



SKUAST of JAMMU

NEWS LETTER

Special Issue-I
(June 15-September 15, 2020)

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

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Welcome



Shri Manoj Sinha

Hon'ble Lt Governor of J&K U.T. and Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu



Former Minister of State for Railways and Communications, Government of India, Shri Manoj Sinha assumed the office of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir on 7th August 2020. He is also the Chancellor of Universities including SKUAST-Jammu working in the UT. Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu visited Raj Bhawan, Srinagar for first formal meeting with Hon'ble Lt Governor of J&K and Chancellor of the University. Prof. Sharma appraised the Hon'ble Chancellor Shri Manoj Sinha about the ongoing Academic activities, Research schemes, Extension programmes of the University for upliftment of livestock farmers of the UT. Hon'ble Lt. Governor advised for developing strong linkages of Farm University with public and private partners engaged in the development of agriculture. He emphasized to adopt best agricultural practices of the country for its site specific replication in the region, strengthening the knowledge and capacity of the resource poor farmers along with establishment of functional linkages of Krishi Vigyan Kendra's with farmers especially in new areas of agriculture. Lt. Governor assured full support to strengthen the Teaching, Research and Extension system of SKUAST-Jammu for overall development of the farming community in the region.

Message from Chancellor



Agricultural Universities in India play a significant role in shaping the human resources, developing technologies and their dissemination. Their role is even more important in hilly areas where technologies need to be specifically developed for the region, keeping in view the small land holdings and the topography. Jammu region of the union territory of J&K is one such region which is endowed with multiple climatic zones ranging from sub-tropical to temperate. The varying climates can be potentially used to the advantage of the region by growing multiple types of horticultural and agricultural produce crops. However, the productivity has remained largely low, when we compare it to rest of India. One of the reasons is the rainfall dependency of agriculture in near about 70 % of the Jammu region of J&K. Poor resource use efficiency and availability of quality planting material is another hindrance in the growth of agriculture here. To overcome this, research need to be focused on modern technologies which can enhance the resource use efficiency. The University will strive to implement modern tools, such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, geo-spatial techniques, artificial intelligence etc. that can enhance the overall resource use efficiency. Peri-urban/secondary agriculture is another opportunity that needs to be promoted for overall increase in the income of the farmers and create avenues for agri-entrepreneurship development in the field of Hydroponics; Aeroponics; Vertical Agriculture; Mushroom; Fisheries; Dairy; Poultry etc.

Message from Vice Chancellor



SR NO	NAME	PERIOD
1	JENAB H U KHAN	JUN 01 1999 - NOV 30 2004
2	DR NIMENDRA SHARMA	DEC 01 2004 - SEP 04 2009
3	DR J. BHAIYAS	SEP 05 2009 - NOV 13 2010
4	DR B MISHRA	NOV 14 2010 - APR 13 2012
5	DR SHAILEEN KARNI IAS	APR 13 2012 - MAY 15 2012
6	PROF. SURESH SHARMA	MAY 15 2012 - MAR 09 2014
7	DR PRADEEP K SHARMA	MAR 10 2014 - MAR 09 2019
8	DR K S RISWAN	MAR 11 2019 - FEB 11 2020
9	DR B.S. GUPTA	FEB 11 2020 - JUN 14 2020
10	DR J P SHARMA	

Strong linkages need to be developed between the agriculture University and the line departments of the state to address these issues. Strong linkages not only help in effective dissemination of the technologies developed, but also provide grassroots feedback to the University, which would eventually drive future research programmes. Enhancing the farmers' income is our top most priority. Niche area crops need to be identified and promoted as geographically exclusive commodities such as basmati rice, rajmash, kala-zeera etc. for increased returns to the farming community. Horticultural and medicinal crops can also fetch increased returns for the farmers per unit of land, and many of these can be successfully grown in water scarce conditions. The University will strive to provide quality planting and seed material to the end-users. Near about 30% of the fruits and vegetables losses occur due to lack of storage and processing facilities. Processing industry is therefore, another area for agri-entrepreneurship that has a lot of scope. With government promoting start-ups, it is now much easier to be an agri-entrepreneur for realising the true returns of their produce, the stakeholders need to come together on community basis to form Farmer Producer Organizations. These can be formed on commodity basis in each of the districts of the region with proper branding and marketing strategies. The University provides education opportunities in agriculture, veterinary sciences, biotechnology and other applied fields. We hope to promote an entrepreneurship-based Education System with regular Student-industry interface while providing on campus placement opportunities to our students. Regular exchange and sandwich programme for graduate and PG students with premier institutions is also under consideration, which will help increase exposure of the students. I feel that incentives to the students is a great way of boosting their morale. Scholarship/Awards for students as well as Faculty will soon be institutionalized. These are trying times for all of us, with COVID-19 impacting our lives severely. Education is one of the worst hit sectors. As of now getting students education on track is our primary concern. We are in the process of creating an ambient digital climate in the campus that will benefit online education dissemination. Social media mediated learning will also be promoted. I wish everyone good-health and am looking forward to see our students back on the campus.

I am happy to note that Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) is coming up with a News Letter which will open a new window of communication with students, researchers, farmers, policy makers, technocrats and society in general.

In Jammu and Kashmir, agriculture, horticulture and livestock farming is the mainstay of rural economy, therefore, scientific innovations done by the scholars and scientists in the university must reach the end users for their socio-economic upliftment.

It is the responsibility of all stakeholders to promote self reliance, skill and entrepreneurship development among, especially among the youth to bring to reality the dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister of doubling the farmer's income and "Aatam Nirbhar Bharat".

SKUAST-Jammu has great responsibility to devise new technologies and management practices for doubling farmers' income in stipulated time. Local products and technologies need to be popularized with a scientific touch for the benefit of farming and tribal communities.

I trust that publication of this News Letter will serve as an effective mean for dissemination of technologies developed at Farm Universities like SKUAST-Jammu, and hope that it will become a regular feature and also provide space to views of end users to make it a two way communication.

I congratulate Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor and his dedicated team of statutory officers, teachers, scientists and scholars for making a sincere effort in bringing out this publication.

10th September, 2020
Jammu

Manoj Sinha
(Manoj Sinha)

J.P. Sharma
(J.P.Sharma)

First Interaction Meeting of Vice-Chancellor with Sh. G.C. Murmu, First Lt. Governor, J&K UT and Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu



Prof. J.P. Sharma had first interaction meeting with the First Lt. Governor, UT of J&K Sh. Girish Chandra Murmu at the Raj Bhavan after joining as Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu. Wide ranging issues came up in discussion during the meeting especially relating to establishment of new KVKs and faculties.

Major Events

Visit of Sh. G.C. Murmu, First Lt. Governor, J&K UT to SKUAST-Jammu

The Lt. Governor advised for strengthening University's internet/intranet facilities for smooth adoption of virtual learning to negate the effects of COVID-19 on education. He called for establishment of area specific Food Processing Zones in J&K and advised the university to draft an organic farming policy for boosting organic production in the UT. The Lt. Governor outlined the need for seamless and sustained transfer of applied research, tangible strategies and solutions to the farming community for facilitating the rapid growth in the agriculture and its allied sectors for improving per hectare productivity in the region and bringing it at par with the national standards. He also called for evolving an Organic Farming Policy and emphasized on the role of diversification through underutilized fruit crops, medicinal and aromatic plants, bamboo and alternative agriculture for increasing the productivity and profitability of farmers of the Kandi areas of Jammu region. An exhibition was also organized during the visit of the Lt. Governor, depicting various technological advances made by the University. On this occasion, Prof. J. P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor also revealed his vision for improving the research and extension activities in the university for the benefit of the farmers of this region



Dr. J.P.Sharma, HVC presenting a memento to Sh. G.C. Murmu, Lt. Governor, J&K UT (27.07.2020)

Visit of Advisor Sh. K.K. Sharma to Advanced Centre for Horticulture Research



Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Sh. K. K. Sharma visited Advanced Centre for Horticulture Research to review progress on Centre of Excellence, Fruits at Udhaywala, Jammu which is being established under MIDH. Advisor Sharma directed for introducing innovative measures in the field of Horticulture in Jammu province under the supervision of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu Professor J. P. Sharma. There are certain areas like supply chain management, public private partnership and high density plantations which should be considered while developing sector in the region, he added. Vice Chancellor apprised Advisor, Sh. K. K. Sharma about the status of Centre of Excellence and its working and assured to make it functional very soon.

SKUAST-J celebrated 74th Independence Day

SKUAST-Jammu celebrated 74th Independence Day at Main Campus, Chatha. Professor, J.P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor hoisted the national flag. The programme was attended by Directors, Deans of various faculties, Heads of Divisions/KVK's/Research Station, Officers, Officials, Teaching and non teaching staff of SKUAST-Jammu following COVID-19 SOPs. A cultural programme was also arranged by the kids of different staff members of the university on this occasion.



Teacher's Day Celebrations

University celebrated Teachers Day and world literacy day with eminent exultation at Chatha and R.S Pura Campuses, under the able guidance of Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST - Jammu. Dr. Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor, Central University Jammu, Dr. Keshav Sharma Professor Jammu University and Dr. Dipankar Gupta delivered lectures on this occasion. During the event, cultural and literary activities were performed by the students followed by musical saga where the aura was filled with the melodious songs sung by the students and teachers.



Poshan Maah



Poshan Maah was celebrated to throw light on "Yatha Annam Tahtha Mamman" which means mental and intellectual development is dependent on the kind of food we consume. Students and employees participated in this event.

Inaugurations

Girls Hostel "Ujala"



The first Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated Girls Hostel (Ujala) on 27.07.2020, in the presence of Prof. J.P.Sharma, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. The hostel has 62 single seated rooms including various amenities. Mrs. Smita Shukla Murmu, first lady of the Union Territory of J&K was also present.

Residential Quarters for Teachers (Type-III)



The first Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated Residential Quarters (12 Sets) for teachers (Type-III) in the presence of Prof. J.P.Sharma, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.

Oxygen Beds in Health Centre



Hon'ble Lt. Governor inaugurated Oxygen Beds in Health Centre on 27.07.2020, in the presence of Prof. J.P. Sharma, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. The Oxygen concentrator of 10 litre flow which are of immense importance in case of Covid-19 infection.

Incinerator of Bio-Medical waste for Hospital/Hostels/Residential Quarters of SKUAST-JAMMU



Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu Prof. J.P. Sharma and Chairman J&K Pollution Control Board (JKPCB) Sh. Suresh Chugh inaugurated a larger capacity Sanitary Waste Disposer (SWD) Unit at University's main campus, Chatha on 24.06.2020 to create awareness among the staff and students of farm varsity regarding sanitary waste management.

Water Cooler



Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC, SKUAST-J, inaugurated Water Cooler which was intalled by SKUAST-TAJ in the memory of their member Late Er. Hemant Dadhich who left for heavenly abode on September 14, 2019.

Quality Laboratory developed under Special Task Force Project of J&K Govt.



Prof. JP Sharma, HVC, SKUAST-J inaugurated Quality Laboratory developed under Special Task Force Project of J&K Govt. in the School of Biotechnology in the presence of Prof. Ashok Aima , HVC, Central University of Jammu.

Visits of Prof. J.P.Sharma to various Units of SKUAST-J after taking over as Vice-Chancellor.

Chatha Campus

During the visit to the hostels, Prof. Sharma took stock of the various facilities provided to hostellers struck due to COVID pandemic and issued on spot instructions to the concerned officials to ensure the welfare of students. This was followed by visit to Integrated Farming System Research Centre (IFSR), Chatha where he advised the scientific staff of IFSR to conduct need based research beneficial for the farmers. He also visited different divisions of Faculty of Agriculture. He called upon the scientists to focus on the issues pertaining to increasing the income and quality of life of farming community by laying emphasis on Integrated Farming System model, protected cultivation, Bee keeping, replication of successful farmers led and marketing innovations.

FVSc, R.S. Pura Campus

Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC visited various laboratories and Divisions and inspected the advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, R S Pura. During his visit he was apprised about the ambulatory and animal transportation services extended by the University to the society. He also visited library, hostels and dairy farm and inquired about extension activities undertaken by the Faculty for livestock farmers of the area. He laid emphasis on strengthening the linkage with farmers and tailoring the research programs of the faculty towards increasing the production potential of the livestock for increasing the farmer's income.

KVK, Samba

Prof. Sharma stressed on increasing the farmers' income through establishing market linkages and branding of agriculture and veterinary products. He further laid emphasis on cluster development approach on organic farming. Participatory seed production and processing was one of the main agenda of discussion during his interaction with the farmers.



KVK, Reasi

Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC inspected the Instructional Farm, demonstration units and reviewed functioning of the KVK. He also inaugurated newly renovated Training Hall of KVK Reasi besides having interaction with progressive farmers of the district observing COVID-19 SOPs and guidelines. He strongly advocated for value addition of fruits, vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants, adoption of protected cultivation, organic agriculture and diversification in agriculture for achieving goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

KVK, R.S.Pura

Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC participated farmers-scientists interaction, visited Kisan Sochna Kendra, demonstration units, seed production farm of KVK Jammu and also inaugurated exhibition laid by the progressive farmers and Self Help Groups of border villages of Jammu district today. In his address Prof Sharma laid emphasis on promotion of prominent paddy Basmati-370 variety of RS Pura and desired to upscale its production up to international standards through organic adjuvants for better export potential. He also stressed upon establishment of farmer's producer organizations with marketing linkages and branding of agriculture and allied products. He advised the farming community to adopt the approach of integrated farming system, secondary value addition of fruits, vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants and adoption of protected cultivation vis-a-vis organic agriculture for achieving the goal of doubling farmers income by 2022. Increasing water and fertilizer use efficiency along with adoption of vertical farming should be the priority under 'Atam Nirbhar Bharat'. He insisted the farmers to adopt multi-disciplinary approach involving poultry, dairy fisheries and their value addition. A pamphlet entitled "KVK Jammu at a glance" was also released and a sapling was also planted on the occasion by the dignitaries. HDPE vermibeds, vermiculture and trichoderma was also distributed among the farmers and farmwomen's adopting rainfed organic cultivation under Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojna of KVK Jammu. Later, he also visited village "Kloe" and "Suchetgarh" where he interacted with farmers involved in production and value addition of Mushroom, vegetables, floriculture and organic Basmati production and processing.

KVK, Kathua

KVK Kathua organized agripreneurs meet to encourage farmers for processing and value addition in agricultural produce. Speaking on the occasion Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor laid emphasis on value addition, processing and marketing of farm produce to achieve the goal of doubling farmer's income and suggested for surplus management by involving farmers in processing activities for increasing share in consumer's rupee. He advised the scientists to work in convergence mode with the involvement of UT departments, NABARD and ICAR institutes.

Advanced Centre for Rainfed Agriculture, Dhiansar

Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC took stock of the various research and extension activities taken up by the centre. He advised the scientists to focus on location specific and farmers' oriented research programmes. He emphasized that sizeable improvement in the agricultural productivity and socio-economic status of the farmers can be achieved through diversification and strengthening of existing farming system.

Advanced Centre of Horticulture Research, Udheywala

Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC emphasized on timely completion of infrastructure development projects and stressed on plantation of best varieties of fruit crops so that quality planting material may be multiplied and provided to farmers and other stakeholders.

Maize Research Station, Udampur

HVC visited the research farm and monitored research trials and other crops laid out in the farm. He also stressed for exploring the possibility of irrigation facility in the farm to provide life saving irrigation and conservation of maize germplasm of Jammu Province.

Agro-Forestry Experimental Farm, Chatha

Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC during his visit he was apprised that about 100 species of medicinal and aromatic plants collected from different agro-climatic regions are being maintained in the Herbal Garden. Prof. Sharma stressed upon the possibility of establishing linkage of framers with the herbal industry for achieving the objective of doubling the farmer's income.



Research Highlights

Probiotic bio-transformation enhances bio-active properties of plant extracts.

This study was designed to reveal the role of *Bacillus subtilis* and *Lactobacillus acidophilus* in the bioconversion of methanolic and ethyl acetate extracts of medicinal plants namely *Acacia catechu* and *Terminalia chebula*. It was observed that there was significant enhancement in the level of phenols, flavonoids and antioxidant properties such as ferric reducing antioxidant power, reducing power and radical scavenging activity in extracts fermented with *Bacillus subtilis* and *Lactobacillus acidophilus* as compared to control.

Physiobiochemical determinants in Rhizobia-Common Bean Interactions

In this study, two local common bean cultivars 'BR-104', 'BR-50', and two varietites 'VL-63' and 'VL-50' were inoculated with rhizobial isolates as a biofertilizers. Applying Rhizobium strain inoculation to bean crop, showed significant varietal differences in plant growth, yield and symbiotic performances as compared to un-inoculated control. Rhizobial inoculants are much cheaper and sustainable source of nitrogen

Isolation of anticancer molecule from *Grewiaasiatica*.

5-Hydroxymethyl furfural (5-HMF), an active ingredient isolated from fruit part of *Grewiaasiatica* (phalsa) showed potential activity against colon cancer cell line SW-620.

Mitigating the problem of alternate bearing in mango varieties using paclobutrazol

Application of Paclobutrazol (PBZ 28% SC) through soil drench in alternate bearing varieties of mango @ 2.5 ml/m² of tree area or 1.25 ml per year of tree age and final volume raised to 20 litre with water is effective in mitigating the problem of alternate bearing, and results in early and profuse flowering.

Identification of recombinant proteins against foot rot

Animal diseases cause huge economic losses to the farming community, so early diagnosis and prophylaxis with vaccines is the need of the hour. Work was carried on identification of *Dichelobacter nodosus* serogroup B and E or mixed infection with both from footrot infected sheep. The 6xHis-tagged target protein was purified by Ni-NTA affinity chromatography with an aim to develop recombinant vaccine against foot rot.

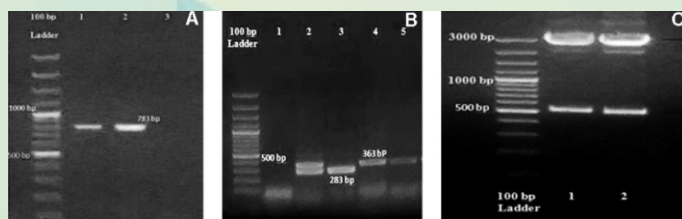


Figure 1: Detection of *Dichelobacter nodosus* from ovine footrot by PCR

Hypodermin B protein found to have good diagnostic potential

Recombinant protein was identified for development of sensitive and specific diagnostic assay against goat warble fly (*Przhevalskiana silenus*) infestation. The larval recombinant protein Hypodermin B was expressed in prokaryotic expression vector and its immunogenicity was evaluated by Western blotting. Hypodermin B, serine protease was found to have good diagnostic potential.

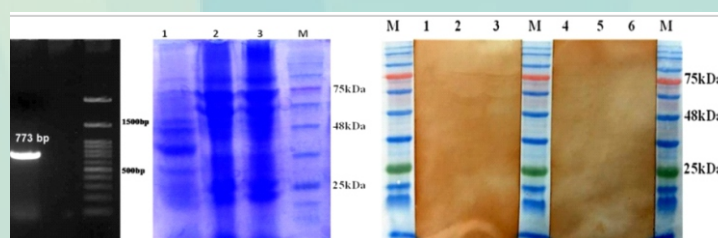


Figure: Detection of goat warble fly infestation using recombinant protein

Evaluation of FOLDSCOPE microscope for field utility

FOLDSCOPE microscope demonstrations as a tool under field condition and recommended it for rapid detection of oestrus and evaluation of semen quality during AI services.

Designing of jackets for dairy cattle to minimize winter stress

Studies on the effect of custom designed jackets on crossbred dairy cattle during winter by assessing the physiological profiles of core body and skin temperature was carried out. Haemato-biochemical and gene expressions profile showed jackets have a beneficial effect in ameliorating cold stress. Sorbitol supplementation during winter also significantly increases milk production.

Microbes of public health importance

Human serum samples were analysed by IgG ELISA to detect antibodies against Scrub typhus (*Orientia tsutsugamushi*) showed a high occurrence of positive cases (25/90) for IgG antibodies, while few samples also tested positive for *Brucella* sp. antibodies using IgG ELISA.

Advances in animal therapeutics, antimicrobial residues and drug resistance

Stem cell laboratory has been established with the intent of production of proteins of pharmaceutical interest. Evaluation of antimicrobial residues in foods of animal origin showed that most products were positive for oxytetracycline and also for enrofloxacin/ ciprofloxacin residues, thus a cause of concern for human health. Pyrethroid and ivermectin resistance was recorded against the cattle tick *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* in Jammu region.

Augmenting animal nutrition:

Supplementation of 4% azolla on poultry and fish rearing integration system showed best results in overall growth performance and net profit of poultry, with no effect on water quality, or proximate composition of meat. UMMB supplemented buffaloes were found to gain more body weight, body condition score and heart girth, improved production and reproduction during both prepartum and postpartum period.

Women empowerment through societal projects

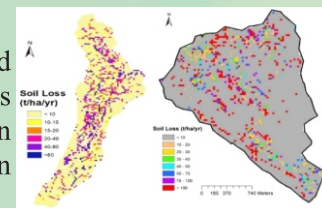
Rural women technology parks were set up with women starting own entrepreneurship in kaladi making, khoa making, fish processing, poultry processing and vermicomposting.

Direct sowing of rice demonstrated

Direct sowing of rice was demonstrated to the farmers of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts in an area of about 50 acres during Kharif 2020. It is a resource conservation Technology that saves both water and labour.

Quantification of soil erosion in the Foothills Shivaliks

One of the major problems in the hills of Jammu region is that of soil erosion resulting in wide scale land degradation and reducing the productive capacity of the soils. Soil loss maps of representative watersheds (Bjalta and Surinsar area) in the foothill Shivalik were developed under the ICAR sponsored project on soil erosion risk mitigation. The maps were prepared using geo-spatial tools. High amounts of soil erosion was quantified which were in excess of 100 t/ha/yr at certain locations.



Polylined tanks for water-harvesting and gravity feed drip irrigation

Technological package for soil and water conservation technologies for rainfed region was developed under DST-SEED Project on “Demonstration of technologies for improving productivity of rainfed area in Jammu district”. Farmers have started growing vegetables crops along with conventional crop using poly tank along with gravity feed drip irrigation in rainfed areas resulting in increased returns.



Poly tank

Micropropagation of Brahmi, Peppermint, Potato and Lilium

Standardized the protocols for micropropagation of Brahmi, Peppermint, Potato and Lilium for mass multiplications and commercialization.

New Research projects sanctioned

- Germplasm characterization and trait discovery in wheat using genomics approaches and its integration for improving climate resilience, productivity and nutritional quality (**Networking project of ICAR, New Delhi**) by DBT , Govt. of India with **approved budget of Rs.50.44 lacs. (PI: Dr. Ravinder Singh).**
- Identification and characterisation of phytosulfokine receptor kinase gene family of rice vis-à-vis *Arabidopsis* and elucidating its role in abiotic stress tolerance (**Collaborative project with South Asian University, New Delhi**) by DBT , Govt. of India with **approved budget of Rs. 19.97 lacs. (PI: Dr. R.K. Salgotra)**

Extension Activities

- Zonal Review Workshop of KVKs Zone-I which includes J&K.
- Two day training for dairy farmers on 'Prevention and Effective Control of Production Diseases' organized at F.V.Sc. & A.H, R.S. Pura.
- Awareness cum animal health camp organized at border village Abdullian under the DST funded project 'Enhancement of Livelihood security among Livestock rearers through Technological Interventions'.
- Two days Dairy Farmers Training at R.S. Pura.
- Poultry distribution and training to farmers organized at Village Sumbli.
- Agripreneurs meet at KVK Kathua.
- Quinquennial Review meeting of KVKs under the administrative control of Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC, SKUAST-J was held to review the extension activities carried out with effect from 2011-12 to 2018-2019.

Awards

- KVK Kathua won Best KVK Award 2019 during Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs in J&K.
- KVK Reasi won Best Presentation Award 2019 during Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs in J&K.
- Dr. R. K. Sharma, conferred Fellow of National Academy of Veterinary Nutrition and Animal Welfare, PPKS, Bareilly.
- Dr. Anish Yadav conferred Member of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS), India.
- Dr. Kamal Sharma, Dr. Jonali Devi and Dr. Pawan Kumar Verma awarded Associate Membership of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS), India.
- Dr. A. K. Pathak received Commendation Certificate from National Academy of Veterinary Nutrition and Animal Welfare, PPKS, Bareilly.
- Dr. Ankur Rastogi conferred Associate Fellow by Animal Nutrition Society of India and WBUAFS, Kolkata.

Publications

Release of new publications by Hon'ble LG during his visit to SKUAST-Jammu

- Package of Practices for vegetable and kharif crops
- Direct Seeded Rice: ARCT
- Agro advisories for farm operations
- Insect ecology & IPM
- Poultry Production & Management
- Advances in Weed Management
- Fundamental of Entomology
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat-Aatmanirbhar Kisan.

Other Activities

- Parmod Kumar student scholarship from Metropolitan Asian Family Services (MAFs) will contribute a sum of Rs. 10.00 lacs to SKUAST-J to create a student scholarships to be given to deserving students every year.
- KVK Jammu and FM Tadka week long initiative entitled "Farm to Table: A Week long market" with outreach of more than 25000 listeners.
- Cluster Frontline Demonstrations on mash crop over 8 hectares for promotion of diversified farming in Rajouri district by KVK Rajouri.
- The Division of Statistics and Computer Science celebrated National Statistics day on 29th June 2020. The HVC graced the occasion and interacted online with M.Sc./Ph.D students of the Division.
- Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC, visited Organic Training Centre established on farmers' fields at Talwara (Reasi) under Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana where he interacted with the farmers.
- Prof. J.P. Sharma, HVC visited KVKs adopted Village Mandal in District Samba, where he interacted with the farmers.
- National webinar on 'Surveillance of Rabies in Animals and Initiatives in its control' in which more than 500 scientists, teachers and students across the country registered for the webinar.
- Webinar on 'Farmer Producer Organizations' to discuss current status of farmers producer organizations (FPOs) in Jammu region, their legal awareness, constraints and solutions in promoting supporting ecosystems for FPOs to pave a way to double farmers income.
- Webinar on Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Disease Management, involving stakeholders from agriculture department, farmers etc. from Kathua and Rajouri districts.
- An interactive meeting with all the Directors of line departments & Statutory Officers of the University. The meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary to Govt., AP&FD.
- An interactive meeting with Officers of NABARD at Chatha to discuss on-going/ new projects

Appointment:

Vice Chancellor

Prof. J. P. Sharma joined as **Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-J, J&K on 15th June 2020**. Previously he worked as **Joint Director (Extension)** and as Head, Division of Agricultural Extension and **Director, Centre for Advanced Faculty Training (Extension)** at Indian Agricultural Research Institute (**IARI**), **New Delhi**. He has vast experience of 33 years conducting strategic research, guiding, teaching postgraduate students, conducting national/ international training programmes and carrying out agricultural development interventions at the national level. He earned his **Doctoral degree from IIT, Delhi** and Post Graduation from GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, and was awarded Fellowships from **IIT, Delhi and UNDP** respectively. Associated with 20 externally funded projects; funded by ICAR, DST, DBT, NABARD etc and worked in 13 institutional research projects as PI/Co-PI. Designed and developed innovative extension approaches like IARI-Post-Office Linkage Extension Model (*Krishi Dak*), Cyber Extension Model, Expert System, E-learning Module, National Extension Programme, IARI-VO Partnership Programme, Innovative farmer lead extension system etc for better and faster dissemination of technologies. Introduced/taught 11 postgraduate courses in agricultural extension and guided 21 students as Chairman/Co-Chairman/Member, Advisory Committee. Published 106 research papers in reputed journals, 283 popular articles in magazines and newspapers, **51 books, 60 book chapters**. Organized more than 100 trainings including National and International programmes as **Course Director** on the topics of national relevance. Member of various national and international Professional Committees and invited as consultants/expert for **Planning Commission**, DBT, DST, Vigyan Bharti (VIBHA), Member National Advisory board of Agrivision and AERC governing body. Coordinator of **Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav** (Government flagship scheme), **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** (MoHRD), **Pandit Deendayal Upadhaya Krishi Shiksha Yojana** (MoA&FW). Received more than **60 awards/recognition** including **Dr Rajendra Prasad Puruskar** and **Hari Om Ashram Trust Award of ICAR**, **Best Agricultural Extension Scientist Award of IARI**, **Raj Bhasha Gaurav Puraskar of Ministry of Home Affairs**, **Shanti Prasad Goel Memorial Award**, **Manthan Award-South Asia** and **Dr G.S.Vidyarthi Award** for making outstanding contributions for the upliftment of the farming community.

Superannuations:

- Dr. R.K.Arora, Associate Director Extension on 30.06.2020
- Dr. D. Kachroo, Chief Scientist, FSR on 30.06.2020.

Planting of Saplings by Dignitaries:



Prof. J.P. Sharma planting a tree after taking over as Vice-Chancellor



Smt. Samita Murmu, First Lady, UT of J&K planting a tree



Sh. Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor, Jammu & Prof. J.P. Sharma, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu planting trees on the occasion of Van Mahotsav 2020.

Flooded SKUAST-J Campus, Chatha (26-8-2020)



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

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Editorial Committee: Dr. Deepak Kher, Dr. Sanjay Guleria, Dr. Anish Yadav, Dr. Vikas Sharma & Dr. Sushmita Mukherjee