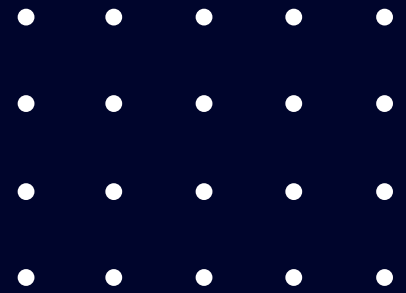


Volume 2(2) April-June 2025



Agri Tribune

Newsletter



SKUAST JAMMU

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

www.skuast.org



Union Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launched Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan 2025 in Border Village of RS Pura, Jammu to Empower Farmers and Boost Kharif Productivity



Union Minister, addressed over 5,000 attendees, urged the adoption of agricultural technology, praised border farmers' resilience during Operation Sindoor, and called for collective efforts toward a profitable, sustainable, and nutrition-secure Viksit Bharat @2047.

"From the Desk of the Vice Chancellor"



Greetings from SKUAST-Jammu!

SKUAST-Jammu has made remarkable progress in the second quarter of 2025, showcasing its commitment to innovation, outreach, and excellence in education, research, and extension. The university played a pivotal role in the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan 2025, reaching over 1.7 lakh farmers across 10 districts with 389 teams promoting sustainable technologies, central schemes, and climate-resilient farming. This initiative was launched in R.S. Pura by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Rural Development, Shri Shiv Raj Singh Chouhan, and witnessed significant public engagement.

The university's research ecosystem has expanded through national projects, including high-resolution soil mapping with the Soil & Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI) and the development of a new notified variety, BR-39 (Bhaderwahi Rajmash). The Institute of Biotechnology has earned ISO 9001:2015 certification, demonstrating its commitment to quality research and innovation.

In education, SKUAST-Jammu has seen a 34% rise in UG admissions and received hundreds of applications from international students under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) "Study In India Program". The university has also strengthened its industry-academia interface through internships with Bayer Crop Science, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the establishment of a Bayer Learning Centre on campus.

Furthermore, the university is setting up a Hi-Tech Modern Dairy Farm with an investment of ₹13.46 crore, which will promote advanced livestock management, research, and entrepreneurship. These developments align with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and demonstrate the university's commitment to excellence in education, research, and extension.

I hope our faculty and students continue excelling in academics and research.

With best wishes


(B N TRIPATHI)

Glimpses of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' at KVKs under SKUAST, Jammu



Notable Highlights

15-Day 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' Concludes Successfully at SKUAST-Jammu, Empowering Farmers Across the Region

SKUAST Jammu successfully concluded the 15-day 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' (VKSA), a major outreach initiative aimed at transforming Indian agriculture through direct farmer engagement, awareness generation, and the promotion of technological innovation. The campaign, which covered 10 districts, 2,439 villages, and 143 blocks, witnessed massive participation and enthusiastic response from the farming community. A total of 389 dedicated outreach teams, each comprising at least three scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and the University, reached over 1.72 lakh farmers in collaboration with line departments, banks, insurance agencies, local public representatives, NGOs, and other government bodies. The campaign emphasized knowledge sharing, awareness building, and problem solving at the grassroots level. These teams played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between agricultural research and practice. They promoted the adoption of emerging agri-technologies and distributed essential inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and educational literature. Special attention was given to addressing local farming challenges, improving soil health, and encouraging sustainable practices.

Farmers were urged to undertake soil testing and select crops based on Soil Health Card recommendations, while also being introduced to market-linked strategies like crop diversification, horticulture-based farming, and value-chain integration for long-term sustainability. Central government schemes were discussed extensively, ensuring that farmers are equipped with knowledge to fully leverage these opportunities.



In a landmark moment, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched VKSA 2025 on May 30, 2025, from the border village of Langrial, R.S. Pura (Jammu). The event, organized by SKUAST Jammu in collaboration with the J&K Department of Agriculture & allied departments, marked a critical push towards empowering farmers ahead of the Kharif season.

The Minister was accompanied by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Deptt of Space & Atomic Energy & Earth Sciences), Shri Javed Ahmad Dar, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, UT of J&K, Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, Hon'ble MP and other dignitaries including Hon'ble MLAs Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, Dr. Gharu Ram Bhagat.

Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SKUAST Jammu, showcased the University's role in driving research-led, field-level agricultural transformation.

The event featured a Pad Yatra (awareness march) spanning one kilometer, symbolizing unity between scientists, students, policymakers, and farmers. Participants included university faculty, students, local officials, and farmers, all walking together to demonstrate solidarity with the cause of sustainable agriculture.

Key highlights of the launch included Flagging off the "Beej Vaahan", distribution of Hydroponic Units and Certificates – to five progressive farmers and Live demonstrations – showcasing the use of agricultural drones and laser land levellers, highlighting precision farming and water conservation techniques.

In his address to over 5,000 attendees, Shri Chouhan stressed the importance of technology adoption, sustainable practices, and aligning agricultural efforts with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. He emphasized the need to translate lab innovations into field applications, and praised the resilience of border farmers, especially those who continued agricultural activities under duress during Operation Sindoor, referring to them as the "second line of defense."

The event also witnessed the participation of prominent figures such as Dr. Prabhat Kumar (Horticulture Commissioner, GoI), Sh. Shailendra Kumar (Principal Secretary, APD, J&K), Dr. Nazir A. Garai (Vice Chancellor, SKUAST K), and Dr. Rajbir Singh (DDG, Agricultural Extension), along with all statutory officers, scientists, deans, and students of SKUAST Jammu.

SKUAST-Jammu's Institute of Biotechnology Earned Prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Certification

The Institute of Biotechnology at SKUAST-Jammu has achieved a significant milestone by being awarded the esteemed ISO 9001:2015 Certification by Absolute Quality Certification Pvt. Ltd. This recognition highlights the Institute's dedication to maintaining a robust Quality Management System,

underscoring its excellence in academic and research standards.

Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, extended heartfelt congratulations to the faculty, students, and supporting staff for this

remarkable achievement. He lauded the Institute's commitment to high standards in teaching and research and expressed satisfaction with the development of state-of-the-art laboratories, advanced academic infrastructure, and enhanced student facilities.

Prof. R.K. Salgotra, Director of the Institute of Biotechnology, acknowledged the vital support and continued encouragement from the Hon'ble Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and senior officers of the

Jammu and Kashmir Government and SKUAST-Jammu. He emphasized that their consistent backing played a crucial role in securing this prestigious recognition.

The ISO 9001:2015 Certification serves as a strong testament to the Institute's unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, and continuous improvement in the fields of higher education and research.

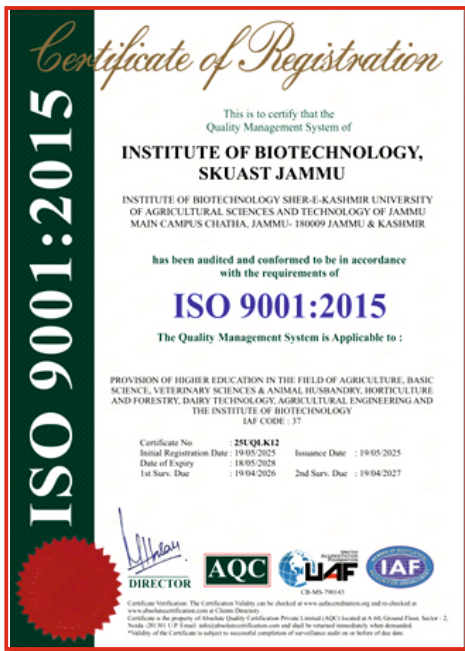
3rd Vice Chancellor's Badminton Tournament concluded with Enthusiasm at SKUAST-Jammu

The 3rd Vice Chancellor's Open Badminton Tournament 2025 concluded successfully at the Indoor Sports Complex, SKUAST-Jammu, Chatha Campus from April 21–23. Inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi, the event saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 students, faculty, and staff. Prof. Tripathi emphasized the importance of sports for physical and mental well-being and played an exhibition match to mark the opening.

Organized under the guidance of Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Students Welfare, the tournament featured singles, doubles, and mixed doubles events. Among students, Antargya (4th Year Agriculture) won men's singles and, with Gurtez, also bagged the men's doubles. Sumbul (2nd Year) won the women's singles, Fiza and Rithika won the women's doubles, and Antargya with Shreya won the mixed doubles.

In the faculty category, Dr. Sushil won singles and, with Dr. Puja, also won mixed doubles, while Dr. Vinod Gupta and Dr. P.K. Rai took the doubles title.

Trophies were distributed during the valedictory function attended by statutory officers of the university. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Dwivedi, celebrating teamwork, fitness, and sportsmanship at SKUAST-Jammu.



Her Harvest Ideathon 2025 Concludes with Inspiring Award Ceremony at SKUAST-Jammu

The Directorate of Extension at SKUAST-Jammu successfully organized a unique Ideathon titled “Her Harvest: Cultivating Innovations for Agricultural Development in the Jammu Region” on the occasion of International Women's Day 2025, celebrated under the global theme “Accelerate Action for Gender Equality.” This exclusive event was dedicated to girl students from undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. programs, aiming to foster innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking to address agriculture-specific challenges in the Jammu region.

The Ideathon revolved around five key thematic areas: (1) Precision Agriculture/Horticulture/Dairy and Fisheries, (2) Pest and Disease Management in Crops and Livestock, (3) Biotechnology, (4) Supply Chain and Market Access, and (5) Farm Machinery, Data Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence. The event received an overwhelming response, with a total of 245 entries, including 164 from the Faculty of Agriculture, 40 from Horticulture & Forestry, 17 from Biotechnology, and 12 each from Basic Sciences and Dairy Technology. Although no entries were received from the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Fisheries, awards were conferred in the remaining five faculties. Participation was free. Poster displays of short-listed ideas were held within each faculty on designated dates. The evaluation process comprised two stages: an initial screening of idea submissions followed by final presentations before a distinguished panel of judges, which included faculty members and domain experts from the agricultural sector. Each entry was evaluated on basis of Novelty (30%), Scalability (20%), Oral Presentation (30%), and Poster Presentation (20%).

The event culminated on 24th June 2025 with a grand award ceremony, where outstanding participants were felicitated with five first prizes, five second prizes, six third prizes, and ten consolation prizes in recognition of their promising and innovative ideas. The awards were presented by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. B.N. Tripathi, as Chief Guest, along with Madam Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services & Sports, J&K, as the Guest of Honor. Other dignitaries present included Dr. Anil Kumar, Registrar and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director Research; and Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension.



The event was organized under the dynamic leadership of HVC Dr. B.N. Tripathi (Chairman), Dr. Amrish Vaid (Co-Chairman and Director Extension), and a dedicated organizing team comprising Dr. Hema Tripathi, Dr. Pawan Kumar, and Dr. Vijay Kumar from the Directorate of Extension. “Her Harvest Ideathon 2025” stood as a powerful testament to SKUAST-Jammu's continued commitment to women's empowerment and innovative, sustainable agricultural development in the region.



SKUAST-Jammu hosts Two-Day Startup Outreach Event

SKUAST-Jammu inaugurated a dynamic two-day Startup Outreach Event under the JKCIP project, spotlighting innovation, entrepreneurship, and women empowerment in the agriculture sector. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi emphasized the university's key role in fostering FPOs, agri-startups, niche crop cultivation, and value chain development, aligning with national missions like HADP and Viksit Bharat @2047. Ms. Anuradha Gupta (JKAS), DG, Youth Services & Sports, graced the event as Guest of Honour. She applauded the girl-centric HER-HARVEST Ideathon and assured full support from the J&K Government for future collaborations empowering young women in agriculture.



Dr. Anil Kumar advocated for student-driven entrepreneurship and the promotion of niche crops in the Jammu region. Dr. S.K. Gupta encouraged youth to align their innovations with sustainability goals, while Dr. Amrish Vaid highlighted the importance of integrating startups into rural value chains. Dr. Jyoti Kachroo outlined the transformational impact of the Agri-Incubation Centre under RKVY-RAFTAAR. The event began with a warm welcome by Dr. Pawan K. Sharma, who set the stage for the two-day program. The proceedings were smoothly anchored by Dr. Anil Bhat and Ms. Magan.

The outreach event reaffirmed SKUAST-Jammu's unwavering commitment to cultivating agri-innovation and empowering the next generation of youth-led agri-entrepreneurs.



Dominant Victory: SKUAST-J wins Tri-Series Cricket Tournament

The final match of the Tri-Series Cricket Tournament between the SKUAST-J Cricket Team and the Excise Department was held on 5th April 2025 at the SKUAST Chatha Campus ground. In an impressive performance, the SKUAST-J team emerged victorious by defeating the Excise Department by six wickets. The match was played under the captaincy of Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Technical Officer, with Shri K.K. Raina, Executive Engineer and Head Coach, guiding the team. The event was graced by Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare. All players delivered outstanding performances throughout the tournament, leading to a convincing win. The tournament was proudly sponsored by Bulbul Oil Company and JBM Associates.



SKUAST-Jammu Partners with Bayer Crop Science to Establish Bayer Learning Centre (BLC)

SKUAST-Jammu has taken a significant step towards industry-academia collaboration by signing an agreement with Bayer Crop Science to establish the Bayer Learning Centre (BLC) on campus. This forward-looking initiative, coordinated by Prof. Sanjay Guleria, is designed to provide hands-on, field-based learning experiences for students while effectively bridging the gap between academic knowledge and industry practices.



The agreement was formally signed between Prof. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, and Mr. Gulshan Singh Rana, Head – Market Development, Bayer. As part of the five-year collaboration, Bayer will support modern agri-technology inputs and operational costs, while SKUAST-Jammu will ensure seamless academic integration and infrastructure support.

The Bayer Learning Centre will serve as a practical platform for students to gain exposure to real-world agricultural innovations, enhance their technical skills, and foster an industry-ready mindset. This collaboration reflects SKUAST-Jammu's commitment to promoting skill development, innovation, and sustainable agricultural advancement in alignment with national and global needs.

SKUAST-Jammu Soars High with the Launch of NCC Air Wing

SKUAST-Jammu has proudly established its NCC Air Wing under the aegis of 01 J&K Air NCC Unit, led by Wing Commander Nitin Yadav.

Since its inception, the Air Wing has emerged as a beacon of discipline, leadership, and national pride on campus. In a historic milestone, Cadet Siya Kotwal became the first-ever SKUAST-Jammu cadet to go airborne, marking a proud chapter in the university's NCC journey.



Demonstrating the spirit of unity and endurance, three Senior Wing (SW) cadets

represented the university at the prestigious Special National Integration Camp (SNIC)

in Srinagar, while nine Senior Division (SD) cadets showcased exceptional grit and resilience during the Trekking Expedition in Dharamshala.

The committed leadership of CTOs Dr. Susheel Sharma (SD) and Dr. Sabahat Gazal (SW) has been instrumental in mentoring and motivating cadets, shaping them into responsible citizens and future leaders. The establishment of the NCC Air Wing marks a significant step in promoting holistic student development at SKUAST-Jammu - instilling values of leadership, patriotism, and unity while providing students with opportunities to rise beyond the classroom.



SKUAST-Jammu IQAC Organizes Workshop on NAAC Accreditation to Strengthen Quality Assurance

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of SKUAST-Jammu organized a comprehensive workshop on NAAC Accreditation, chaired by Prof. B. N. Tripathi, HVC and Chairman, IQAC at the university's Main Campus, Chatha. He emphasized SKUAST-Jammu's commitment to excellence and continuous quality enhancement through a structured and inclusive NAAC accreditation process.

An insightful online lecture was delivered by Dr. K. Rama Kondapalli, an expert in higher education quality assurance, who highlighted essential benchmarks for NAAC accreditation and the importance of institutional preparedness in academics, research, and administration.



Dr. P. K. Rai, Professor of Soil Science and IQAC Coordinator, presented the functioning and pivotal role of the IQAC in guiding the university through accreditation. The workshop saw active participation



from Statutory Officers, Heads of Divisions, IQAC members, and faculty, reflecting a shared commitment to academic quality.

Strategic Meeting of Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry Held at SKUAST-Jammu

On 19th June 2025, the Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry (FoH&F) at SKUAST-Jammu held a comprehensive meeting under the chairmanship of HVC Dr. B.N. Tripathi. The meeting brought together statutory officers and faculty members from six key



divisions: Fruit Science, Vegetable Sciences, Floriculture & Landscaping, Post-Harvest Management, Silviculture & Agroforestry, and Forest Products & Utilization. Dean Dr. Vikas Tandon welcomed the Vice-Chancellor and presented the faculty's progress and current initiatives. Heads of divisions

shared updates on their academic and research activities. Dr. Tripathi commended the faculty's accomplishments and emphasized horticulture's vital role in J&K's agrarian economy. He called for the development of region-specific crop varieties, enhanced research and innovation, stronger alumni engagement, and modern infrastructure to elevate the university's national and international standing. He



also stressed aligning academic programs with NEP-2020, including increasing student intake at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Focus in Agricultural Education

SKUAST-Jammu Achieves another Milestone with Raising of NCC Army Wing (Girls)

SKUAST-Jammu has proudly added the NCC Army Wing (Girls) to its campus, following the establishment of the NCC Air Wing in January 2025. This achievement makes SKUAST-Jammu the second university in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to host both NCC Army and Air Wings - a milestone underscoring its commitment to discipline, leadership, and national service.



The NCC Army Wing (Girls), established in May 2025, was raised under the leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. B. N. Tripathi. The selection process was overseen by Col. Muneesh Jasrotia and his team, in coordination with Prof. Rajinder Peshin (Director Education), Prof. Sanjay Guleria (Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences & Incharge, Counselling and Placement Cell), and Dr. Jasleen Kour, CTO.

Col. Jasrotia, during his visit, congratulated Prof. Tripathi and the university team for this successful initiative, which reflects SKUAST-Jammu's dedication to holistic student development and youth empowerment through the National Cadet Corps. This new initiative brought to the university first time for preparing the students to compete at national and international level.



SKUAST-Jammu Leads in Industry-Funded Internships Aligned with NEP-2020

The University has the distinction of academia-industry collaboration for making graduate students' industry-ready in line with the NEP 2020. The Bayer Crop Sciences, a multinational company, selected 25 interns for hands-on training in the agri-input industry, marketing, entrepreneurship and corporate careers. These 25 students were selected after written test. Thus, SKUAST-Jammu became the first Agricultural University in J&K to provide industry-funded internships under the RAWE programme. Besides, Saraswati Agro Chemical Pvt. Ltd. also provided paid internships to 20 B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture students.



Admissions of foreign students under 'Study in India' Programme

SKUAST-Jammu has taken a significant step towards internationalization by actively participating in the Government of India's 'Study in India' programme. This initiative, aimed at positioning India as a global hub for education—including agricultural sciences—has attracted attention from students worldwide.

For the first time, 13 international students from SAARC and non-SAARC countries have applied to SKUAST-Jammu through the 'Study in India' portal. Additionally, through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the University has received applications from 20 undergraduate, 55 postgraduate, and 18 Ph.D. aspirants from various countries.

This growing international interest firmly establishes SKUAST-Jammu as a preferred destination for foreign students pursuing agricultural education. Under the proactive leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi, the University has set up an 'International Students Help Desk' to streamline the admission process and provide dedicated support to overseas applicants.

Record-Breaking Applications for Admissions at SKUAST-Jammu for 2025-26

SKUAST-Jammu has witnessed a remarkable surge in interest for its undergraduate programmes for the academic session 2025–26. A record 5,251 applications have been received for the SKUAST-Jammu Common Entrance Test—marking a 34% increase compared to the 3,900 applications received in 2023–24.

The entrance examination for six undergraduate degree 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 June 29, 2025.

This significant rise in applications reflects the growing popularity and academic reputation of the university among aspiring students.



Academic Calendar for 2025–26 released

SKUAST Jammu has officially released the Academic Calendar for the academic session 2025–26 on May 22, 2025.

The calendar serves as a comprehensive guide for students, faculty, and administrative staff, providing a well-structured schedule of all academic activities for the year. It outlines important dates for the commencement and conclusion of classes, internal assessments, semester-end examinations, vacations, and public holidays. Additionally, it includes key academic events, workshops, seminars, and co-curricular activities planned throughout the year.

The release of the academic calendar ensures better planning, time management, and coordination among all stakeholders, contributing to the smooth and efficient functioning of academic programmes at the University.

Revised Regulations on Resident Instructions (RRI) Released at SKUAST-Jammu

The Directorate of Education, SKUAST-Jammu, has undertaken a comprehensive revision of the Regulations on Resident Instructions (RRI) to align academic policies with recent developments. The updated RRI incorporates amendments and academic rules approved during the 21st to 26th meetings of the University Academic Council, reflecting a series of progressive decisions aimed at enhancing academic standards.

This revised document serves as a thoroughly updated and consolidated guide for both faculty and students, ensuring clarity on academic procedures, course structures, evaluation methods, attendance requirements, and other instructional norms. It is intended to act as a ready reckoner for all academic stakeholders, promoting consistency, transparency, and academic excellence across the University.

SKUAST-Jammu Strengthens International Collaboration with University of Calabria, Italy



SKUAST-Jammu has advanced its global engagement through a collaboration with the University of Calabria, Italy. An interactive session was held for 4th-year students from the Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, and the Institute of Biotechnology.

Dr. Janna Simarnova from the University of Calabria presented academic and research opportunities and outlined a forthcoming faculty exchange program.

The initiative was supported by Dr. S. K. Gupta, Dr. Anil K. Sharma, Dr. Vikas Tondon, Dr. Romesh Salgotra, Dr. Sachin Gupta, and Dr. Vinod Gupta, with Dr. Manish Sharma serving as the liaison officer.

3-Day Orientation Programme for RAWE & AIA Interns Concludes at SKUAST-Jammu in Collaboration with Bayer Crop Science

SKUAST-Jammu successfully concluded a 3-day Orientation Programme (19-21 May 2025) for RAWE & AIA Interns at its Main Campus, Chatha, in collaboration with Bayer Crop Science, India.



Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi addressed the interns, emphasizing the value of academia-industry partnerships in improving students' employability, research capabilities, and career readiness.



Twenty-five selected interns received hands-on exposure to agri-input marketing, entrepreneurship, corporate communication, and career pathways in the agriculture sector. The programme included interactive sessions and expert lectures delivered by Bayer professionals. The event was coordinated by the Division of Agricultural Extension Education and the Counselling & Placement Cell. The interns will now begin a one-month industry internship with Bayer, followed by a project evaluation phase.

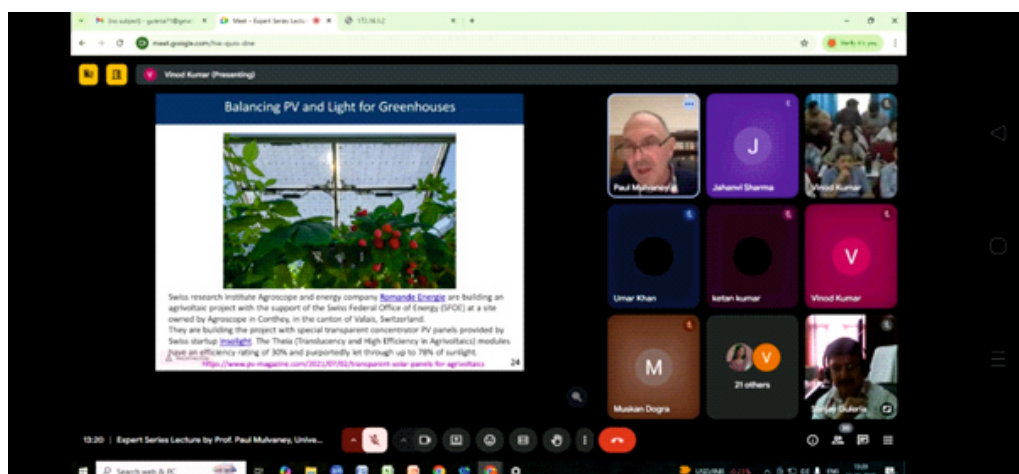
SKUAST-Jammu Advances Global Agri-Tech and Scientific Collaboration through Expert Lecture Series

Under the visionary leadership of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu has taken a significant stride toward global academic engagement and scientific innovation with the launch of its Expert Lecture Series by the Faculty of Basic Sciences.

As part of this initiative, two high-profile lectures were recently hosted, drawing participation from faculty, scholars, and students. The highlight was an enlightening session by Prof. Paul Mulvaney, Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne, Australia. In his talk titled “Quantum Dots: History and Applications in Solar Cells and Agriculture,” Prof. Mulvaney discussed the revolutionary use of quantum dots (QDs) in solar energy and agriculture. The lecture also opened avenues for potential collaboration between SKUAST-Jammu and the University of Melbourne in precision agriculture using QDs.

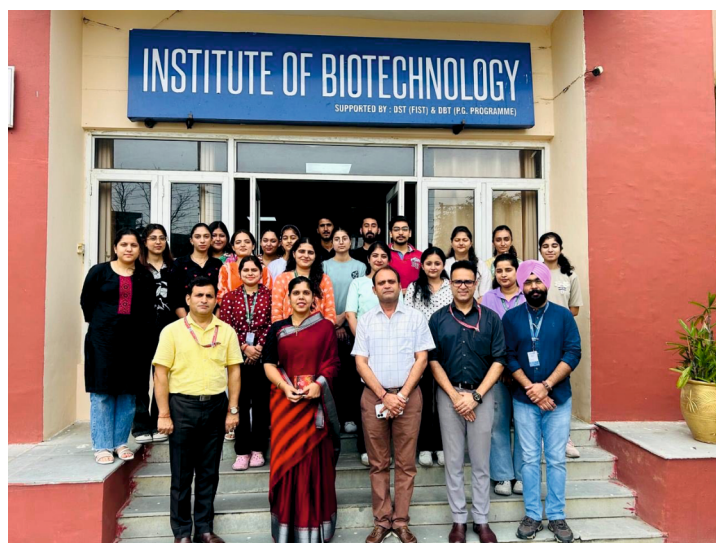
Earlier, the inaugural lecture in the series featured Dr. Gábor Tarcali, Director of the Institute of Plant Protection, University of Debrecen, Hungary. Dr. Tarcali shared his research on the *Cryphonectria parasitica* fungus, delving into its biological significance, historical context, and global management strategies. He also spoke about the academic environment at the University of Debrecen and discussed future Indo-Hungarian academic collaborations.

Coordinated by Dr. Vinod Kumar and hosted by Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, the series reflects SKUAST-Jammu's dedication to fostering scientific excellence and building international research partnerships.



Fostering Innovation: Lecture Series on Biotech Entrepreneurship at SKUAST-Jammu

The Institute of Biotechnology (IBT), SKUAST-Jammu, organized an impactful lecture series on Entrepreneurial Development in Biotechnology, aimed at nurturing biotech entrepreneurship among students. The series featured expert sessions from both academia and industry. Key speakers included Dr. Niti Shekhar (IIM Jammu) on biotech funding, Dr. Vidushi Abrol (IIIM Jammu) on the startup landscape in J&K, and Ms. Sonali (Intas Pharmaceuticals) on industrial R&D. Support from distinguished faculty and coordination by Dr. Susheel Sharma (Incharge Academics, IBT) ensured the event's success in equipping students for entrepreneurial futures in biotechnology.



National Congress on Entomology and Emerging Agrotechnologies (NCEEA-2025) Concludes with roadmap for Sustainable Farming Innovations

The National Congress on Entomology and Emerging Agrotechnologies (NCEEA-2025), organized by the Entomological Science Academy, SKUAST-Jammu's Division of Entomology, and IIT Jammu, concluded with a grand award ceremony at PY Resorts, Sanasar. The event brought together over 100 delegates, including 60 experts from leading institutions like IARI, IIT Jammu, and universities across India. Mohammad Alyas Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, served as Chief Guest, unveiling the Souvenir and Magazine of the Entomological Science Academy and emphasizing the administration's support for scientific research. Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director of Research, SKUAST-Jammu, presided over the ceremony and welcomed delegates, highlighting entomology's critical role in modern agriculture. The three-day event featured technical sessions on AI-based pest surveillance, nano-pesticides, and climate-resilient farming. On day two, 31 researchers, students, and professionals from top institutions were honored for excellence in entomology, pest management, biotechnology, and sustainable agriculture. The congress concluded with a field visit to Sanasar's alpine agricultural landscapes, offering hands-on exposure to sustainable practices.



Focus on Agricultural Research

While demonstrating Research excellence and innovation, SKUAST-Jammu continuous to make its mark with newly approved research proposals receiving national recognition.

SKUAST-Jammu Joins IIT Bombay-Led PAIR Network

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu has earned a prestigious spot as a Spoke Institution in the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) programme, initiated by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Anchored by IIT Bombay as the central hub, the PAIR network aims to revolutionize India's research ecosystem through collaborative infrastructure, academic mobility, and interdisciplinary innovation, backed by a Rs.100 crore investment over five years. The SKUAST-Jammu project is led by Dr. Anil Bhat (Professor and Associate Director Research) as Principal Investigator, with Dr. S. K. Gupta, Dr. Ankit Magotra, and Dr. Manish Kumar Sharma serving as Co-Principal Investigators. This collaboration enhances SKUAST-Jammu's national presence in research and opens significant opportunities for advanced research, faculty and student exchange, and high-impact innovations addressing national challenges.

Advancing Precision Agriculture: High-Resolution Soil Mapping by SKUAST-Jammu in Collaboration with SLUSI

In a pioneering initiative, SKUAST-Jammu has been chosen by the Soil and Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI) to conduct high-resolution soil surveys at a 1:10,000 scale, marking a regional first. With funding exceeding ₹2.00 crore, the project—led by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Professor and Head, Division of Soil Science—will focus on soil mapping across Reasi, Jammu, and Ramban districts. This initiative aims to generate detailed soil data critical for sustainable land use planning, enhanced agricultural productivity, and natural resource management. The project underscores SKUAST-Jammu's leadership in applied soil science and strengthens its contribution to precision agriculture and regional development through field-level research and technological integration.

Dairy Sector Transformation :

Rs.13.46 Crore approved Hi-Tech Modern Dairy Farm and Processing Unit at SKUAST-Jammu

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu has launched a transformative project titled "Hi-Tech Modern Dairy Farm and Processing Unit" at FVSc & AH, R.S. Pura, with a total investment of Rs. 13.46 crore. This cutting-edge facility will function as a model hub for dairy production, research, training, and value-added processing.

The initiative aims to provide practical exposure to students, boost research on indigenous cattle breeds, and drive entrepreneurship and capacity-building in the dairy sector. It reflects SKUAST-Jammu's strategic vision of promoting modern animal husbandry practices and enhancing the rural economy through sustainable innovation.

NEW VARIETY REGISTERED

Variety Notified: Bhaderwahi Rajmash Variety BR-39

Notified by : Government of India

Gazette Notification: CG-DL-E-14052025-263080

Sr. No. : 127

Date : 13 May 2025

Developed by: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu
Notable features. It yields between 14–17 quintals per hectare and produces dark maroon, shiny seeds with a 1000-seed weight ranging from 300 to 320 grams. BR-39 is high in protein content and exhibits a bush-type, determinate growth habit with synchronous maturity. It is well acclimatized to temperate zones, making it suitable for cultivation in such climates.

The development of this variety is credited to a team of scientists, including Dr. Vishal Raina, Dr. Neeraj Kotwal, Dr. Rohit Sharma, Dr. D. K. Chauhan, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Pardeep Wali, Dr. Jag Pal Sharma, Dr. Mahital Jamwal, Dr. Satish Sharma, Dr. Manoj Kumar, Dr. Nirmal Sharma, and Dr. Shahid Ahamad.



Copyrights Registered

"Order and Circular Panel"

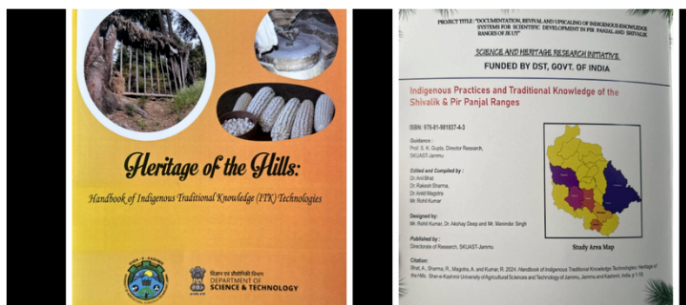
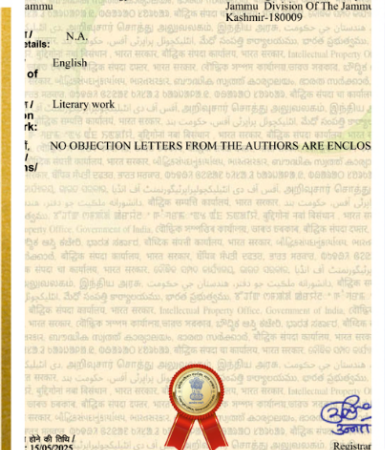
Authors: Dr. Manish Kr. Sharma, Prof. Anil Kumar, Mr. Atulya Giri, Prof. B.N. Tripathi
Application No.: 6169/2025-CO/SW

"Framework for Empowering Rural Entrepreneurship Through Local Product Promotion and Digital Marketing"

Authors: Dr. S.K. Gupta, Anil Bhat, Ankit Magotra, Rohit Kumar
Registration No.: L-159452/2025

"Ethno-veterinary Practices for the Management of Mastitis in Cattle and Buffalo"

Authors: Dr. Neelesh Sharma, Dr. Ankit Magotra
Application No.: 33482/2024-CO/L | Date of ROC: 15/05/2025



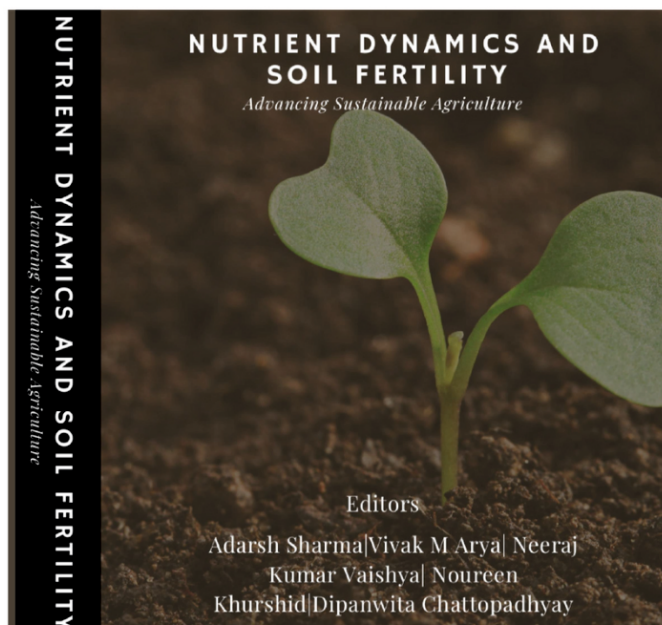
Books Published

Nutrition Dynamics and Soil Fertility (Advancing Sustainable Agriculture)

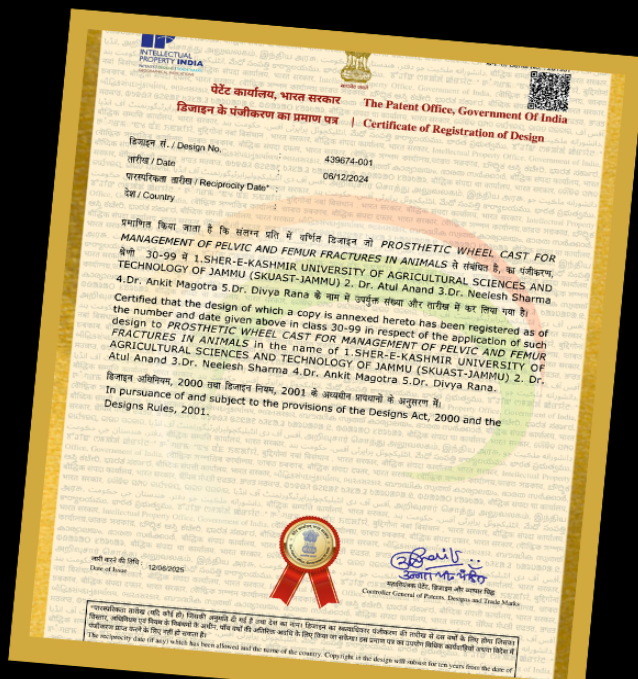
Authors: Adarsh Sharma, Vivak M. Arya, Neeraj K. Vaishya, Noureen Khurshid, Dipanwita Chattopadhyay
Publisher: Radiant Flair | ISBN: 978-81-982518-1-7

Indigenous Practices and Traditional Knowledge of the Shivalik and Pir Panjal Ranges

Authors: Anil Bhatt, Rakesh Sharma, Ankit Magotra & Rohit Kumar
Publisher: SKUAST-Jammu | ISBN: 978-81-981837-4-3



SKUAST-J SECURES MULTIPLE PATENTS



1. Prosthetic Wheel Cast for Management of Pelvic and Femur Fractures in Animals
Design No.: 439674-001

3.Waste Sorting Robot
Design No.: 421346-001

2.Hexagonal Packaging Box
Design No.: 447814-001

4. IOT based chemical mixing device for agriculture farm
Design No.: 453587-001

Achievements under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)

Breeder Seed Production: A total of 71.44 quintals of Kharif 2024 breeder seed was processed and supplied to the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Jammu, for the upcoming Kharif season. Additionally, 277.2 quintals of raw breeder seed of wheat and other Rabi crops have been harvested, threshed, dried, and stored in seed stores. Nursery sowing of all indented paddy varieties for breeder seed production has been successfully completed.

Strengthening Sericulture: A Silkworm Laboratory has been established with dedicated units for crop improvement and value addition & product diversification in sericulture. As a major step in diversification, Eri silkworm has been successfully introduced and reared, offering new prospects for sustainable silk production in the region.

Conservation and Germplasm Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Wild populations of *Valeriana jatamansi* (Indian valerian or Taga) were surveyed in Kud, Sanasar, and surrounding areas. Germplasm was collected from three distinct locations across Jammu and Kashmir, supplemented by the acquisition of three superior genotypes from Himachal Pradesh. A dedicated germplasm bank for *Valeriana jatamansi* has been established at the Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (M&AP) Nursery, Incha, Ramnagar. Additionally, a germplasm bank for Rosemary has been developed at the Regional Horticultural Research Station, Rajouri, supporting conservation and future cultivation.

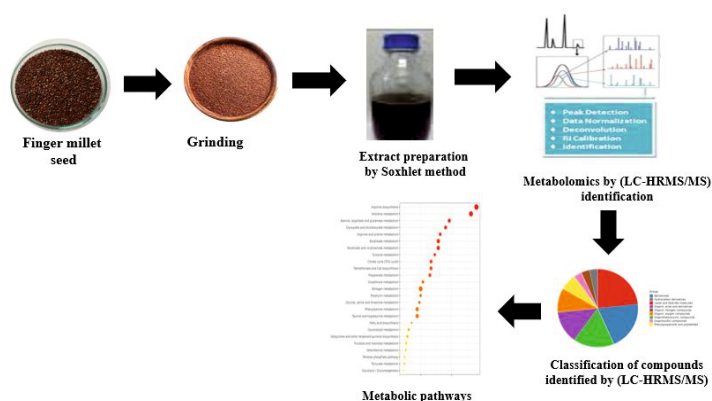
Millet and Nutri-Cereals: Unveiling the Nutritional Potential of Indigenous Finger Millet: The indigenous finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) from Padder Valley in Kishtwar was comprehensively characterized for its nutritional and therapeutic potential. Molecular identification using ITS, matK, and rbcL gene markers led to successful submission of sequences to GenBank (Accession Nos. PV807964, PQ753526, and PQ728252). Metabolomic profiling conducted through LC-HRMS revealed the presence of over 100 compounds, including key bioactive substances such as dehydroascorbic acid, niacin, and methyl cinnamate. Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) analysis

indicated a high concentration of essential fatty acids—linoleic acid (49.08%), oleic acid (21.13%), and palmitic acid (6.28%)—alongside a rich profile of B-complex vitamins.

Additionally, ICP-MS analysis confirmed significant levels of essential minerals including magnesium, calcium, potassium, and phosphorus. These findings highlight the potential of indigenous finger millet as a functional food with promising applications in the management of metabolic disorders and in promoting nutritional security.

Two Millets Cafeterias have been established at Jammu and Rajouri, promoting public awareness, dietary inclusion, and entrepreneurship based on millet-based recipes and value-added products.

Figure: Workflow of metabolomic and nutraceutical analysis of finger millet seeds



Boosting Oilseed Production: Significant progress has been made in enhancing oilseed production through the successful production of breeder seed for Raya and Gobhi Sarson. Mustard Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs) were implemented over 200 acres across the blocks of Dhansal, Pagwal, Raghu Chak, and Gaghwal, showcasing improved





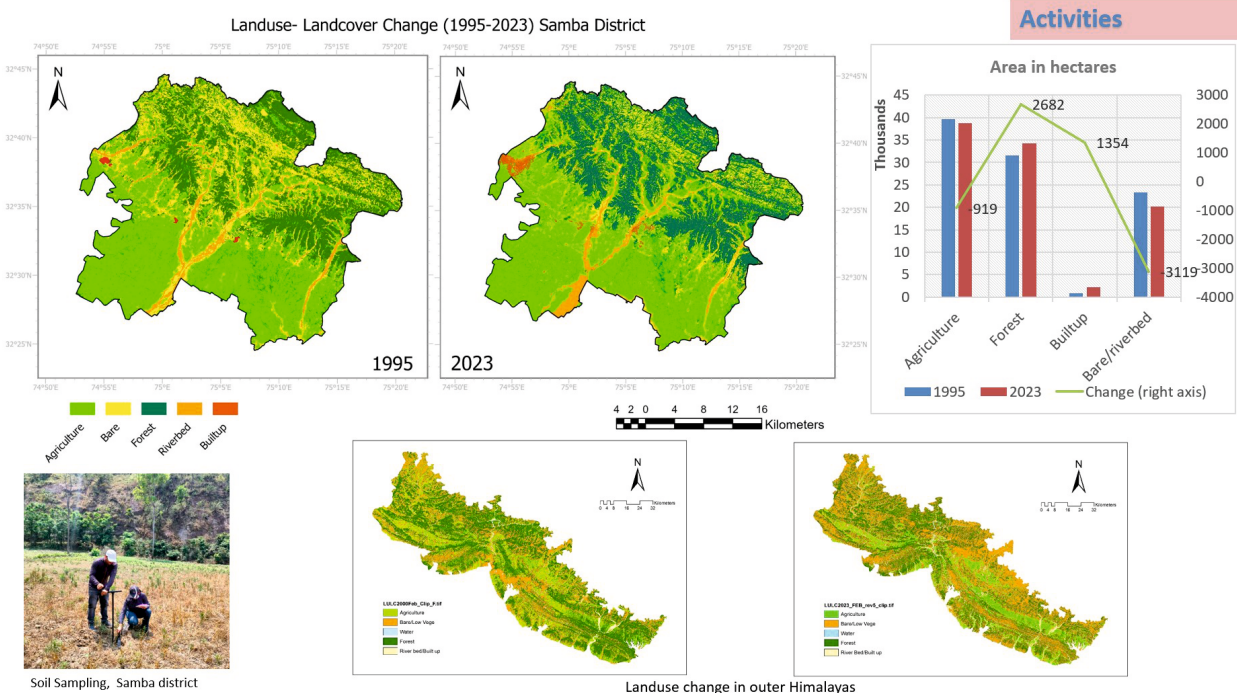
cultivation practices and varietal performance. Furthermore, the sunflower variety PSH 2080 has been identified as a promising option for cultivation in the region, offering new opportunities for diversification and productivity enhancement in oilseed farming.

Digital Soil Intelligence: Over 800 soil samples were analysed for micronutrient profiling, and gypsum content analysis has been completed on more than 250 samples. Weather maps and environmental covariates have been developed for Samba and Kathua districts, supporting climate-informed planning. Soil maps of Samba district have been generated using machine learning models, marking a significant step toward data-driven, precision-based soil health and land-use planning in Jammu & Kashmir.

Protected Vegetable Farming: Emphasizing off-season vegetable production, indeterminate tomato varieties Himsona and Ansal have reached the full



fruiting stage within protected cultivation structures as part of the second cropping cycle. Cucurbits such as white bitter gourd and local cucumber, planted in late March, are currently under evaluation for their



off-season performance and yield potential. In parallel, 25 advanced lines of pumpkin—a key cucurbit in the Jammu region—are undergoing screening for regional adaptability. The data collected will be subjected to D² clustering analysis to identify promising genotypes for future cultivation under local agro-climatic conditions.



Tomato production under protected cultivation

Poultry Innovation through ND Vaccine Development:

Advancements in vaccine research have led to the successful isolation and characterization of three local strains of Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV). Comprehensive histopathological analysis of infected tissues has been completed, providing crucial insights into disease pathology. Ongoing efforts include the cloning of the full-length fusion (F) gene and the propagation of the 293T cell line, marking significant progress toward the development of an

indigenous NDV vaccine aimed at strengthening poultry health and biosecurity in the region.

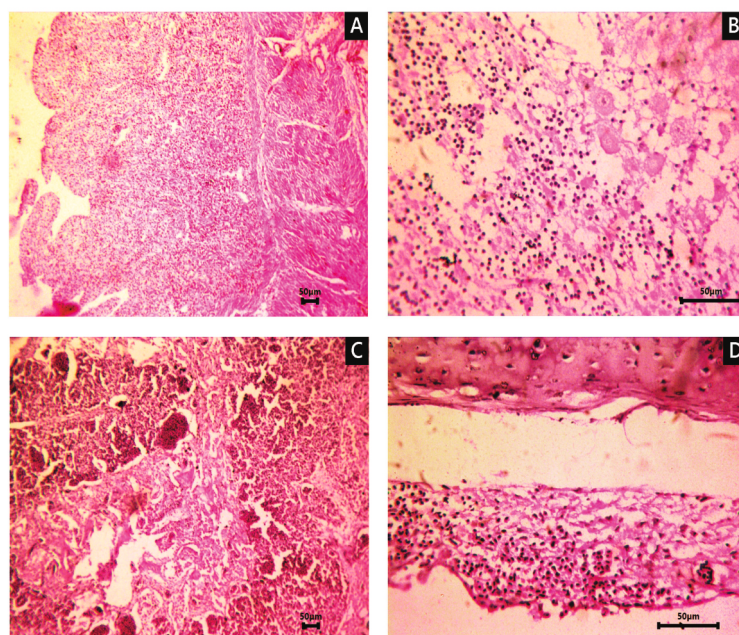


Figure 2: Histopathological lesions in tissues of Newcastle disease virus (NDV) infected birds. (A) Blunting, fusion and thickening of intestinal villi accompanied by fibro-necrotic material in the mucosa and lamina propria, indicating severe enteric involvement. (B) Degeneration and necrosis of Purkinjee cells along with marked spongiosis in the cerebellar tissue of brain. Congestion, hemorrhage and accumulation of fibro-necrotic debris within the proventricular gland. (D) Desquamation of the tracheal epithelium with congestion and necro-hemorrhagic changes.



Figure 1: Gross pathological lesions observed in NDV infected birds on necropsy. (A) Thickened mucosa and petechial to confluent hemorrhages in the proventriculus, particularly at the tips of the glandular papillae. (B) Presence of fibro-necrotic exudate and ulceration within the tracheal lumen (C) Ulcerative and hemorrhagic lesions in the intestinal mucosa.

Bridging Science and Society through Introduction of Heeng (*Ferula asafoetida*):

Iranian & Afghan-origin heeng plants are introduced for evaluation at Kishtwar region of J&K

Field-Based Intervention for Fertility Management:

A targeted field-based intervention was successfully implemented to address fertility issues in bovines. Twelve postpartum anestrus cows were treated using estrus synchronization protocols involving CIDR and progesterone implants, followed by timely artificial insemination and comprehensive hormonal/metabolic profiling. In addition, improved conception rates were achieved in ten repeat breeding cows through the administration of intrauterine antibiotics combined with hormonal therapies, including GnRH and prostaglandins. Based on these outcomes, estrus synchronization protocols and integrated hormonal-uterine therapies are recommended for effective fertility management under field conditions.

Floriculture Entrepreneurship: Three shade net houses, each spanning 500 sq.m, have been established to promote floriculture-based entrepreneurship. Seasonal flowers and ornamental plants are being propagated and made available for sale to farmers, visitors, and the University's landscaping unit, fostering income generation and aesthetic enhancement.

Establishment of NCVTC Network Unit: Isolated and characterized 10 novel strains of pathogenic bacteria using 16S rRNA sequencing; strains submitted to national microbial repository.

Deciphering the Genetic Basis of Lower Susceptibility of Indigenous Cattle to Bovine Anaplasmosis:

A comprehensive survey of 302 cattle was conducted to assess the prevalence of tick-borne infections, revealing an overall infection rate of 31.78%, with *Anaplasma* spp. being the most prevalent at 21.19%. Significantly higher infection rates were observed in animals from unorganized farms and among crossbred cattle, compared to indigenous breeds.

Molecular detection techniques confirmed the presence of *Babesia bigemina*, *Anaplasma marginale*, and *Theileria annulata*. Preliminary findings indicate a lower susceptibility of

indigenous cattle to tick-borne diseases, suggesting a genetic basis for resistance. Ongoing efforts are focused on identifying specific genetic markers associated with this resistance, which could pave the way for breeding strategies to enhance disease resilience.

Development of LAMP Assay for Rapid Diagnosis of Bacterial Pneumonia:

A Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) assay has been successfully standardized for the rapid and field-friendly diagnosis of bacterial pneumonia in sheep and goats. This diagnostic tool offers high sensitivity and specificity under isothermal conditions, enabling timely detection at the point of care. Additionally, molecular characterization and sequencing of the bacterial pathogens responsible for pneumonia in small ruminants have been completed, laying a strong foundation for accurate diagnosis, targeted treatment, and improved disease control strategies in small ruminant health management.

Prevalence and Characterization of Salmonella Infection:

A study was undertaken to assess the prevalence and burden of *Salmonella* infection in the Jammu region, focusing on its public health and zoonotic implications. The investigation involved the isolation and characterization of *Salmonella* spp. from poultry meat and eggs, including strains of zoonotic importance.

The findings aim to inform risk assessment, strengthen food safety measures, and guide the development of targeted control strategies to mitigate *Salmonella*-related risks in both animal and human populations.

Molecular Tumor Biomarkers in Cattle:

A focused investigation into neoplasms affecting cattle in the Jammu region has been undertaken, with detailed histopathological characterization of various tumor types, including ocular and cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, fibroma, and fibrosarcoma. To advance early diagnosis and therapeutic planning, efforts have been initiated to correlate tumor profiles with molecular biomarkers. This integrated approach aims to identify reliable diagnostic indicators and support the development of targeted treatment strategies for bovine tumors, enhancing animal health and productivity.

Innovative Extension Approaches under HADP

The Community Radio Station continues to serve as a vibrant platform, broadcasting farmer interviews, expert advisories, motivational stories, cultural programs, and special segments that effectively link scientific knowledge with grassroots communities. Twenty four episodes of the agricultural development programme Saddi Dharti Sadde Lok were broadcasted on Doordarshan, highlighting progressive farming practices and success stories.

Capacity Building Programs for CEOs and Chairman/Board of Directors of Existing FPOs

Two capacity-building programs for CEOs and Chairmen/Board of Directors of existing FPOs were successfully conducted at the Division of Agricultural Extension Education, in collaboration with MANAGE, Hyderabad from 16th–20th June and 23rd–27th June 2025. 35 FPO representatives were present in each training program mainly focused on strengthening managerial, financial and leadership skills essential for effective governance and sustainability of FPOs.



Research Publications

Ten research articles were published across various agricultural and life science journals with NAAS ratings ranging from 5.29 to 7.80. The highest-rated article (7.80) focused on the molecular characterization of the Lumpy Skin Disease Virus. Other notable studies included research on guava pruning, wheat crop management, apple germplasm, and Avian Avulavirus-1. Journals like Veterinary Research Communications, Applied Fruit Science, and Indian Journal of Animal Research hosted the top-rated publications.

Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS):

Enhancing Weather-Based Agro-Advisory Services: Under the GKMS initiative, 26 bilingual agromet advisories were issued at the district, block, and subdivision levels across four districts of the Jammu Division. These advisories were disseminated through a variety of channels including mobile apps, WhatsApp, All India Radio (AIR), email, and newspapers, reaching and benefiting thousands of farmers.

Impact-Based Forecasts (IBF) and tailored agro-advisories were released for agriculture, horticulture, and livestock sectors, ensuring timely guidance aligned with prevailing and forecasted weather conditions. Real-time weather data was also uploaded to the IMD portal for broader access. Additionally, 100 farmers from Kathua district were registered for SMS-based advisory services, strengthening last-mile connectivity for climate-smart agriculture.

Two-Week National Workshop on “Molecular Biology: From Basic to Advanced” Successfully Concludes at SKUAST-J

The Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, Sardar Patel University (Gujarat), and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) jointly organized a two-week hands-on training program titled "Molecular Biology: From Basic to Advanced." The workshop aimed to provide participants with in-depth knowledge and practical exposure to key concepts in molecular biology. From SKUAST-J, the program was coordinated by Dr. R. K. Salgotra, Director of the Institute of Biotechnology, and Dr. Kapil K. Tiwari, Associate Professor at the same institute. The valedictory ceremony was graced by Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, who attended as the Chief Guest and extended his blessings and best wishes to all participants and organizers.



Focus on Agricultural Extension

SKUAST-Jammu Empowers ST Rice Farmers in Mahore through TSP Programme



SKUAST-Jammu, conducted a Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) outreach programme at Sungri, Reasi, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department. Aimed at promoting sustainable rice farming and improving livelihoods, the event benefited Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers of the Mahore region. Key activities included the distribution of 200 agricultural input kits (sprayers, rakes, and rice seeds) and technical training on scientific cultivation practices. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Anuradha Saha and supported by scientists from SKUAST-Jammu, local administration, and agriculture officers. The initiative reflects SKUAST-Jammu's commitment to tribal farmer welfare and sustainable agricultural development.



Training programme on hydroponics and distribution of pilot hydroponic units

Division of Plant Physiology, Faculty of Basic Sciences, organized a one-day training programme on hydroponics and distributed pilot hydroponic units to beneficiaries from Kathua district. The event was held at KVK Kathua under a NABARD-funded project. The

programme was graced by the presence of Hon'ble MLA Kathua, Dr. Bharat Bhushan; Director Extension, Dr. Amrish Vaid; and Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, Dr. Sanjay Guleria. The initiative aims to promote climate-resilient and resource-efficient farming technologies, such as hydroponics, in the region.



National Panchayati Raj Day 2025 observed with Farmers-Scientist Interaction

To mark National Panchayati Raj Day 2025, KVK Jammu organized a Farmers-Scientist Interaction on the theme of Animal Udder Health. The event aligned with this year's national focus on participatory governance, rural development, women's empowerment, and digital transformation in village-level administration. The interactive session provided a platform for farmers to engage with experts, discuss challenges related to animal health, and explored preventive and management strategies for udder-related diseases—crucial for improving dairy productivity and rural livelihoods. The program highlighted the importance of integrated rural development through knowledge sharing and community participation.



7th Poshan Pakhwada with Nutrition-Focused Activities celebrated

KVK Jammu and KVK Rajouri celebrated the 7th Poshan Pakhwada from 8th to 22nd April 2025, as part of the ongoing POSHAN Abhiyaan, which aims to improve key nutritional outcomes for women and children.



During the fortnight, a series of activities were conducted, including on-site demonstrations, nutritious recipe preparations, exposure visits, and extempore sessions to raise awareness about balanced diets, food diversity, and healthy eating habits. The celebration underscored importance of community engagement and knowledge dissemination in addressing malnutrition and promoting health & wellness at the grassroots level.

Field Days on Wheat and Berseem Varieties to Showcase Rabi 2024-25 Performance

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jammu organized two Field Days on 15th April 2025 and 17th April 2025 to demonstrate the field performance of promising crop varieties under the Frontline Demonstrations (Rabi 2024-25). On 15th April, a Field Day on Berseem Variety BL-10 showcased its excellent performance under irrigated conditions. Demonstrations also included Gobi Sarson 25 and Wheat DBW-222, all reflecting strong field results. Later, on 17th April, field Day was conducted on Wheat Variety JAUW-672, highlighting its yield potential and adaptability at farmers' fields. Other SKUAST-J varieties, including RSPN-25, also



showed encouraging results. Both events aimed to promote improved crop varieties and practices among farmers for enhanced productivity.

Agridrone Spray Demonstration to Control Saccharum spontaneum along INDO-PAK Border

To promote Agridrone operations in Agriculture under Agridrone Project of KVK Jammu, Spraying of Herbicide along Kamour International Border in collaboration with IFFCO Jammu and 13 Battalion/BSF Frontiers was carried out by KVK Jammu. Combination of Glyphosate with Nano Urea and Surfactant was sprayed to control Saccharum spontaneum along the International Border.



Training on Scientific Cultivation of Fodder and Pulses under DAJGUA and PM-JANMAN Missions

KVK, Jammu organized a one-day training-cum-awareness programme on the Scientific Cultivation of Fodder and Pulses at Jagti Panjgrain in Jammu district.



The event was conducted under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) and PM-JANMAN, flagship missions of the Government of India aimed at holistic development and benefit saturation in tribal regions. As part of the programme, seeds of high-yielding Sorghum variety K-35 and Urdbean variety Pant 9 were distributed to tribal farmers for demonstration, promoting improved agricultural practices in the community.

Certificate Course on Integrated Nutrient Management Conducted

KVK Jammu and KVK Poonch successfully conducted Certificate Courses on “Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)” for input dealers.

KVK Jammu organized the training from 19th May to 4th June 2025, witnessing enthusiastic participation from input dealers across Jammu, Udhampur, and Anantnag districts. The Chief Guest, Dr. Amrish Vaid, lauded KVK Jammu's efforts, highlighting the critical role of input dealers as frontline agricultural advisors who directly assist farmers in adopting balanced nutrient management practices.



Similarly, KVK Poonch conducted two INM training sessions for input dealers from 22nd April to 6th May and 21st to 23rd May 2025. The course was inaugurated virtually by Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST-J, who emphasized the importance of dealers in bridging the gap between fertilizer companies and farmers. Dr. Ajay Gupta, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Poonch, elaborated on the objective of the course - to educate participants on fertilizer types, distribution norms, and the provisions of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985. A total of 30 participants from various areas of Poonch district benefited from expert lectures delivered by scientists from SKUAST-J, KVK Poonch, and IFFCO. Both programs aimed to empower input dealers with scientific knowledge and regulatory awareness, ultimately contributing to more sustainable and balanced fertilizer use in the region.



Entrepreneurship Development in Organic Vegetable Cultivation at Dasanoo Village

KVK, Reasi conducted a training programme on "Entrepreneurship Development in Organic Vegetable Cultivation" at Dasanoo village, Reasi district, J&K on 6th May 2025,. The event was actively attended by



39 aspiring women farmers. Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK Reasi, highlighted the economic potential and scope of organic vegetable cultivation and encouraged participants to adopt commercial organic farming as a means of increasing income and employment.



Training on Scientific Backyard Poultry Farming to Empower Rural Youth under ARYA Project

On 8th April 2025, KVK, Reasi organized a training programme at Jadh village, Reasi district, J&K, titled "Empowering Rural Youths through Scientific Backyard Poultry Farming" under the ARYA (Attracting and Retaining Youths in Agriculture) project. The programme trained 39 rural youths on scientific approaches to backyard poultry. Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK Reasi, introduced the objectives of the training and emphasized the

potential of the horti-poultry model in generating income and employment for rural youth. Dr. Mandeep Singh Azad, Scientist, provided detailed guidance on improved poultry breeds, housing, integrated management practices, and marketing of poultry products.

Entrepreneurship Mela Empowers Youth at KVK Samba

KVK Samba, in collaboration with the Employment Department and District Administration Samba under Mission Yuva, successfully organized an Entrepreneurship Mela on 14th June 2025. The event was chaired by Champa Devi Thakur, ADDC Samba, and presided over by Prof. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Samba. Over 200 youth from District Samba actively participated. A grand exhibition showcasing entrepreneurial opportunities and initiatives was also held during the event.



Awareness Programme on Women Empowerment Held at KVK Samba

A one-day Awareness Programme on Women Empowerment was organized at KVK Samba on 19th June 2025, with 35 women from various blocks of District Samba actively participating. The programme focused on the unique socio-political and cultural dynamics of Jammu & Kashmir and the historical challenges shaping the discourse on women's rights. Prof. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK

Samba, emphasized that empowering women is vital for social justice and holistic development. He highlighted that creating opportunities for women will ensure a brighter, more inclusive future for the region.

5-Day Training Program on Dried Flower Decoration & Value Addition



KVK Jammu has launched a 5-day hands-on training program on Dried Flower Decoration and Value Addition for JKRLM members from Jammu, Kathua, and Samba districts. Led by Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, and guided by Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension, the initiative was inaugurated by Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director Extension, who emphasized the global market potential of dried flowers in enhancing livelihood security. Dr. Arvinder Singh and Dr. Nomita Laishram from the Division of Floriculture and Landscaping will serve as resource persons. The program also featured contributions from faculty members including Dr. Ravneet Kour, Dr. Prem, and Dr. Amitesh Sharma. Dr. Punit Choudhary, Chief Scientist and Head, welcomed participants, while Dr. Poonam Abrol coordinated the event. Gratitude was extended to the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission for financial support in making the program possible.



Achievements under State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute



During the second quarter, the SAMETI successfully conducted three training programmes. These programmes collectively trained 95 participants, including 25 male and 70 female attendees.

- 1 Smart Farming for Sustainable Rice Production
- 2 Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition of Fruits
3. Maize Processing and Value Addition

In addition, SAMETI-Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, organized a specialized training programme on 22nd May 2025. The event was attended by 40 farmers, and featured interactive sessions with eminent scientists from SKUAST-Jammu and officials from the Department of Floriculture.

Furthermore, the enrolment process for the 3rd batch of the Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) has been completed. A total of 40 candidates, including both licensed dealers and non-dealers, have been registered.



Promoting Innovations, Startup and Entrepreneurship Development

An Online Workshop on Agri-Entrepreneurship in Collaboration with EDII Gujarat



The Division of Agricultural Economics & ABM, Faculty of Agriculture, COST Jammu, in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Gujarat, organized an online workshop for final-year B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students on 28th April 2025.

Held under the leadership of HVC Prof. B. N. Tripathi and coordinated by Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Dr. Manish Kumar, and Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, the session focused on entrepreneurship opportunities, government schemes, and EDII initiatives, aiming to inspire and empower the next generation of agri-entrepreneurs.

Assessment Visits by Agri-Business Incubation Centre to SIC-2025 selected Start-ups

On April 4, 2025, the team from the Agri-Business Incubation Centre, SKUAST-Jammu visited the official premises of two SIC-2025 selected start-ups: M/s 7 S Trading & Exporter Pvt. Ltd., led by Director Ms. Prabhsimran Kohli (located in Sanjay Nagar), and M/s



Vedicbytes Innovations Pvt. Ltd., led by Directors Mr. Sumil Goyal and Mr. Girdhari Lal Sharma (based in

Greater Kailash, Jammu). The purpose of the visit was to assess their operational status, progress, and future plans in the agri-business sector. The team reviewed key documentation, evaluated infrastructure and business operations, and provided immediate suggestions to enhance efficiency and streamline processes for the successful establishment of sustainable ventures.

15-Day Incubation Workshop for SIC-Selected Start-ups at ABI Centre, SKUAST-J

The Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) Centre, SKUAST-Jammu organized a 15-day incubation workshop from April 7 to April 22, 2025, at its Main Campus in Chatha for start-ups selected by the Selections & Investment Committee (SIC). The objective was to refine innovative agri-business ideas and prototypes, establish industry connections, and explore market linkages, pilot testing, and validation avenues essential for future commercialization.

Participants benefited from exposure to critical infrastructure and facilities within and beyond the university ecosystem. The workshop featured a dynamic schedule combining expert mentorship and hands-on training sessions led by renowned trainers, academicians, successful entrepreneurs, and industry leaders, aimed at accelerating start-up growth and operational readiness.

Field Visits Organized for SIC-2025 Start-ups under ABI Centre's Incubation Workshop

As part of the incubation workshop for the five SIC-2025 selected start-ups, the Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) Centre, SKUAST-Jammu organized a series of field visits to provide practical exposure and technical insights into the functioning of successful agri-business enterprises.

The visits included Farm Machinery Workshop, Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu (07.04.2025),



JKMPCL (Amul), Jammu (08.04.2025), AGMARK, Jammu (09.04.2025) and Uflex, Jammu (17.04.2025)

These field interactions offered the start-ups valuable firsthand experience of commercial operations, enabling them to observe best practices, understand operational workflow, and gather actionable insights to implement in



their own ventures as they move toward commercialization.

Due Diligence Visit Conducted for M/s Nutrichip Agri LLP by ABI Centre, SKUAST-J

On June 10, 2025, the due diligence committee of the Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) Centre, SKUAST-Jammu conducted an official evaluation visit to the premises of M/s Nutrichip Agri LLP, a 4th batch start-up founded by Ms. Ruchy Raina. The visit aimed to assess the start-up's business progress, commercial operations, and financial utilization of the first instalment of grant-in-aid previously disbursed.

The committee conducted a comprehensive review of operational and financial parameters to determine eligibility for the release of the second instalment of the grant. During the visit, constructive suggestions and guidance were provided to enhance the start-up's commercial sales, marketing strategies, and overall business performance.

SKUAST-Jammu Launches Capacity Building Programme for FPO Officers



SKUAST-Jammu, in collaboration with the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, J&K, inaugurated a 5-day Capacity Building Programme for FPO Development Officers under the JKCIP initiative.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi, the programme aims to strengthen grassroots agricultural extension through focused training.

Dr. Anil Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, stressed aligning modern extension methods with field challenges, while Prof. Sudhakar Dwivedi encouraged inclusive growth through empowered FPOs.

Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Nodal Officer, introduced the programme's objectives and modules. Dr. Anil Bhat delivered the vote of thanks, and Ms. MaganDeep Kour coordinated the proceedings.

Awards / Fellowships / National & International Recognitions

Faculty and researchers of SKUAST-Jammu have brought laurels to the university through distinguished recognitions and prestigious awards from leading scientific societies and organizations across India. The following members were honoured for their academic contributions and professional excellence

- Dr. S. K. Gupta was conferred the ISAF Fellowship Award by the Indian Society of Agroforestry, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh on 8th May 2025, recognizing his significant contributions to agroforestry research and development.
- Dr. S. K. Gupta also received the Special Recognition Award – 2025 from the Society for Community Mobilization, New Delhi, in collaboration with CAU Imphal & ICAR-NEH, Meghalaya during the event held from 22–24 May 2025.
- Dr. Vivak M. Arya was honoured with the Fellow Mobilization Award – 2025 by the Society for Community Mobilization, New Delhi, alongside CAU Imphal & ICAR-NEH, Meghalaya held from 22–24 May 2025, for his impactful work in community engagement and mobilization.
- Dr. Shilpa Sood (Mentor) was awarded the Best Thesis Award by the Indian Veterinary Association (Reg. No. 96/1967, Government) on 26th April 2025, acknowledging excellence in academic mentorship and research guidance.

Awarded Fellow of Society for Integrated Development of Agriculture, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences (SIDAVES)

- Dr Shafiqur Rahman, Assoc. Professor, Division of Veterinary Pathology, FVSc & AH, SKUAST-Jammu, RS Pura.
- Dr Brij Nandan Singh, Professor (Agronomy), PRSS, Samba, SKUAST-Jammu
- Dr Vikas Sharma, Professor, Division of Biochemistry, FBSc, SKUAST-Jammu
- Dr Shalini Suri, Professor and Former Head, Division of Veterinary Anatomy, FVSc & AH, SKUAST-Jammu
- Dr Neelesh Sharma, Professor and Head, Division of Veterinary Medicine, FVSc, & AH, SKUAST-Jammu
- Dr Satish Kumar Sharma, Senior Scientist, RHRSS, Bhaderwah, SKUAST-Jammu
- Dr Sushmita M. Dadhich, Assoc Professor, FoAE, SKUAST-Jammu
- Dr Sanjay Kumar Khajuria, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Samba, SKUAST-Jammu
- Dr Akhil Gupta, Division of Fisheries, FVSc, and AH, SKUST- Jammu
- Dr Balbir Dhotra, Professor,(Soil), OFRC, SKUA ST-Jammu



Dr Mohinder Singh Bhadwal, Professor (Veterinary Surgery and Radiology) and Former Dean, FVSc and AH, SKUAST-Jammu, R S Pura, bestowed with lifetime achievement award during 3rd Annual Convention of Society for Integrated Development of Agriculture, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences. (SIDAVES) held at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Modipuram, Meerut (UP) on April 16-17th, 2025.

Recognitions

- Dr. Manish Kumar Sharma has recently been appointed as an Executive Member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Model Assisted Statistics & Applications, USA following a competitive selection process conducted in March 2025.
- Dr. Manish Kumar Sharma was unanimously elected as the Vice President of the Editorial Board of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics in May 2025

International Representation: Faculty Attended Global Symposium in Tanzania

In a proud moment for SKUAST-Jammu, three senior faculty members represented the university at an international platform. Dr. P. K. Rai, Professor, Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry; Dr. Lakshmi Kant Sharma, Professor, Agricultural Extension Education; and Dr. Anil Bhat, Associate Director Research, attended the International Symposium on Mechanization for Sustainable Intensification held in Tanzania during April 2025. Their participation as expert delegates reflect SKUAST-J's active engagement in global dialogues on sustainable agricultural technologies and its commitment to international academic collaboration.



Campus Excellence: Herbal Garden Wins First Prize

The Herbal Garden of SKUAST-Jammu was adjudged First Prize Winner during the Annual Flower Show cum Floritech Conclave-2025 organized by CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Canal Road, Jammu. This recognition reflects the university's commitment to promoting biodiversity, medicinal plant conservation, and campus greening initiatives.



Dr. Mandeep Singh Azad represented SKUAST-Jammu at XII International Rangeland Congress in Australia

Dr. Mandeep Singh Azad, Scientist at the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Jammu, proudly represented the university at the XII International Rangeland and Grassland Congress 2025, held from 2nd to 6th June at the Adelaide Convention Center, Australia.

Dr. Azad delivered an oral presentation on his research titled "Use of Ethnoveterinary Practices Among Transhumant/Pastoral Farmers in Hilly Areas of Jammu and Kashmir, India." His work was widely appreciated for shedding light on indigenous knowledge systems and their role in sustainable livestock health management.



Important Days Celebrated at SKUAST- Jammu



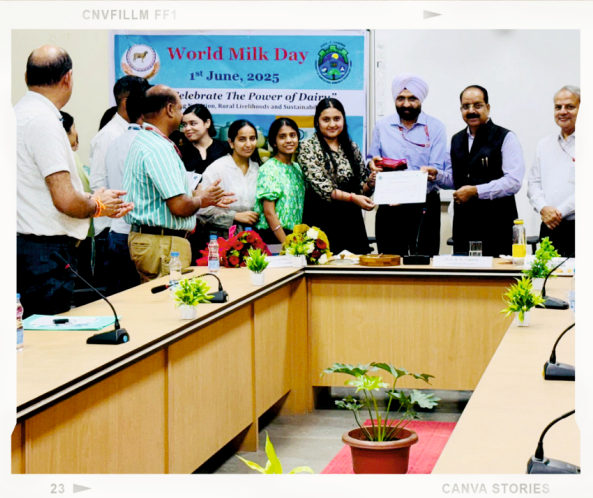
Celebration of World Veterinary Day 2025

SVSc & AH, R.S. Pura, SKUAST-Jammu proudly celebrated World Veterinary Day 2025 under the global theme "Animal Health Takes a Team". The event underscored the critical role of interdisciplinary collaboration in promoting animal welfare, public health, and sustainable livestock systems. Marking the occasion, the faculty organized a Quiz Competition and a Poster Making Competition – both of which saw enthusiastic participation and highlighted the creativity and knowledge of future veterinarians.



SKUAST-J Celebrates World Milk Day 2025 at R.S. Pura Campus

The Faculty of Dairy Technology, SKUAST-Jammu celebrated World Milk Day 2025 on June 1 at its R.S. Pura campus, highlighting this year's theme: "Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy." Prof. (Dr) B.M. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, graced the event as Chief Guest. Students from Dairy Technology and Veterinary Sciences participated in poster-making and milk product competitions, with winners receiving awards and certificates.



World Environment Day 2025 with Green Campus Initiatives

SKUAST-Jammu celebrated World Environment Day on June 5th, 2025, on theme "Combating Plastic pollution" with the plantation of over 1,500 saplings and campus beautification efforts to encourage students. Highlights included an essay competition, creative awards for photography, slogan writing and a climate change skit by students. KVK Samba of SKUAST, Jammu also celebrated at village Sargal District Samba, participating with over 200 farmers. Plantation drives were held at KVK premises and Panchayats Samlah and Daboh, with over 500 saplings distributed among farmers.



International Yoga Day 2025

International Yoga Day 2025 was celebrated under theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," under the guidance of yoga expert Sh. Rohit Ji from Arogya Bharti. More than 150 students, faculty and technical staff actively participated alongside statutory officers of the university, adding significance to the occasion.



Glimpses of National Service Scheme (NSS)



Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Pakhwada

SKUAST-Jammu, organized a drug awareness programme in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu, as part of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Pakhwada. Students took a pledge - "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life"



Workshop on Packaging in Agriculture

SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Delhi, organized a workshop on "Packaging in Agriculture: A Pathway to Career Opportunities" under NSS. The workshop drew enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and industry professionals.



Celebration of Earth Day 2025

A series of events including debate-cum-awareness programme to commemorate Earth Day 2025 were held under the global theme "Our Power, Our Planet" to raise awareness about environmental conservation and climate action.



World Laughter Day

NSS volunteers of SKUAST-Jammu organized a cheerful and energizing laughter session on 6th May 2025 aimed to promote mental well-being and reduce stress among students and staff.



World Environment Day 2025

NSS, SKUAST-Jammu, organized a Tree Sapling Plantation Drive on 5th June 2025 at the university campus. Reflecting this year's theme, "Putting an End to Plastic Use," students pledged to Say No to Plastic and Plant a Tree Every Year, reaffirming their commitment to a cleaner and greener planet.



International Yoga Day 2025

NSS, SKUAST-Jammu, celebrated year's theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," stressing the deep connection between personal wellness and planetary health. The session was led by yoga expert Sh. Rohit Ji from Arogya Bharti, who guided participants through a series of asanas and breathing exercises.

All events were coordinated by Dr S Dwivedi, Dean student Welfare

Student Corner



Freshers' Party Faculty of Dairy Technology

A vibrant Freshers' Party was organized by second year students of the Faculty of Dairy Technology on June 2, 2025 to warmly welcome the new batch of first-year students. The event was graced by Dr. J.S. Soodan, Dean of the Faculty, who lauded the students for organizing a memorable and successful program.

Mindscapes: A Creative Expression Wall

Mindscapes is the latest wall magazine curated by the students of FVSC&AH, R.S. Pura Campus. Edited by Mr. Nikhil and Miss Maisa of the BVSc program, under the guidance of editorial advisor Dr. Sanku Borkataki, Professor. The magazine serves as a vibrant platform for students to showcase their creativity.



Farewell to the First Batch of B.Sc. Horticulture

SKUAST-Jammu bid a heartfelt farewell to the first outgoing batch of B.Sc. Horticulture, marking a historic milestone for the university. Hosted by third-year students, the celebration featured vibrant performances and emotional tributes. Titles of Mr. and Miss Final Year were awarded, adding to the excitement and joy of the occasion.


FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JANJATIYA GAURAV (TRIBAL PRIDE)

National Seminar

on
Weaving Janjatiya Heritage as Pathways to Sustainable Futures in North-Western Himalayas

IN COLLABORATION WITH
INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH, NEW DELHI



CELEBRATING BIRSA MUNDA'S 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

16 - 17 JULY, 2025


Division of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness Management
SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF JAMMU (JAMMU & KASHMIR)

pgpr

10th Asian PGPR Society India Chapter National Conference
on
"Fostering PGPR's for secondary green revolution towards soil and crop health management"


15-17, September 2025

Venue:



Organized jointly by
Division of Microbiology
Faculty of Basic Sciences
Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu
Main campus, Chatha, Jammu, J & K, INDIA-180009


&
Asian PGPR Society, India Chapter
Venue:
Baba Jitte Auditorium, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu - 180009




SKUAST Jammu

AgriThon 2.0

Viksit Krishi for Atamnirbhar Bharat




PARTICIPANTS
Rural Youth of J&K Students from HEIs



Themes
Digital Agriculture | Climate Resilience | Post Harvest | Urban Farming

Entries Open **15th July 2025**

Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project in UT of J&K



RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ADVISORY TEE (ZREAC) MEETING: KHARIF SEASON 2025

Committee consists of Statutory members, Deans of the faculty, representative of development agencies, Crop and Subject Matter specialists, co-operative sector, private and progressive farmers etc. under the chairmanship of Honorable Chancellor.




CONTACT US

Directorate of Extension, Main Campus Chatha, Jammu, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir-180009

2 DAYS ORIENTATION WORKSHOP ON JKCIP

FOR
OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED DEPARTMENTS

UNDER
Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project in U.T. of J&K

ORGANIZED BY
SKUAST-JAMMU

9419192958, 7006311474

Venue: **SKUAST**

Extension Council meeting

AUGUST 2025

Extension Council Meeting of SKUAST of Jammu. Honorable Vice-Chancellor is a key event for planning and reviewing the university's extension activities. It serves as a platform for formulating and approving extension programs and strategies aimed at improving agricultural and allied sectors in the Jammu region. It also focuses on capacity building of relevant department officers, as well as providing extension education with teaching and learning the university.




MORE INFORMATION
Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu

9th Convocation of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu, Main Campus, Chatha (J&K) is scheduled to be held in 1st week of August 2025.



EDITORIAL BOARD

CHAIRMAN
Dr B N Tripathi
Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu

CO-CHAIRMAN
Dr Amrish Vaid, Director Extension

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Dr (Mrs) Hema Tripathi, Associate Director Extension

MEMBERS
Dr Pawan K Sharma Dr Vijay Sharma

DESIGNED BY
Dr Jagdish Kumar and Dr Shivani Sharma

3 day orientation programme transforming India's Ed collaboration concl

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sher-e Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu successfully concluded 3 Day Orientation Programme of RAWE & AIA Interns at Main Campus, Chatha.

The programme was conducted under Academia-Industry collaboration between SKUAST-Jammu and Bayer Crop Science, India. In his address, Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor said that industry academia collaborations provide students with valuable industry exposure, practical skills and professional networks, enhancing their employability.



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N. Tripathi chairing the programme.

role in enhancing the quality of research and education as practitioners benefit as research helps them to gain new perspectives, learn new technologies, develop critical competencies and gain access to unique facilities. Besides, students develop higher level thinking

with the... ing valua... encourage... ing students. He... selection in Bayer Science. A total of... selected candidates attend... ed the orientation pro...

neural ecosystem reflects the changing aspirations of its youth. Initiatives like Startup India and Atal Innovation Mission, coupled with NEP's emphasis on critical thinking, coding, financial literacy, and vocational skills, are nurturing a generation of problem-solvers and innovators. Importantly, many startups have originated from smaller cities, showcasing the reach of grassroots innovation.



Agriculture, being the backbone of India's economy, demands an education system that evolves with emerging global challenges and technological advancements. NEP 2020 addresses this crucial sector by promoting a multidisciplinary approach in agricultural education. Agricultural universities are being encouraged to integrate courses in agri-business management, biotechnology, rural development, environ-

tal science, and digital experiential learning, collaboration with leading students to researchers, and lead practices. The est... Excellence and local universities further al... with national and gl...

Vice Chancellor Open Badminton Tourney concludes

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 29: The Vice Chancellor Open Badminton tournament concluded with great enthusiasm at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and

Agriculture) while in men's doubles the duo of Gurtez and Antargya clinched the title against Kashish and Sachin. The women's singles title went to Sumbul (2nd Year) with Takshi (3rd Year) finishing as runner-up. Fiza and Rithika won



Winners posing along with dignitaries during closing ceremony.

Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Chatha campus. Organized under the supervision of Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare, the three-day tournament saw spirited participation from over 50 students, faculty and staff members.

Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, graced the closing ceremony as chief guest and presented trophies to the winners. He applauded the participants

the women's doubles, while Sumbul and Takshi were the runners-up. In a spirited mixed doubles match, Antargya and Shreya outplayed Gurtez and Fiza to win the title.

In the teaching staff category, Dr. Sushil won the singles title while Dr. Amitesh finishing as runner-up. In the doubles, the pair of Dr. Vinod Gupta and Dr. P.K. Rai won the tournament while Dr. Sushil and Dr. Amitesh

Agri minister Chou

EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, May 4: Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the world's first two genome-edited rice varieties today at the Bharat Ratna C. Subrahmanyan Auditorium of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. A large number of scientists and farmers participated in the event.

On this occasion, the scientists who contributed to the research of both varieties, DRR Rice 100 (Kamla) and Pusa DST Rice, were also honoured.

While ad... ticipants, U... Shivraj Si... that the s... inspired b... ister's visi... India, hav... nary achie... ricultural... ing new va... He added... eties will e... by 20-30 p... water and... gas emissi... vation. Bot... exhibit sup... erance and... efficiency. The mir...

SKUAST-J inaugurates KVKs to finalize ac

NEWS

Shree-Kashmir Agricultural Technology Jammu organ- Workshop of Kendras finalize the year workshop, strengthening ties, farmer- ing and on linkages d, by Prof. hi, Vice by 20-30 p water and gas emissi vation. Bot exhibit sup erance and efficiency. The mir...



Prof. B.N. Tripathi, VC SKUAST-J

urged KVKs to enhance their outreach programs and work in close collaboration with farming communities. The workshop featured detailed presentations by KVK Heads, outlining their strategies and objectives for the year 2025-26. Faculty members and experts provided technical insights to

align these specific need Jammu. Dr. S.K. Research strengtheni extension-fa He emphasiz integratig ic advancem tional farmi

Urban Farming: CU SKUAST-Jammu inaugurated two-day Startup Outreach

Dr B N Tripathi

Urban farming, the practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food within urban areas, is emerging as a powerful tool to enhance food security, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience. As urban populations continue to grow, the need for innovative agricultural solutions becomes crucial. By integrating agriculture into cities, urban farming minimizes food transportation costs, reduces carbon footprints, and provides fresh, nutritious food to urban dwellers.

Globally, urban farming has seen significant expansion, with cities like New York, Tokyo, and Paris integrating vertical farms and rooftop gardens into their urban landscapes. In India, Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru are witnessing a rise in urban farming initiatives, transforming vacant spaces into productive green zones. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), urban farms currently supply nearly 20% of the world's food, and this figure is expected to rise with increasing urbanization.

POTENTIAL OF URBAN FARMING

Urban farming is more than just a sustainable food trend, it is necessity. In urban environments where space is limited, techniques such as vertical farming, hydroponics, aquaponics, and rooftop gardening provide efficient food production solutions. It improves food security by providing direct access to fresh produce, reduces environmental impact by lowering carbon emissions, and creates economic opportunities by generating employment and promoting agribusiness. It also plays a key role in climate resilience by mitigating urban heat islands and fostering green urban spaces. As part of smart city missions, urban farming helps build self-sustaining food ecosystems and reduces dependence on external food supplies. Additionally, urban farming promotes the production of chemical-free food, reducing the dependency on synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, thereby improving

public TIMES NEWS

food contin-er-e-Kashmir large-scale agri- cultural and healthier fo- agri- cultural

Urban farming is pr- inau- different urban environ- up- clude backyard gardens, balcon- walls, vertical farming, urban ba- and allotment gardens, and street la- urban dwellers to maximize space v- District, and high-tech rooftop farm- plemented high-tech indoor farming benchmarks for sustainable urban fo- GLOBAL PE

Urban agriculture is gaining mon- initiatives include vertical farms i- Farming, workplace-integrated ur- Urban Farm, Europe's largest roof- hydroponic districts in Shanghai's District, and high-tech rooftop farm- 90% of its leafy greens. In India, cit- Hyderabad are embracing rooftop g- to counteract urban food shortages. T- Urban Livelihoods Mission (NUL- ing as a means of sustainable er- FOOD SECURITY & e

Urban farming plays a l- J, by ensuring a steady versity's dependency on dist- JKCIIP in food supply of shocks, and le- to urban po- ed on the pro- core verticals: at- collection



VC, SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N. Tripathi presenting trophy.

Prof. Tripathi emphasized aligning these efforts with national missions like HADP, Viksit Bharat @2047, and Start-Up India, aiming to boost rural livelihoods, innovation, and market competitiveness.

towards agri-tech entrepreneurship and climate-smart solutions. Prof. Tripathi further underscored the Her- Harvest Ideathon, organized in conjunction with International Women's Day 2025, as a platform fostering women-led innovation in agriculture. He praised the visionary ideas of women partici-

changemakers and forming academia hub of entrepreneur technology transfer rural development.

Guest of H Anuradha Gupta, D General, Youth Serv Sports, J&K, laude Ideathon as a girl-initiative a pro- women's leadership i- culture.

She proposed insti- al collaborations to promote academic, and youth developm- tives, affirming g- ment support for programs.

Dr. S.K. Gupta, D Research, enco- youth to align inn- with sustainable d- ment goals, while Amrishi Vaid, D