mg/100 g of calcium, 14.17 mg/100 g of phosphorus, 27.07 mg/100 g of ascorbic acid, 53.39 mg/100 g of total phenols, and 38.99% antioxidant activity. The gummies maintained their quality over a 90-day storage period, with the total plate count remaining within the permitted limits.

Evaluation of Pearl Millet Varieties and Development of Blended Products

Five varieties of pearl millet were evaluated for their physicochemical characteristics. Among them, Dhanshakti emerged as the best, based on the analysis. It was used to develop value-added blended products with refined wheat flour, such as crackers and noodles. The best-accepted blended product (70% refined wheat flour: 30% pearl millet flour) retained its quality throughout a three-month storage period, with microbial counts within the specified limits.



Pearl Millet Blended Crackers



Pearl millet blended noodles

Development of Dragon Pulp and Eureka Lemon Juice Crush

Dragon pulp and Eureka lemon juice were blended in various ratios to prepare a fruit crush. The blend from treatment T3 (70:30 ratio of dragon pulp to Eureka lemon juice) was found to be the best based on sensory attributes, scoring 8.42 for color, 8.29 for aroma, 8.16 for body, 8.27 for taste, and 8.28 for overall acceptability.



Dragon-Eureka lemon blended crush

Achievements of Rainfed Research Sub-station for Sub-tropical Fruits, (RRSS) Raya, SKUAST-J

Production and distribution of more than 900 nos of elite planting material viz. Mango, Kinnow mandarin, Malta, Karonda, Bael, Jackfruit, Custard apple Kagzi lime and Eureka lemon in National Agriculture Summit 2024.



SKUAST Jammu Student gets Prestigious PM Fellowship

Mr. Abhishek TS, Ph.D Scholar of Division of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Chatha received prestigious Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) for pursuing Ph.D Research Programme for 05 years to accelerate his research journey with an attractive fellowship with a maximum monthly stipend of Rs. 42000. This fellowship aims to foster collaboration between academia and industry through cutting edge research, providing Phd scholars with dual exposure to both sectors. Apart from this, he is eligible for a research grant of Rs. 2 lakhs per year (up to Rs 10 lakhs for five years).



Cultivation Technology of *Flammulina velutipes* (Enoki) Mushroom standardized at SKUAST-Jammu

Flammulina velutipes commonly known as Enoki mushroom is highly prized mushroom recognized for its nutritional value and delicious taste. It has rich anticancer, antihypertensive, anti-aging, anti-inflammatory, cholesterol lowering activities. It possess tremendous potential in pharmaceutical drug development. For the first time in J&K, it is being cultivated at SKUAST-Jammu on locally available agroresidues. Under HADP Project No. 10 (Promotion of round the year mushroom cultivation) exhaustive research on its cultivation, medicinal and nutritional value is being conducted.



Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)



SKUAST Jammu signs MoU with Tropical Agrosystem (India) Pvt. Ltd. on 21st November 2024



SKUAST Jammu signed an MoU with Kandhari Beverages Pvt. Ltd. on 21st November 2024



SKUAST Jammu signed an MoU with Saraswati Agro Chemicals (India) Pvt. Ltd. on 21st November 2024

In a significant move towards fostering collaboration and sharing expertise SKUAST Jammu have signed 05 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with industries and R&D institutions during October to December 2024 to facilitate cooperation in various areas, including research and development, student exchange programs, human resource development (HRD), and commercialization of innovations. It will foster a collaborative environment where knowledge and expertise can be shared, contributing to the overall advancement in education, research and technology development.



SKUAST Jammu signed an MoU with Biovet Pvt. Ltd. on 28th November 2024



SKUAST Jammu signed an MoU with ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, Maharashtra on 28th November 2024

Patent Granted



Design Patent No. 427326-001, titled "Poultry Feeding Device," was granted on 22nd November 2024. The inventors are Dr. Vikas Mahajan, Dr. Imran Ahmad Ganai, Dr. Nazam Khan, Dr. Qazi Shehriyar Sahib, Dr. Suraj Amrutkar, and Dr. Sohrab Malik.

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Achievements under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) at SKUAST Jammu

Mission Director HADP Visits SKUAST-Jammu to Review Project Progress

Sh. Rahul Yadav (IAS), Mission Director of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), visited SKUAST-Jammu on October 5, 2024 to monitor the progress of ongoing projects under the HADP initiative. During his visit, Dr. Dr. S.K.Gupta, Director of Research provided an overview of the various ongoing research activities under HADP projects. He interacted with faculty



members and project teams, assessing the implementation strategies and milestones achieved. His visit highlighted the university's commitment to advancing agricultural innovation and sustainable development through focused research and outreach initiatives under HADP.

Progress Review of Bio input and Incubation Initiatives

Prof. Parmeet Singh, PGMC member for HADP Project 16 on Alternate Agriculture Systems for Sustainability, visited the Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (CONF) at SKUAST-Jammu, Chatha, to review progress on the Bioinput Production Laboratory and Incubation Centre.

Prof. Parshant Bakshi, Head of CONF, detailed activities like the Biopesticide Laboratory, Bioanalysis Laboratory, On-Farm Research Trials (OFRTs), and farmer/officer capacity-building programs. Scientists Dr. Sudhir Singh, Dr. A.P. Rai, and Dr. Balbir Dhotra shared updates on their respective areas. Prof. Singh commended the progress of these initiatives.

Awareness cum Training Program on Promotion of Anardana Crop

A one-day training under HADP on Promotion of Niche Crops in Jammu & Kashmir was held on October 9, 2024, in Dalwas, Ramban. Conducted in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ramban, and SKUAST-Jammu, the event attracted 48 local anardana (wild pomegranate) growers. Prof. Parshant Bakshi, Head of the Division of Fruit Science at SKUAST-J and PI of the HADP project along with Dr Raj Kumar Gupta, Head of KVK,

Ramban, Dr Parveen, Mr. Zahid Sheikh and Mr. Mohsin, emphasized the importance of quality enhancement techniques, including optimal harvesting and drying



methods, to boost anardana's market value.

KVK Poonch, under SKUAST-J, organized another training-cum-awareness program under the HADP project at Panchayat Banwat, Poonch. The event, attended by 50 farmers, aimed to promote scientific cultivation of anardana to enhance nutritional and livelihood security. Elite planting material developed under the project was distributed, and demonstrations were conducted in the field. Queries raised by farmers on commercial cultivation were addressed on the spot.



Empowering Artisans through Wool Industry Training and Cooperative Initiatives

A one-day training program held on October 23, 2024, at Jallapur, Samba under HADP benefited 70 artisans and weavers by promoting entrepreneurship and skill development. During the event, the Jallapur Woolen Muffler Cooperative Society was inaugurated, comprising



11 artisans. The cooperative was equipped with all necessary tools and equipment to support the production of high-quality woolen mufflers, empowering members to enhance their livelihoods. Similarly, on October 28, 2024, a training programme at Basohli, Kathua, launched two new cooperatives: the Mandla Tweed Coat Cooperative Society and the Basohli Woolen Muffler Cooperative Society. Seventy artisans participated in the program, which also introduced an automatic rolling press for weaver clusters. This new infrastructure aims to enhance production efficiency, reduce manual labour, and improve product quality, strengthening market competitiveness.

SKUAST-Jammu Hosts Training on Agribusiness Branding and Packaging

SKUAST-Jammu's Krishi Branding Centre at the Agri-Business Incubator organized a two-day training wef 28th - 29th Oct, 2024 on Enhancing Agribusiness Success through Strategic Branding and Packaging being part of the HADP Project No. 4 on strengthening agricultural marketing in J&K. Key areas of focus included brand awareness, value improvement, premium pricing and cost-effective packaging. A total of 24 participants, including CEOs and members of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), budding entrepreneurs, extension workers and progressive farmers actively engaged in the training sessions.



Empowering Rural Entrepreneurs: Two-Days Training on Rural Business Service Hubs at SKUAST-Jammu

A two-day training program entitled Empowering Rural Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Business Growth through Rural Business Service Hubs was convened by the Krishi Branding Centre of ABI, SKUAST-Jammu, on November 18 to 19, 2024, under the HADP. The program was attended by 24 trainees. The training included theoretical sessions and a practical visit to a Rural Business Service Hub in



Phinder, Jammu. Participants learnt about the significance and functioning of RBSHs, their role in uplifting the rural economy and the steps involved in establishing an RBSH unit. They also gained valuable insights on rural entrepreneurship, legal aspects of RBSHs and the relevant government guidelines.

Centre for Organic and Natural Farming of SKUAST-J hosts Training Program on Organic and Natural Farming Practices

The Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, SKUAST-Jammu, successfully organized a one-day training-cum-awareness program on December 24, 2024 Importance of Organic and Natural Farming Practices for Sustainable Crop Production under the HADP on Alternate Agriculture Systems for Sustainability under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, and was inaugurated by Prof. Balbir Dhotra, Principal Investigator of the project.



Training of Trainers (ToT) Capacity building of FPOs in J&K

Under HADP No.20 entitled Innovative Extension Approaches SKUAST-Jammu has conducted four, each of five-day duration Training of Trainers (ToT) programs covering 240 trainees (60 in each batch) in the months of November and December 2024 to strengthen FPO

Focus in Agricultural Extension

KVK Kathua Hosts Rabi Kisan Mela on Nano Fertilizer Use in Collaboration with IFFCO

On October 17, 2024, KVK Kathua, under SKUAST-Jammu, held a Rabi Kisan Mela in Hariya Chak, Kathua, in collaboration with IFFCO Jammu. The event focused on promoting nano fertilizers and advanced agricultural technologies for the *Rabi* season.



Inaugurated by Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-J, the mela featured stalls from agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and private agribusinesses. Prof. Tripathi emphasized integrated farming, women's role in agricultural diversification and climate-resilient practices. Dr. S.K. Gupta and Dr. Amrish Vaid highlighted high-yielding varieties, research advancements, and extension initiatives. IFFCO's S.S.Sidhu introduced Nano Urea Plus and Nano DAP, showcasing their efficiency in improving fertilization. Technical sessions covered rabi crop production, mushroom farming, seed treatment, crop insurance, and vertical farming. An exhibition highlighted hydroponics & women-led agri-products attracting over 500 participants, including progressive farmers and local leaders.

KVK Jammu, ASCI and JAKEDA Promote PM-KUSUM Scheme

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jammu, under SKUAST-Jammu, Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) and the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), jointly organized events to promote the adoption of solar energy in agriculture under the PM-KUSUM scheme. On October 22, 2024, KVK Jammu organized a one-day workshop at R.S. Pura, which was inaugurated by Prof. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST-Jammu. Dr. J.S. Kalsi, Facilitator ASCI-PM KUSUM, delivered a lead lecture highlighting the scheme's benefits, such as cost reduction and sustainable irrigation. The event featured an exhibition by JAKEDA and an interactive Kisan Ghoshti session, engaging progressive farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and stakeholders.

JAKEDA hosted a complementary awareness program at KVK, Jammu on November 11, 2024, chaired by HVC Dr. B.N. Tripathi and Commissioner Secretary (Science and Technology) to Govt of UT, J&K Sh Saurabh Bhagat. The program emphasized the benefits of solar-powered irrigation and provided detailed guidance on the scheme's components.



Pamphlets detailing subsidies, pricing, and contact information were distributed, while firms M/s KLK Ventures and M/s Aditya Solar facilitated farmer registrations. Farmers advocated for streamlined approval processes, and SKUAST-Jammu pledged full support. Commissioner Secretary Sh Saurabh Bhagat suggested centralized solar pumping systems for community irrigation, reinforcing the commitment to empowering farmers through solar energy.

Exposure Visit to Soil Testing Laboratory

KVK Jammu organized exposure visit for participants of 15 days certificate course on Integrated Nutrient management to Soil Testing laboratory Directorate of Agriculture Jammu. The visit provided participants with first-hand experience of soil testing, soil health cards, and the parameters involved in soil testing. The participants after completion may apply for the Fertiliser dealership at their respective districts and will be the first source of information to the farming community.



KVK Jammu and KVK Samba conducted Certificate Course on Integrated Nutrient Management for Input Dealers

KVK, Jammu and KVK Samba each conducted a 15-day certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for input dealers w.e.f. December 11 and December 13 2024 respectively. Each program was attended by 30 participants which included rural youth, progressive farmers, and FPO members, At Jammu inaugural function was graced by chief guests Dr. Shubra Sharma, Mission Director JKRLM, and Prof. Amrish Vaid, Director



Extension, SKUAST-Jammu. Prof. Vaid highlighted the role of participants as frontline experts in nutrient management, while Dr. Sharma emphasized organic fertilizers, natural farming, and entrepreneurship opportunities. Dr. Punit Choudhary, Head KVK Jammu, detailed the course objectives, expressing hope for participants to become agri-entrepreneurs and create employment in their communities. Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi Dean Students Welfare graced the occasion as Chief Guest during valedictory function and distributed certificates among the participants came from ten districts.



KVK-Doda conducted Multi-Faceted Training and Certification Program

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Doda, organized a range of training and capacity-building programmes during this period. Under crop production, two farmers' training programmes were conducted: one on Improved Techniques for Rapeseed



Mustard Cultivation in the village of Khumari with 29 participants, and another on "Improved Techniques for Oats Cultivation" held at KVK with 20 participants. In fisheries, a programme on Trout Culture in Raceways was organized in the village of Bhara with 14 participants, along with an in-service training programme titled "Promotion of Trout Culture" at KVK with 21 participants.

KVK-Doda also hosted a 15-day certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management for input dealers at KVK, attended by 20 participants. Additionally, two five-day skill development training programmes on "Integrated Farming System" were conducted under the 100-day action plan given by ICAR-ATARI in the villages of Bhara and Southa, involving 78 participants. Another five-day skill development training programme on Integrated Nutrient Management was held at KVK-HQ with 20 participants.

Furthermore, a T&V workshop was conducted at KVK with 19 participants, a Farmer-Scientist interaction session was attended by 22 participants, and a Kisan Ghosti involved 27 participants both at KVK.

KVK-Rajouri empowered Farmers, Students, and Entrepreneurs

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Rajouri, conducted a 15-day entrepreneur development training on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for input fertilizer dealers. Skill development programmes on mushroom cultivation and



beekeeping were organized for 84 students of Govt. Degree College, Rajouri. An exposure visit to the National Agriculture Summit/Kisan Mela 2024 was arranged for 40 SHG women, who showcased and sold their products during the event, where six progressive farmers were also awarded.



Two exposure visits were organized for 100 higher secondary students to KVK demonstration units. Field days on maize and mash were conducted in adopted villages, while FLDs on wheat (26 ha) and oats (12 ha) were established. Thirteen training sessions were delivered to 325 farmers and farm women from various villages of Rajouri.

Workshop for Farmers on PM-KUSUM Yojana held at Akhali Bhutan, Katra (Reasi)

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Reasi and Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) organised workshop on 23-10-2024 PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan) yojana at Akhali Bhutan village in Reasi distt. of J&K which was attended by 38 women farmers of the area.



Celebration of World Soil Day at KVK Samba

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Samba in association with SAMETI Jammu celebrated “World Soil Day 2024” on the theme “Caring for soils: measure, monitor, and manage” on 5th of December at KVK Samba. More than 100 farmers actively participated in the programme. The function was presided over by Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head. Pooja Nayar, Deputy Director SAMETI Jammu, Dr. Saurav Gupta, Scientist, Entomology, and Dr. Shalini Khajuria sensitized the participants about the ill effects of injudicious use of pesticides and deteriorating health of soil, use natural

farming practices, adoption of organic farming and other measures of soil conservation and made the farmers aware about the various agronomical practices for improving the soil health. A practical demonstration on application of different bio fertilizer was also carried out for the benefit of participants.



KVK Samba organised Training program on Beekeeping for CRPF Personnel

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Samba organized training programme on Beekeeping for CRPF personnels w.e.f. 26.01.2024 to 28.11.2024 at Group Center CRPF Hiranagar under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B.N Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, and the able guidance of Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension. The function was presided over by Manoj Kumar, Dy IGP, GC CRPF Hiranagar, Dr. Sanjay Khajuria Chief Scientist and Head KVK Samba and Dr. Saurav Gupta (Training Coordinator) Sr. Scientist. The programme was conducted to acquaint the CRPF Personnel regarding technical know-how of beekeeping in Jammu sector.



Veterinary Clinical Health Camp in Udhampur

The Division of Veterinary Medicine, F.V.Sc & A.H., SKUAST-Jammu, held a one-day veterinary health camp at Sialjatta Salneri, Udhampur. The camp provided essential veterinary services, including de-worming, vaccinations, reproductive care, and diagnostics, benefiting over 50 dairy farmers. Common issues like tick infestation, mastitis, and anoestrus were addressed, and free medicines were distributed. Led by Dr. Neelesh Sharma, Dr. Kafil Hussain,

and Dr. Sharad Kumar, the expert team delivered on-the-spot treatments and shared livestock management practices. Blood and fecal samples were collected for disease diagnosis. Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Chief Animal Husbandry, Udhampur, and Dr. Ravi Salaria also attended the camp, reflecting SKUAST-Jammu's commitment to improving livestock health and farmer welfare.

SKUAST-Jammu Celebrates National Milk Day at R.S. Pura Campus

The Faculty of Dairy Technology, SKUAST-Jammu, celebrated National Milk Day at its R.S. Pura campus, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the "Father of the White Revolution in India." The event highlighted the importance of the dairy sector in India's livelihood, nutrition, and economy. Dean Prof. J.S. Soodan emphasized Dr. Kurien's legacy, cooperative dairy development, breed improvement, and sustainability in dairy farming. Dr. Sunil Kumar spoke on global and national trends in dairy production and market analysis, while Dr. Alka Parmar delivered a keynote on milk's nutritional value and addressed myths around its consumption. The event featured a poster-making competition, a skit on milk quality assurance with active participation from students & faculty.



Training on Value Addition of Minor Fruits

A training programme on Value Addition of minor fruits in Kandi area of Jammu: An opportunity to generate Rural Employment for Livelihood Security was organized by Dr. Poonam Parihar PI of the project, Professor Division of Agricultural Extension Education at Block Purmandal District Samba under JKDST&IC sponsored project. The handouts literature regarding processing/preservations were also distributed. Training programme was attended by the rural women's and youths of Block Purmandal, District Samba.



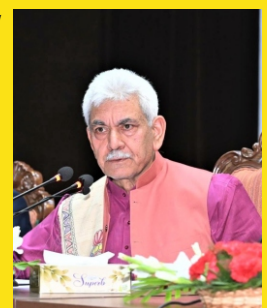
Awareness cum Training Programme on Recent Fodder Technologies for Sustainable Livestock Productivity

ICAR-IGFRI, RRS, Srinagar, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Samba, organized a one-day Awareness cum Training Programme on "Recent Fodder Technologies for Sustainable Livestock Productivity" on October 3, 2024, at Daboh, Samba. The event, under IGFRI Jhansi's Scheduled Caste Sub Plan, was attended by 75 local scheduled caste farmers, mostly women. Demonstrations included 200,000 rooted slips and 50 kg rye grass seed distributed to farmers, who appreciated the initiative.



"Education should be driven by creativity rather than by curriculum. It should be about developing the capacities of young people to be creative. It should be the main lever for a more competitive economy and educational institutions as well as other social institutions must follow this model"

*Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor
Jammu & Kashmir*



Achievements under State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute

Five training programmes were conducted w.e.f. October to December, 2024. In total, there were 40 male participants, 73 female participants with 113 total participants across all training programs. Training on Feed Formulation & Fish Nutrition held on 14-15 October 2024, with 25 male and 4 female participants, totalling 29 attendees. Value Added Products from Forgotten Crops took place on 24-25 October 2024, with 11 male and 2 female participants, totalling 13 attendees. Processing and value addition of seasonal fruits was held on 13th November 2024, with 31 female participants and no male participants, totalling 31 attendees. Valorisation of Fruits and Vegetables Waste took place on 14th November 2024, with 31 female participants and no male participants, totalling 31 attendees. Finally, Precision Livestock Farming: Technology-Driven Approaches for Enhanced Animal Production & Welfare was held from 16-18 December 2024, for Veterinary Assistant Surgeons from



the departments of Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry with 4 male and 5 female participants, totalling 9 attendees. Besides one day awareness programme was organized by SAMETI-Jammu in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Samba on 5th December, 2024 wherein 105 farm women from adjoining villages of Samba KVK participated with full Zeal and enthusiasm. Different deliberations by the scientific staff and Drone demonstration were conducted to create awareness among farming community.

Inauguration of Radio Kissan SKUAST Jammu 90.8 FM

Chief Minister of J&K UT, Jenab Omar Abdullah, inaugurated Radio Kissan SKUAST Jammu 90.8 FM, the university's first community radio station, at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Chatha on November 20, 2024. The launch, coinciding with the National Agriculture Summit and Farmers Fair 2024.



A dedicated stall for Radio Kissan, unveiled at the Kisan Mela, attracted visitors with live farmer interviews, cultural performances, and interactive games. The station aims to empower farmers by providing expert insights on agriculture, weather updates, pest management, and a platform for creative expression.

Recognized for its vibrant activities, the stall won the third prize among university exhibits. Vice Chancellor Dr. Tripathi appreciated the initiative as a milestone in strengthening ties between academia and the farming community, promoting knowledge-sharing, and fostering regional development.

Forthcoming Events

- 41st annual convention of society for Veterinary Medicine & National Conference in animal health care and welfare through speciality medicine, digital health technologies and artificial intelligence, 17-19 February, 2025 by Division of Veterinary Medicine, FVSc&AH, at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu
- Annual Convention Emerging Innovations in Biochemistry and Biotechnology for Holistic Development of Agriculture 6-7 March, 2025 by Institute of Biotechnology at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu



Promoting Innovations, Startup and Entrepreneurship Development

Participation in Samarth Workshop

Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, P.I/CEO of ABI, SKUAST-J, and Mr. Tarunjeet Singh, Business Executive, ABI, SKUAST-J, attended the two-day Samarth Workshop 2024-25:



Nurturing the Indian Agri Start-Up Ecosystem held at the NASC Complex, New Delhi, from November 6-7, 2024. Organized by Pusa Krishi, ICAR/IARI, the workshop aimed to enhance market access, explore new funding avenues, and foster impactful partnerships within the agri start-up ecosystem.

Showcasing Start-Ups at National Agriculture Summit 2024

Five start-ups from ABI, SKUAST-Jammu—M/s Jammuz Papier Machie Pvt. Ltd., M/s Nutrichip Agri LLP, M/s Blissful Organics LLP,



M/s 7S Trading & Exporter Pvt. Ltd., and M/s Prithvi Bamboo Handicrafts displayed their innovative products during the National Agriculture Summit, held from November 20-23, 2024. The products garnered significant attention and

appreciation from dignitaries, who encouraged the start-ups to scale up their businesses.

Industry-Academia-Farmer-Start-up Interaction

Eight start-ups from ABI, SKUAST-Jammu participated in the interaction session during the National Agriculture Summit 2024, chaired by Sh. Rahul Yadav, IAS, Mission Director HADP, J&K, and Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. Prof. Jyoti Kachroo provided an overview of ABI's contributions to developing the agri start-up ecosystem in the J&K region. Prominent start-ups

such as M/s Salutem Ridegear Apparels Pvt. Ltd., M/s Octaflyte Technologies Pvt. Ltd., and M/s Urbanhills Food Processing Pvt. Ltd. contributed to a panel discussion focused on bridging gaps between academia, farmers, industry, and start-ups.

Commencement of 8th Batch Agri-Entrepreneurship Training

The agri-entrepreneurship training program for the 8th batch of incubatees at ABI, SKUAST-Jammu began on November 25, 2024. A cohort of 33 potential agri-entrepreneurs have been trained using a combination of

online and offline sessions, covering topics related to the creation, sustainability, and growth of vibrant agri-business enterprises.

Site Inspections for Start-Up Development

The due diligence committee of ABI, SKUAST-Jammu, comprising Prof. Jyoti Kachroo and Dr. Dileep Kachroo, RIC Member, visited to the manufacturing setups of two start-ups—M/s Eden Horticulture Services in Gandhidham,



Gujarat, and M/s Marsco Nutraceuticals Pvt. Ltd. in Hyderabad and Vijayawada, Telangana—from December 1-5, 2024. The team assessed financial utilization, business progress, and commercial operations, providing valuable suggestions to improve and scale up their businesses.



Awards, Fellowships, Foreign Visits

Dr Neelesh Sharma, Professor & Head, Division of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Jammu, has been awarded prestigious Fellow Award from Veterinary Internal & Preventive Medicine (VIPM) Society. The award was presented during 5th Annual Convention of VIPM Society at Meerut, UP. The award was conferred by Dr A K Srivastava, Vice-Chancellor, DUVASU, Mathura and Shyam Bihari Gupta, Chairman, Gauseva Aayog, UP.



Prof. Romesh Kumar Salgotra, Director, Institute of Biotechnology, SKUAST-Jammu received Fellow Award by Association of Rice Research Workers (ARRW) on 5th December 2024 during the 3rd Indian Rice Congress at ICAR-National Rice Research Institute (NRI), Cuttack, Odisha for his outstanding contributions in the field of rice research.



Dr Nrip Kishore Pankaj, Professor and Head received Best Oral Presentation Award during International Conference on "Translational Approach to mitigate the challenges of Antimicrobial resistance" (ISVPTCON-2024) organized by Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, College of Veterinary Sciences, DUVASU Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, on 18-21st November 2024.



Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu received Fellowship award from Indian Ecological Society on 13-14 November, 2024 during International conference on transforming, Agri-food systems in the face of climate changes and energy transitions held at PAU, Ludhiana.



Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Professor, Agriculture Extension, received Fellowship award from Indian Ecological Society on 13-14 November, 2024 during International conference on transforming, Agri-food systems in the face of climate changes and energy transitions held at PAU, Ludhiana.



Dr Pawan Kumar Verma, Professor received Best Oral Presentation Award during International Conference on Translational Approach to mitigate the challenges of Antimicrobial resistance (ISVPTCON-2024) organized by Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, College of Veterinary Sciences, DUVASU Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, on 18-21st November 2024.



Dr Pawan Kumar Verma received Best PhD Thesis Award during the 8th International conference on Recent trends in advancement of agriculture, horticulture, Livestock and Allied Sciences organized by Shri Guru Rai University, Dehradun from 21-22, November 2024.

Dr. Ankit Magotra, Deputy Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, received Dr. M.L.Madan award for outstanding research in the field of Animal Genetics and Breeding, in International Conference on “current Innovations and Technological Advances in Agriculture and Allied Sciences” organized by Indian Society Agriculture Science and Technology Research, Noida.

Dr Sheen Tukra, PhD Scholar of Division of VPT received Best oral presentation award during International Conference on "Translational Approach to mitigate the challenges of Antimicrobial resistance" (ISVPTCON-2024) organized by Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, College of Veterinary Sciences, DUVASU Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, on 18-21st November 2024.



Keynote Address on Climate Resilient Horticulture

Dr. Prashant Bakshi, Head Organic farming at SKUAST Jammu delivered an impactful keynote titled “Strategies for Climate Resilient Horticulture: Sustainable Fruit Production under Changing Climatic Conditions” on the second day of the International Conference on Climate Change and Natural Resource Management at the Grand Excelsior Hotel, Dubai. The session gathered global



academics, policymakers, and industry experts to discuss sustainable agricultural practices amidst climate challenges.

International expert lecture on the use of digital tools in agriculture

Dr. Pawan K. Sharma, Head, Division of Agril. Economics & ABM, SKUAST-Jammu delivered an invited lecture on 'Opportunities and challenges integrating digital tools in agricultural education' during the international workshop on 'Innovative Education: Bridging Gaps and Building Futures' jointly organized by, Alumni portal Deutschland, Germany, ISA Hamburg, Germany and ISA Alumni on 15th November, 2024.



Dr. Pawan among top Indian scholars at IFPRI's CGE training in Nepal

Dr. Pawan K. Sharma selected by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to participate in an advanced training program on Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modeling held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from November 6th to 11th, 2024. He is one of only five candidates from India chosen for this prestigious opportunity. He presented a detailed analysis of the impact of the PM Kisan Scheme in India using IFPRI's CGE modelling framework.



Massive Outreach: Farmers and Students explored SKUAST-Jammu Campus

Farmers' visit to University campus

During the last three months ie October to December 2024, a total of over 11000 farmers visited SKUAST-Jammu in series of exposure visits to SKUAST-Jammu, involving various districts and departments facilitated by the Department of Agriculture, horticulture and other Government and Non-Government agencies. A notable highlight was the National Agriculture Summit held from November 20 to 23, 2024, in Jammu, where 10,525 farmers participated.



Students' visit to campus

A total of 3927 students along with 72 school teachers visited SKUAST-Jammu during October to December 2024. These visits involved 77 schools and colleges across seven districts of UT of Jammu and Kashmir highlighting extensive outreach and engagement with educational institutions during this period. Students along with their teachers visited Faculty of Agriculture, Technology Park, Bee keeping Farm and Agriculture Museum of SKUAST-Jammu. The field tour/Campus visit was coordinated by Dr. Ravinder Singh Sudan Professor Division of Plan Breeding and Genetics.



Student Corner



Urja Girls Hostel Led Cleanliness Drive on Gandhi Jayanti

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated annually on October 2nd, the girls of Urja Girls Hostel at SKUAST Jammu organized a cleanliness drive in and around the university premises. The event was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean of Student Welfare, and Dr. Puja Rattan, Warden and Associate Professor in the Division of Vegetable Sciences. The activity was carried out with great enthusiasm, symbolizing the collective commitment to maintaining a clean and green campus

Urja Girls Hostel Celebrated Shree Ram Navmi and Ganesh Chaturthi

On the auspicious occasion of Shree Ram Navmi/Mahanavmi and Ganesh Chaturthi, the students of Urja Girls Hostel, SKUAST Jammu, organized a vibrant cultural night. The events were graced by Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director Extension and First Lady of the University, Dean of Student Welfare Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi with Dr. Rita Dwivedi, and special guest Dr. Sahar Masud, former warden and Head, Division of Fisheries under guidance of warden Dr. Puja Rattan and with enthusiastic efforts of students, the celebration fostered harmony & joy in the hostel.



SKUAST-Jammu NSS Unit Led "Swachhta Hi Sewa" Drive

On October 21, as part of the nationwide "Swachhta Hi Sewa" campaign, SKUAST-Jammu's NSS Unit, led by Dr. Narinder Panotra, conducted a cleanliness drive in the adopted villages of Chatha Pind and Bhour Camp.

SKUAST-Jammu hosted NSS Camps for Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

As part of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan and Drug-Free Camp Campaign, SKUAST-Jammu organized two significant awareness programs on combating drug abuse. On November 11, 2024, an event focusing on drug abuse and mental health was held at Chatha Campus in collaboration with the Health Centre. Another program, on November 13,



2024, was conducted for NSS volunteers at the FVSc & AH, R.S. Pura Campus. Both initiatives, guided by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, reinforced the university's commitment to addressing drug abuse in the region.

NSS Volunteers Observed Constitution Day at SKUAST-Jammu

On November 26, Constitution Day, NSS volunteers of the Faculty of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, R.S. Pura, SKUAST-Jammu, recited the Preamble of the Constitution of India to honor the nation's guiding principles.



Armed Forces Flag Day Observed by NSS SKUAST-Jammu

NSS unit of SKUAST-J organized a programme on Armed Forces Flag Day to raise funds for the Armed Forces Welfare Fund. Prof. Anil Kumar, Registrar and Dean, FoA, Chief Guest urged students to embrace patriotism and honor sacrifices of armed forces personnel. Prof. Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare emphasized discipline and drew inspiration from the lives of brave martyrs. Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, NSS Coordinator, encouraged students to lead disciplined lives, while Dr. Aditi Lal Koul, NSS Officer, delivered the vote of thanks.





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