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Agri Tribune

Newsletter



SKUAST JAMMU

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

www.skuast.org





**Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and
Chancellor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji
delivering Convocation address
on 9th Convocation at SKUAST-Jammu
on September 4, 2025**

From the Desk of the Vice Chancellor

It is with great pride and optimism that I present the July–September 2025 edition of our e-Newsletter, *Agri Tribune*. I am delighted to share that in the latest National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings, our university has secured the 12th position among all State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and 23rd among agricultural institutions nationwide. Despite all odds in the aftermath of the floods, the university proudly celebrated its 25th Foundation Day, marking a significant milestone in its journey of resilience, academic excellence, and service to the farming community.

The University recently celebrated its 9th Convocation, a landmark occasion graced by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji as the Chief Guest and Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah as the Guest of Honour. On this momentous day, 446 degrees and 8 gold medals were conferred, and the University's collective accomplishments, including 107 startups incubated and 62 IPRs granted were proudly acknowledged.

Another landmark initiative was the launch of AgriThon 2.0, a national-level innovation challenge, aligns with the vision of “Viksit Krishi for Atmanirbhar Bharat”. We also organized the Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Committee (ZREAC) Meeting for Kharif 2025, which focused on climate-resilient farming, sustainable cropping systems, and bridging the gap between scientific research and farmer practices. In addition, our efforts towards tribal empowerment were recognized through the ICSSR-sponsored National Seminar commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, making SKUAST-Jammu the only institution from J&K selected under ICSSR's Competitive Seminar Scheme.

The University continued its focus on capacity building and farmer empowerment through diverse programmes, including training for FPO leaders, nursery skill development in subtropical fruits, gender-responsive extension training, and entrepreneurship development in biotechnology. Parallely, our NCC, NSS, and student welfare initiatives have enriched the campus environment by promoting leadership, discipline, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility among students.

These collective accomplishments reflect the dedication of our faculty, staff, and students, and the unwavering support of all stakeholders. As we move forward, let us continue to work together with renewed energy and vision to make SKUAST-Jammu a leading hub of innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable agricultural development.



B. N. Tripathi

(B. N. Tripathi)

9th Convocation of SKUAST-Jammu G

The 9th Convocation of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences, Jammu, was held on 15th June 2025. The event was presided over by Lieutenant Governor & Chancellor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji as Chief Guest. He addressed the graduates on the importance of sustainable and climate-resilient farming. Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah Ji, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Shri Javad Ahmad Dar, Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo, and Principal Secretary Shri B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, presented the university report. The report highlighted the university's achievements, including 62 IPRs granted, and 50+ crop varieties developed. Professors of Practice were also honored. The convocation program included the release of RRI 2025 of SKUAST-Jammu and Guide to Mushroom Cultivation.



ICAR Accredited
GRADE 'A'
University

Convocation
SKUAST-JAMMU



graced by Hon'ble LG Shri Manoj Sinha Ji

ces and Technology of Jammu was held with grandeur, graced by Hon'ble
e lauded the university's contributions to agricultural innovation, startups, IPRs,
lah, Guest of Honour, and dignitaries including Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture
cretary Shri Shailendra Kumar also commended the university's progress.

ort: 446 degrees awarded, 8 gold medals conferred, 107 startups incubated,
tice, innovators, and patent holders were felicitated. Two publications were
ion by Dr. Sachin Gupta.



Inauguration of Ex Situ



New Gene Bank inaugurated at SKUA

Shri Manoj Sinha ji , Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K, inaugurated the Ex Situ Gene Bank on 04 August 2025 at the Institute of Biotechnology, SKUAST-Jammu. Shri Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production Department J&K, and Dr. B. Singh, Director, SKUAST-Jammu, were also present. With this facility, SKUAST-Jammu becomes a centre for breeding and research. The centre is equipped with preservation units, and specialized labs for

Hon'ble LG laid foundation stone for

Shri Manoj Sinha ji , Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K, laid the foundation stone for the new building at SKUAST-Jammu on 04 August 2025 — a 200-bed building with common academic facilities for students, farmers' welfare and academic growth at

Gene Bank at SKUAST Jammu



SKUAST-Jammu to Preserve Vital Genetic Resources

Chief Minister of J&K and Chancellor of SKUAST Jammu, inaugurated a state-of-the-art Ex-Situ Gene Bank on 4th August 2023 at SKUAST-Jammu, in the august presence of Jenab Omar Abdullah Ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jenab Javid Ahmad Mir, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo, Shri Shailendra Kumar (IAS), Financial Commissioner (ACS) Agriculture, Shri N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

The Gene Bank will become the third institution in India to host a gene bank for preserving seeds, plant tissue, and animal germplasm for future use. It is equipped with advanced infrastructure, including a walk-in growth chamber, dual-stage temperature-controlled storage, and facilities for germplasm testing and evaluation. The Cost of Project is Rs.399.53 lakhs funded by NABARD.

Farmers' Hostel and Faculty Building at SKUAST-Jammu

Chief Minister of J&K and Chancellor of SKUAST Jammu, laid the foundation stones for two key projects at SKUAST-Jammu: the 100-bed Farmers' Hostel, being constructed at a cost of ₹1503.62 lakhs with funding support from NABARD, and a Faculty Building, developed at a cost of ₹1548.60 lakhs under the Regular Capex Budget — aimed at strengthening infrastructure for the university.



GLIMPSES OF AWARD OF GOLD MEDALS TO MERITORIOUS STUDENTS BY THE DIGNITARIES DURING 9TH CONVOCATION OF SKUAST JAMMU ON 4TH AUGUST 2025



SKUAST Jammu establishes National Digital Library of India club to enhance Academic Excellence

SKUAST Jammu Launches NDLI Club to Promote Digital Learning and Research

has established a National Digital Library of India (NDLI) Club under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Dr. B. N. Tripathi, in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur. The club aims to enhance academic excellence by providing free access to over 10 million digital resources, fostering research, innovation, and skill development. Inaugurated by university officials and faculty, the club will organize workshops, seminars, and competitions to promote digital learning and align with NEP 2020 objectives.



SKUAST Jammu Secures Place in NIRF Rankings: A Milestone in Academic Excellence



Central & Faculty Libraries of SKUAST Jammu organize an Awareness Camp on Nasha Mukta Abhiyan



Buffer Lobby & Waiting Lounge launched in Central Library, Chatha

Notable Highlights

SKUAST-Jammu launched AgriThon 2.0, a national-level innovation challenge aimed at empowering rural youth



of Jammu Division and students from higher education institutions across Northern India, under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) with support from IFAD. Addressing the press conference, HVC Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Chairman of the event, said AgriThon 2.0 reflects the vision of “Viksit Krishi for Atmanirbhar Bharat” by fostering entrepreneurship and

technology-driven solutions in agriculture and allied sectors. He emphasized that the initiative aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of making India a global hub for startups and innovation. AgriThon 2.0 invites innovative ideas on Digital Agriculture, Climate Resilient Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Food Processing, and Urban Farming. Participants from the 07 states of North India will compete for prizes worth ₹5.60 lakh, while selected business plans from Jammu will receive financial support up to ₹5.00 lakh each for implementation. A dedicated online portal has been launched for smooth submissions. Registration is free and opened from 25th July 2025.

SKUAST-Jammu organized the Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Committee (ZREAC) Meeting



ZREAC meeting for *Kharif* 2025 was organised to deliberate on strategies for sustainable agriculture in the Jammu region. HVC Prof. B.N. Tripathi, emphasized for bridging the gap between scientists and farmers through timely transfer of technologies, promotion of climate-resilient varieties, organic and natural farming, water conservation, and sustainable cropping patterns. Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, presented ongoing research initiatives on previous recommendations. A pocket diary on crop advisories and animal husbandry practices was released. Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, while welcoming dignitaries, statutory officers, directors of line departments, HoDs, KVK Heads, Scientists and participants highlighted that the recommendations of the meeting would pave the way for solving challenges faced by farmers in the upcoming *Kharif* season.

SKUAST-Jammu Hosts Expert Lecture on Future of Green Bio-Manufacturing

SKUAST-Jammu organized an expert lecture on “Green Bio-Manufacturing of D-Allulose: The Table Sugar of the Future”. The session was delivered by Prof. Rajender Singh Sangwan, Vice-Chancellor, Raffles University & Former Director/Vice-Chancellor, AcSIR, who introduced D-Allulose, a rare, low-calorie, diabetic-friendly sugar. He emphasized its sustainable production from agricultural waste, aligning with the vision of a circular bio-economy. The event, hosted by Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, and coordinated by Dr. Vinod Kumar, witnessed active participation of faculty, scholars, and students from SKUAST-Jammu and other reputed institutions, reflecting strong academic collaboration and growing interest in health-focused innovations.

Five days Capacity Building Programme

SKUAST Jammu organised 5 days capacity development program for Chief Executive Officers and Chairmen/Board of Directors of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) across J&K, under the HADP-20 project “Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalizing Agriculture in J&K” in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The event was inaugurated by Sh. Sandeep Kumar, IFS, Managing Director, HADP, who appreciated SKUAST-Jammu's efforts in strengthening FPOs and also reviewed ongoing activities under HADP Project-19 (JKSLRI), including the newly established Geospatial Lab. The valedictory session, held on 11th July 2025, was graced by Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, who emphasized the importance of empowering FPOs through knowledge-sharing and leadership training, urging participants to implement the learnings for building sustainable producer organizations. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Vinod Gupta, Head, Division of Agricultural Extension Education.

Skill Development Training on Subtropical Fruit Nursery Techniques at SKUAST-Jammu



SKUAST-Jammu, organized a two-day skill development programme on production of Quality Planting Material of Subtropical Fruits at ACHR, Udheywalla. The training was conducted under the JKCIP – Horticulture Crop Promotion Support Component, which aimed to enhance competitiveness in agriculture and allied sectors.

The programme focused on building practical skills for nursery production of subtropical fruits, particularly mango, a key fruit crop in the region. Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dean, Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry, and Dr. Arti Sharma, Professor, Fruit Science, served as key resource persons, while expert nurserymen from Uttar Pradesh demonstrated advanced grafting techniques in mango, offering participants hands-on exposure to the latest methods. A total of 28 participants received training in scion preparation, rootstock raising, grafting methods, and post-grafting care.



ADG NCC visits SKUAST-Jammu to Strengthen NCC Activities



Major General Anupinder Bevli, ADG, NCC Directorates J&K and Ladakh, visited SKUAST-Jammu to explore the expansion of NCC units, including Air Wing and Armed Unit, on campus. He was accompanied by Brigadier D.N. Pandey and Colonel Munish Jasrotia, and was warmly received by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi along with senior university officials.

Maj. Gen. Bevli emphasized the role of NCC in fostering discipline, leadership, and national integration among youth. The delegation also toured key research and innovation facilities, appreciating the advanced work being carried out.

Workshop on Biolistic Genetic Transformation Technology

SKUAST-Jammu recently organized a workshop on Biolistic Genetic Transformation Technology, aimed at strengthening research in agricultural biotechnology and promoting sustainable practices. The workshop combined theoretical and hands-on training, covering the principles of biolistic transformation, gene gun design, and optimization of DNA delivery.

Participants, including researchers, scientists, and students, gained practical experience in preparing biological materials, operating the gene gun, and analyzing transformation results, marking a significant step in capacity building for advanced crop improvement research.



Training programme on Beekeeping under NBHM

A seven-day training programme on Beekeeping was organised from 18th to 25th August 2025 under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission for farmers and beekeepers associated with the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseed in Jammu district. As part of the programme, participants received both theoretical knowledge and hands-on demonstrations at the AICRP Beekeeping Centre, SKUAST-J, Chatha, enabling them to gain practical skills in scientific beekeeping and honey production,

Live Webcasting of PM KISAN 20th Instalment Release



KVKs across all district of Jammu Division in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture organized the live webcasting of the release of the 20th instalment of PM KISAN Samman Nidhi by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2nd August from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, as part of the PM Kisan Utsav.



At KVK Jammu event was graced by Dr. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Hon'ble MLA Suchetgarh and Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, Hon'ble MLA R.S. Pura as Chief Guests, along with statutory officers of SKUAST-Jammu, senior officials from the Department of Agriculture, and more than 200 progressive farmers and FPO members. Technical sessions were also held, where experts delivered lectures on Crop Insurance, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and JKCIP.

Stakeholder Workshop-cum-Interaction Meeting



KVK Jammu in collaboration with AICRP for Agriculture Dryland, Rakh Dhiansar, organized a one-day Stakeholder Workshop-cum-Interaction Meeting on 19th August 2025. It focused on location-specific technologies aimed at enhancing productivity and profitability in rainfed areas. A key highlight was the development of a real-time contingent plan for Jammu district. Agriculture Officers from R.S. Pura, Marh, Dansal, and Akhnoor subdivisions of Jammu district actively participated and interacted during the workshop.

One Day Bootcamp organised at GDC R.S.Pura

SKUAST Jammu organized a one day bootcamp at Government Degree College R.S.Pura Jammu under JKCIP. The event was attended by faculty members along with students. The Bootcamp provide students a platform to explore inovation-driven entrepreneurship and foster a startup culture in the region through the support of JKCIP.

Empowering Biotech Entrepreneurs

The Institute of Biotechnology, SKUAST-Jammu organized a lecture series on Entrepreneurial Development in Biotechnology, featuring expert talks from academia and industry. The series included: Dr. Niti Shekhar (IIM Jammu) on funding biotech ventures, Dr. Vidushi Abrol (IIIM Jammu) on startup ecosystem in J&K, Ms. Sonali (Intas Pharmaceuticals) on industrial R&D. Distinguished faculty members who contributed include, Dr. Rajinder Peshin (Director Education), Dr. Sudhakar Diwedi (Dean Students' Welfare), Dr. Pawan Sharma (Head, Division of Economics and ABM), Dr. Anil Bhat (Associate Director Research), Kudos to Dr. Susheel Sharma (Incharge Academics, IBT) for coordinating this initiative and preparing students for entrepreneurial careers.



SKUAST-Jammu Marks 79th Independence



SKUAST-Jammu with great patri Vice Chancellor in the presenc students. Floral Nation, and t sacrifices of fre recalled the m achievements o and students t development of first time in u Squadron salu Chancellor to t moment for S extended to C contingent, sup Sabahat Gazal patriotic zeal, SKUAST-Jammu



Independence Day with Patriotic Zeal across campuses

SKUAST celebrated the 79th Independence Day with patriotic fervor across both campuses. Hon'ble Prof. B.N. Tripathi hoisted the National Flag in the presence of statutory officers, faculty, staff, and NCC cadets. Tributes were paid to the Father of the Nation. The gathering remembered the supreme sacrifices of the freedom fighters. In his address, Prof. Tripathi highlighted the university's freedom struggle, highlighted the role of SKUAST-Jammu, and urged employees to contribute with dedication towards the development of both the nation and the University. For the university history, NCC cadets of J&K. Air Force Band played the Tiranga and escorted the Vice-Chancellor to the podium, marking a proud and historic moment for SKUAST-Jammu. Special appreciation was given to NCC Cadet Vanshika Katoch for preparing the programme supported by CTOs Dr. Susheel Sharma and Dr. Anil Kumar. The programme was concluded with a cultural performance, making the day memorable for the entire university fraternity.



SKUAST-Jammu Organizes Tiranga Rally Celebrating the Spirit of Independence



SKUAST-Jammu Hosts ICSSR-Sponsored National Seminar Honouring Bhagwan Birsa Munda

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), in collaboration with ICSSR, New Delhi, organized a two-day national seminar on "Weaving Janjatiya Heritage as Pathways to Sustainable Futures in North-Western Himalayas" to mark the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, who emphasized inclusive growth and tribal empowerment.

Guest of Honour, Sh. Prasanna Ramaswamy G. (IAS), highlighted the balance between cultural preservation and development. Keynote speaker Mr. Javaid Rahi spoke on tribal identity and challenges, while institutions and individuals, including the Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, were felicitated for contributions to tribal welfare.



Over 75 scholars from J&K, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand deliberated on livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, forest governance, education, and policy. The seminar was organized by the Division of Agricultural Economics & Agri-Business Management. SKUAST-Jammu was the only J&K institution selected under ICSSR's Competitive Seminar Scheme.

It was coordinated by Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi and led by Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Head of Division. The valedictory session saw an active participation of faculty and students, presided by Dr. Amrishi Vaid, featured dignitaries from GDCT. Chief Guest Mr. Arshad Ali Choudhary and Er. Mohammad Sadiq Azad praised SKUAST-Jammu's role and stressed collaboration for tribal welfare. Twenty participants received Best Presentation Awards for their research.





10TH ASIAN PGPR SOCIETY INDIA CHAPTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE INAUGURATED AT JAMMU

The 10th Asian PGPR Society India Chapter National Conference on “Fostering PGPRs for Secondary Green Revolution towards Soil and Crop Health Management” was inaugurated today at the CSIR–IIIM Auditorium, Canal Road, Jammu. The three-days event (15–17 Sept) was jointly organized by SKUAST-Jammu, the Asian PGPR Society, and its Indian Chapter.

Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu and Chief Patron of PGPR-2025, presided over the inaugural, while Dr. Vishnuvardhana, Vice Chancellor, University of Horticultural Sciences, Karnataka, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Prof. M.S. Reddy, Founder & Chairman, Asian PGPR Society, addressed the gathering on the global role of PGPRs in sustainable agriculture. In his presidential remarks, Prof. Tripathi highlighted the potential of Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPRs) in soil fertility, reduced chemical inputs, and driving a biology-led “secondary green revolution” through bio-formulations, biotechnology, and nanotechnology.



Dr. Brajeshwar Singh, Local Organizing Secretary, presented an overview of the conference, while Prof. S.K. Gupta, Convener, welcomed dignitaries, and Prof. Sanjay Guleria delivered the vote of thanks. A compendium was also released on the occasion. The event saw participation from statutory officers of SKUAST-J, CSIR–IIIM officials, faculty, and delegates from national and international institutions.

FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION



SKUAST-J ANNOUNCES NOMINATION OF NEP SAARTHIS

To strengthen student engagement in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, SKUAST-J nominated three students under the UGC's "NEP SAARTHI" initiative. Out of 60 applicants, 29 were shortlisted for the written test and interview, conducted under the supervision of the Controller of Examination. Based on merit, three students have been selected as NEP SAARTHIs of SKUAST-J:

1. Krishna Khajuria – B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture
2. Meenakshi Raina – M.Sc. Agri Extension Education
3. Vivekinie Sharma – M.Sc. Agronomy

These student representatives will actively contribute to spreading awareness and supporting the implementation of NEP 2020.

RECORD APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2025–26

For the academic session 2025–26, SKUAST-Jammu received a record 5,251 applications for its Common Entrance Test (CET) for undergraduate programmes, surpassing the previous highest of 3,900 applications in 2023–24 and registering a 34% increase. The CET for six undergraduate programmes—B.V.Sc. & A.H., B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture, B.Tech. Biotechnology, B.Tech. Agricultural Engineering, and B.Tech. Dairy Technology—was conducted on 29th June 2025.

RELEASE OF UPDATED AND REVISED REGULATIONS ON RESIDENT INSTRUCTIONS (RRI-2025)

The Regulations on Resident Instructions (RRI) of SKUAST-J, first published in 2009 and revised in 2020, have been comprehensively updated to align with recent academic reforms. Since RRI-2020, the University has adopted the ICAR BSMA guidelines for restructuring postgraduate and doctoral syllabi, implemented the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 through the ICAR Sixth Deans' Committee recommendations, and introduced new undergraduate programmes in Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Dairy Technology, along with several postgraduate programmes approved by the Academic Council. Marking this significant academic milestone, the updated and revised RRI-2025 was formally released on 4th August 2025, during the 9th Convocation of the University, by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji.

ORGANIZATION OF VIKSIT BHARAT-YUVA CONNECT PROGRAMME

Directorate of Education organized a final debate competition on 11th August 2025 among students from various faculties of the University. The event motivated students to contribute proactively towards India's developmental vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, serving as a pre-event to the national-level programme. SKUAST-Jammu registered on the My Bharat Portal, with over 250 students and faculty members joining the nation-wide initiative under the Viksit Bharat–Yuva Connect Programme.



Focus in Research

IPR Registrations

Utility Patent



Recombinant antigen (Hypodermin C) and ELISA-based diagnostic kit for detecting goat warble fly, (Patent No. 569950 21 Aug 2025 by Dr. Anish Yadav with SKUAST-Jammu & ICAR. A breakthrough tool for early and accurate goat health management

Design Patent



Smart Portable Aeroponic Tower (Design No. 459544-001, 20 May 2025) by Prof. Vivak M. Arya (Soil Science), Ms. Tamanna Sharma (Ph.D. Scholar, Soil Science), Mr. Nikhil Thak (Ph.D. Scholar, Fruit Science), et al.

Design Patent



IoT-Based Chemical Mixing Device for Agricultural Farms (Design No. 453587-001, 29 Mar 2025) by Dr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. Brinder Singh, Dr. Gurdev Chand, Dr. Saurav Gupta, et al.

Copyright

Masti Care (Application No. 14106/2025-CO/SW, Registered 11 Aug 2025) by Dr. Neelesh Sharma and Dr. Sandeep Kour

National Recognition for SKUAST-Jammu

ABI Foundation Registered as Section 8 Company: SKUAST-Jammu's Agri-Business Incubator (ABI) has been incorporated as SKUAST-JABI Foundation, a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013. Officially registered on 9th September 2025 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India (CIN: U85500JK2025NPL017923), this milestone strengthens its mandate under RKVY-RAFTAAR to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and agri-startups, while enhancing scope for national and international collaborations.

Recognition

Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, was nominated by the Hon'ble President of India as a Member of the Court of the Central University of South Bihar, recognizing his contributions to higher education and research.

Books published

Agricultural technologies by Dr. Shahid Ahamad, Dr. R K Samnotra, Dr. Pradeep Wali, Astral International Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi-110002. Page no. 1-401, ISBN 978-93-5919-566-7

Guide to mushroom cultivation, by Dr. Sachin Gupta, Dr. Sudheer Kumar Annepu, ICAR, New Delhi, ISBN 978-81-7164-296-0

DESIGN AND UTILITY PATENTS

Design No.: 454412-001

Inventors: Dr. Suraj Amrutkar, Dr. Nazam Khan, Dr. Vikas Mahajan, Dr. Imran Ahmad Gani, Dr. Sohrab Malik, Dr. Bharti Deshmukh, et al.

Title: Egg Incubator Machine

Design No.: 459544-001

Inventors: Prof. Vivak M. Arya (Soil Science), Ms. Tamanna Sharma (Ph.D. Scholar, Soil Science), Mr. Nikhil Thakur (Ph.D. Scholar, Fruit Science), et al.

Title: Smart Portable Aeroponic Tower

Design No.: 393534-001

Inventor: Ms. Meenakshi Attri (Ph.D. Scholar, Agronomy)

Title: Agriculture Drone for Spraying Nutrients

Design No.: 453924-001

Inventor: Mr. Robin Kumar (M.Sc. Student, Fruit Science)

Title: Temperature-Controlled Plant Rooting Propagation Device

Design No.: 456766-001

Inventor: Dr. Vikas Abrol (Professor, Soil Science & Agri-Chemistry)

Title: Real-Time Soil Carbon Monitoring Device

Design No.: 454196-001

Inventors: Ms. Yashasvini Goswamy (Ph.D. Scholar, Entomology), Mr. Abhishek T.S. (Ph.D. Scholar, Agricultural Entomology), et al.

Title: AI-Powered Flower Pollination Robot

Design No.: 455209-001

Inventor: Ms. Ashima Choudhary (Ph.D. Scholar, Fruit Science)

Title: AI-Based Plant Disease Monitoring & Management Device

Design No.: 453587-001

Inventors: Dr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. Brinder Singh, Dr. Gurdev Chand, Dr. Saurav Gupta, et al.

Title: IoT-Based Chemical Mixing Device for Agricultural Farms

Design No.: 451015-001

Inventors: Dr. A. P. Singh, Dr. Brinder Singh, Dr. Permendra Singh, Dr. Jai Kumar, et al.

Title: Smart AI-Based Irrigation Control Device

Utility Patent No.: 569950

Date of Grant: 21/08/2025

Inventor: Dr. Anish Yadav (Professor & Head, Veterinary Pharmacology)

Title: Recombinant Antigen (Hypodermin C) and ELISA-Based Diagnostic Kit for Detecting Goat Warble Fly

Affiliated Institutions: SKUAST-Jammu & ICAR

Description: This patent introduces a recombinant antigen and an ELISA-based diagnostic kit aimed at the early and accurate detection of goat warble fly infestations, significantly enhancing goat health management.

Holistic Agriculture Development Program



SKUAST-Jammu Participates in UTLAC Mid-Term Review of HADP at Srinagar

From 8–10 September 2025, Prof. (Dr.) B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, led the university delegation in the mid-term review meeting of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), conducted by the Union Territory Level Apex Committee (UTLAC) in Srinagar. The review, chaired by Dr. Mangla Rai, Former Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR, focused on assessing project progress and ensuring strategic alignment with the agricultural priorities of Jammu & Kashmir.

Research & Development Initiatives

- 5,000 rootstocks successfully grafted with elite varieties (Mahan & SKUAST-J) at RARS, Rajouri.
- Six-week trial conducted using mushroom stumps (10% inclusion) in broiler diets.
- 150 samples (water, spinach, cabbage, lotus stem) analyzed - all found below detectable limits (BDL).
- Biopesticide Production: Protocols standardized for mass production of NPV-based biopesticides.
- Genetic Analysis in Sheep: DNA isolation completed from 60 Rambouillet sheep; candidate gene protocols standardized.
- NDV Surveillance: Biological samples collected; PCR/qRT-PCR confirmation, sequencing (F, NM, M genes), and histopathology completed.
- Vaccine Development: Full-length F gene cloned for Virus-Like Particle (VLP) production; expression confirmed by Western blot.
- Feed Evaluation: Unconventional/herbal feed ingredients tested for broilers and layers.
- NDV Isolates: 18 local isolates identified; 10 isolates genetically characterized and pathotyped.

SKUAST-Jammu Reaffirms Commitment to HADP in Review Meeting with Chief Secretary, J&K

On 12 August 2025, the Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, along with senior members of the research leadership, participated in an online review meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir. The discussion focused on assessing the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), with SKUAST-Jammu reaffirming its strong commitment to effective implementation of the programme across the Union Territory.



Under Project 4 – Strengthening Agricultural Marketing in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, the Krishi Branding Centre of ABI, SKUAST-Jammu has signed Memoranda of Association (MoAs) with nine Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

Participation / Presentations in International Conferences



Dr. S. R. Upadhyay (Professor, Veterinary Medicine) presented his research on "In vitro cytotoxicity, in vivo antitumor and mutagenicity assessment of Cascabella thevetia leaf extracts." in Asia Veterinary Conference, Hong Kong (12-14th, August 2025)



Dr. Pankaj Goswami (Prof. & Head, Veterinary Pathology) delivered an oral presentation on "Pathology of Muco-Cutaneous Proliferative Growth Associated with Bovine Papilloma Virus (BPV Type 1 to 5) in Domestic Animals of Jammu Region, India." in MAVP-ASVP 2025 Conference, Malaysia (25-27th, July 2025)



Prof. B N Tripathi HVC SKUAST Jammu delivered a keynote lecture on 'Building a Resilient Animal Health System in India for Sustainable Livestock Production' & Dr Neelesh Sharma, Professor and Head, Division of Veterinary Medicine, F.V.Sc. & A.H., R.S. Pura delivered an expert lecture in the international symposium on the "Innovations and Recent Developments in Animal Health and Production" Organized by Kangwon National University, Chuncheon, South Korea on 24th September 2025



Dr. Mahital Jamwal, Associate Director Research, attended (online) International Training Programme on advancement in Agricultural and Food Engineering in India organized by Indian Institute of technology, Kharagpur, in collaboration with African- Asian Rural development Organization (ARDO) w.e.f 1-4, July 2025.



KANGWON NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CHUNCHEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND SKUAST JAMMU SIGNED MOU TO FOSTER ACADEMIC COLLABORATION



Kangwon National University (KNU), Chuncheon, Republic of Korea and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote academic collaboration and research.

The agreement, formalized between KNU President Jeong Jae Yeon and SKUAST Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi, on 25th September 2025 marks the beginning of a strategic partnership focusing on education, research, and academic exchange. The collaboration will prioritize Animal Life Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, leveraging the strengths of both institutions to drive innovation and achieve new milestones in these fields. This partnership is expected to boost student exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and cultural collaborations, contributing to the growth and internationalization of the agricultural science community.



Focus on Agricultural Extension

Training on Dried Flower Decoration & Value Addition



A five-day hands-on training programme on Dried Flower Decoration and Value Addition for JKRLM members from Jammu, Kathua, and Samba districts, KVK Jammu was inaugurated by Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director Extension. She highlighted the global potential of dried flowers and their role in livelihood security. The training was conducted by experts Dr. Arvinder Singh and Dr. Nomita Laishram, Scientists from Fruit Science, SKUAST Chatha with active support from faculty including Dr. Ravneet Kour, Dr. Prem, Dr. Amitesh Sharma, and Dr. Raju Gupta. Dr. Punit Choudhary, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Jammu, welcomed the participants, while coordination was led by Dr. Poonam Abrol. Supported by the J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, the programme aimed to empower rural women with value-addition skills and enhance income opportunities through floriculture-based enterprises.

Campaign on Parthenium Awareness

KVK Jammu started the Parthenium eradication campaign in collaboration with AICRP on Weed Management SKUAST J. Leaflets containing information about integrated management of Parthenium also distributed among the participants for further awareness.



Training on SHGs and Women Empowerment

KVK Reasi organized two training programmes on "Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Women Empowerment" at Palma and Saloon to strengthen SHGs and promote income-generating activities for women's socio-economic empowerment. The programmes were actively attended by more than 60 rural women of the area. Dr. Banarsi Lal, Head, KVK, highlighted the importance of SHGs in livelihood diversification and rural development, especially for marginalized women in hilly regions. Team guided participants on SHG formation, management, savings, budgeting, record-keeping, inter-lending etc.



SKUAST KVKs Promote Natural Farming under National Mission on Natural Farming

Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Poonch, Reasi, and Kathua organized a series of training and awareness programs (10) on Natural Farming under the NMNF during July–August 2025 wherein more than 200 farmers participated. Scientists highlighted the four pillars of natural farming and demonstrated the use of Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, Ghanjeevamrit, and bio-formulations to reduce input costs and improve produce quality. These initiatives collectively aimed to encourage farmers to adopt chemical-free, sustainable, and low-cost farming practices for improved productivity and long-term agricultural sustainability.

Scientists highlighted the importance of natural farming in ensuring food and nutritional security, conserving biodiversity, and reducing input costs.



They also stressed the need for a cluster-based approach and added that natural formulations not only minimize cultivation costs but also enhance the quality of farm produce.

Drone Demonstration on Nano-Fertilizer Application

A live demonstration on the use of drones for spraying nano-fertilizers was conducted at the KVK fields, Jammu, during the second week of September 2025.



The program aimed to educate farmers on precision farming techniques, enhance their confidence in adopting modern technologies, and highlighted the cost-effectiveness of drone-based applications. Farmers from R.S. Pura and Bishnah blocks participated in the event, which was jointly organized by the Department of Agriculture Jammu under ATMA and the Command Area Development Jammu.



Training Programmes on Commercial Floriculture

KVK Jammu, conducted a series of training programmes on Commercial Floriculture. More than 200 farmers from Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, and Jammu districts participated in the programmes. The training focused on the cultivation of loose and cut flowers and sensitized farmers about various government schemes promoting commercial floriculture in the Union Territory of J&K. The programmes were organized under CSS and ATMA by the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, UT of J&K.

Crop Insurance Week celebrated

Crop Insurance Week was organized from 1st to 7th July 2025 across several villages of Samba district, including Purmandal, Nud, Sumb, Rajpura, Ramgarh, Ghagwal, and Samba. A total of 491 farmers actively participated in the program, held in close collaboration with the Department of Agriculture.

Series of Plantation Drives and Agroforestry Initiatives

KVK Samba successfully organized a series of plantation and agroforestry programmes during July and August 2025 with enthusiastic participation from farmers and farm women across different villages. The campaign began with a Mega Plantation Drive, where a large number of farmers actively participated and 300 saplings of agroforestry tree species were distributed.



Further, a Kisan Ghosti-cum-Plant distribution programme was held at Panchayat Taloor witnessing the active participation of 72 farmers and more than 1,500 saplings of diverse agroforestry species were distributed. The celebration of Van Mahotsav at Village Mohargarh on 26th August 2025 marked another highlight, engaging 49 participants and facilitating the distribution of over 900 saplings. The series concluded with a Krishi Vaniki Sammelan at Village Nud on 29th August 2025, where 55 participants took part and more than 1,550 agroforestry tree saplings were distributed.

Rural Credit Event Workshops under JKCIP



KVK Kathua organized a series of rural credit event workshops under the Jammu & Kashmir Climate Investment Project (JKCIP) at multiple locations in

Kathua district, including Sahar, Palli, Barnoti, Chann Arorian, Hamirpur, Terhera, Kunthal, BDO Office Kathua, and Janglote.

The workshops aimed to create awareness among farmers, rural youth, and SHGs about institutional credit, Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), crop loans, and government-supported financial schemes. Resource persons and bank officials emphasized the role of timely credit in strengthening farm enterprises and promoting climate-resilient agriculture. Participants received guidance on loan procedures, insurance benefits, and subsidy-linked schemes, while also engaging in interactive sessions to clarify doubts.

Exposure Visit of Farmers to KVK Jammu

An exposure visit for farmers was organized under ATMA by the Soil and Water Management Wing, Command Area Development Jammu at KVK Jammu on 9th September 2025. During the visit, farmers explored various demonstration units, seed production farms, and the Kisan Soochna Kendra. They also interacted with the scientists at KVK Jammu to gain insights into modern agricultural practices and technologies.

15-Days Certificate Courses on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)

SKUAST-Jammu, through its KVKs at Jammu, Kathua, and Kishtwar, organized 15-day certificate courses on INM for input dealers and Krishi Udyamis.



The programmes aimed to strengthen knowledge on soil health, balanced fertilizer use, and integration of organic and bio-fertilizers, while empowering rural entrepreneurs to provide scientific advisory services. Participants from around nine villages actively engaged in the trainings, which focussed on modern nutrient management practices for enhanced profitability and sustainability.

Training on Fermented Organic Manures

KVK Kathua organized a Farmers' Training Programme on Fermented Organic Manures (FOM)

and Liquid Fermented Organic Manures (LFOM) on 7th August 2025 at village Kunthal, Kathua. Farmers were trained on preparation, application, and benefits of FOM and LFOM for improving soil health and reducing chemical fertilizer use. Practical demonstrations were held, and experts highlighted their role in enhancing crop productivity and promoting sustainable farming. Farmers showed keen interest and expressed willingness to adopt these practices.



SAMETI JAMMU

STATE AGRICULTURAL
MANAGEMENT & EXTENSION
TRAINING INSTITUTE



National Training on Gender Responsive Extension Services

A four-day national training programme on "Gender Responsive Extension Services" (18–21 August 2025) was successfully organized at SAMETI-Jammu in collaboration with the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The event was concluded under the patronage of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

Over 35 extension professionals from Jammu & Kashmir and seven other states participated in the programme aimed at strengthening gender mainstreaming in agricultural extension.



3rd Batch of DAESI Diploma Programme for Input Dealers

SKUAST-Jammu, launched the 3rd Batch of 1 year Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) at SAMETI-Jammu, in collaboration with MANAGE-Hyderabad.

Sh. Arvinder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture Jammu, Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension and Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director Extension, during inaugural encouraged participants to promote ethical and responsible use agrochemical and act as para-extension workers, bringing scientific farming to grassroots.



Training Program on Farm Mechanisation

Two days training programme on Farm mechanization in agriculture was organized wef 14-15 July, 2025 in which 27 participants from the department of agriculture, floriculture and horticulture participated.

PLANTATION DRIVE UNDER VIKSIT BHARAT YUVA CONNECT

SKUAST-Jammu launched a week-long Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBYCP) with a target of planting 3,000 saplings across its campuses. Native and fruit-bearing species such as mango, bael, aonla, and jamun were planted to promote sustainability, nutrition, and environmental stewardship. Prof. Tripathi emphasized the vital role of academic institutions in preparing a skilled, innovative, and self-reliant youth force. The programme featured a Youth Parliament, MY Bharat Registration Drive, and a Debate on "Emergency."

INTERACTIVE-CUM-LECTURE SESSION ON MINDFULNESS TECHNIQUES UNDER NASHA MUKTI ABHIYAAN YUVA CONNECT

The Office of Dean Students' Welfare organized an interactive-cum-lecture session on Mindfulness Techniques as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan. The programme, coordinated by Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi (DSW) in collaboration with Dr. Anil Gupta (Medical Officer) and Dr. Komal Sharma (Counsellor), emphasized the significance of mindfulness in leading a healthy, stress-free, and drug-free life.



National Service Scheme

Tuberculosis Awareness Programme

The NSS in Collaboration with Directorate of Health Service Jammi organised an awareness programme on Tuberculosis under Kshay Mitra Registration Drive,



DEBATE COMPETITION UNDER V

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students competing at the faculty level on the University stage, where Dr. Anish Koul (Head of Horticulture & Forestry) was the guest judge.

WALKATHON UNDER NASHA

Faculties and students from FVS participated in a walkathon to raise awareness about drug abuse with Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan.

SESSIONS ON MENTAL

An interactive session on "Mental Health and Mindfulness" was held at Sanskriti Girls Hostel, R.S. Pura campus, focusing on mindfulness for a stress-free life.



VIKSIT BHARAT-YUVA CONNECT

ation from all seven faculties, with 61
vel. Fourteen finalists advanced to the
(FVSc & AH) and Ms. Kashish (Faculty
were declared overall winners.

MUKHT BHARAT ABHIYAAN 2025

c & AH rganized a walkthon againt
harat Pledge at R.S.Pura Campus

HEALTH AND MINDFULNESS

Health and Stress Management" was held
mpus, on August 21, 2025, emphasizing
ss-free and drug-free life.



SKUAST Jammu Celebrates 27th Foundation Day



Floods Fail to Dampen Spirit as SKUAST-Jammu Marks 27th Foundation Day

SKUAST-Jammu celebrated its 27th Foundation Day with renewed vigor, despite suffering damages worth crores in the recent flash floods of August 26, 2025.

Presiding over the event, Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi honored the legacy of the University's founders while outlining a bold vision for the future. He emphasized resilience, modernization under NEP 2020, and the creation of flood-resistant infrastructure. Prof. Tripathi urged the University to strengthen research, drive innovation, embrace global collaborations, and prepare a Vision Document 2047 to align with Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Faculty leaders highlighted achievements across research, extension, and academics, while awards were conferred on Dr. M.K. Pandey and Mr. Imran Hussain for their heroic efforts during the floods.

The celebration—attended by faculty, staff, students, and officials—was not only a tribute to 26 years of progress but also a reaffirmation of SKUAST-J's unity, resilience, and commitment to building a future-ready institution.

FLASH FLOOD DEVASTATION AT SKUAST-JAMMU ON 26TH AUG, 2025



FLOOD AT SKUAST JAMMU : RESEARCH, ACADEMIC, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS WASHED AWAY

A devastating flash flood struck SKUAST-Jammu on August 26, 2025, inflicting extensive damage across both the Chatha and R.S. Pura campuses, with the Chatha campus bearing the brunt of the impact. The university suffered extensive damage to its infrastructure, research equipment's, vehicles, IT systems, roads, boundary walls, drainage, power house, playgrounds, library, sports facilities, stadium, student centre, Community Radio Station, and e-studio etc with an estimated losses amounting to ₹100-120 crore.

REVIEW OF FLOOD DAMAGES BY HIGHER AUTHORITIES OF J&K



ACS Shri Shailendra Kumar reviewing the damages to the academics, research and other infrastructures at the Chatha Campus



ACS Shri Shailendra Kumar Ji interacting with the university authorities, faculty members, students etc during his visit



Shri Ravi Shanker Sharma, Special Secretary APD along with his team assessing the extent of damage to university infrastructure



Chancellor during 9th Convocation



Pro Chancellor during 9th Convocation



Vice Chancellor during 9th Convocation



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