



**Sher-e-Kashmir**  
**University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu**  
**Main Campus, Chatha, Jammu**

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Dated: 18-03-2016

**Press Release**

**Governor Inaugurated Kisan Mela at SKUAST-Jammu**

“Thousands of farmers Throng Kisan Mela”

Earmarking 70% of the union budget for agriculture and rural development is path breaking: Vohra



Jammu,

Dated: 18.03.2016

N N Vohra Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) inaugurated two days' Kisan Mela at SKUAST-J, Main Campus Chatha. Daljit Singh, Vice-Chairman Kisan Advisory Board, Surinder Choudhary MLC, M A Bukhari Commissioner Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Professor Pradeep K Sharma Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-J were present at the inaugural. It is pertinent to mention here that the Kisan Mela of SKUAST-Jammu provides an opportunity to showcase the latest agriculture and veterinary related technologies from across the country for the farming community. Agricultural universities namely Punjab Agricultural University, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Chatisgarh, YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Solan Himachal Pradesh, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Gwalior, the University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore and many Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) institutes displayed the technological innovations at the Kisan Mela. Private industries, farmers, self help groups and non-governmental organizations have also set up stalls to display their products. J&K Bank Ltd. and Canara Bank offered their services to the farmers for various schemes. Thousands of farmers from every nook and corner of Jammu province thronged the Kisan Mela. An animal show is also organized to

display various new breeds of poultry and cattle. Kissan Mela 2016 is being organized in partnership with J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans, Agriculture Production Department J&K, Department of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Floriculture, Department of Sericulture, Department of Sheep Husbandry, Department of Fisheries and Command Area Development.

Governor N N Vohra while appreciating the technological display, hoped that the latest technologies will be available to the farming community for augmenting farm and animal productivity. He expressed concern over the food, meat and milk deficit in the state and impressed upon the researchers, extension personnel and farmers to make state self sufficient. While addressing the farmers, the Governor said that this is for the first time in the history of independent India that 70 per cent of the Union Budget has been earmarked for agriculture and rural development. He lauded the schemes launched by Government of India like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana where farmers have to pay only 2, 1.5 and 5% as premium for kharif, rabi and annual commercial crops respectively. While appreciating the efforts of the university, the governor urged the university scientists and officers of the allied department to highlight these beneficial schemes launched by the Union Government. He advised the Vice-chancellor to put more emphasis on developing sound and scientific technologies for rain fed agriculture as 60% of area of the state is rain fed.

Farmers showed keen interest in visiting the stalls and interacting with scientists. A total of 73 display units covering a broad spectrum of agriculture and allied activities were the main attraction for farmers besides demonstration units of the research farm, especially to the integrated farming system model of the university. Dr. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-J assured the chancellor that the university will take all necessary steps to implement his vision for the development of agriculture and allied sectors. Daljit Singh Vice Chairman Kisan Development Board appreciated the efforts of the university in organizing such Melas that will add to the existing knowledge of the farming community. M A Bukhari Commissioner Secretary Agriculture Production Department urged the department and university to work tirelessly with zeal to serve the farmers. Prof. Pradeep Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J appreciated the directorate of extension for organizing such a mega mela at the university. Dr. KS Rissam Director Extension extended the vote of thanks to the governor, Vice Chairman J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans, Vice Chancellor, Commissioner Secretary Agriculture and directors of allied departments for making the event a grand success. The proceedings of the program were anchored by Dr. S B Bakshi, DSW SKUAST-J. The Mela will conclude on March 19.