

MPKV HAPPENINGS

April, 2018



48th Annual Group Meeting of Sorghum organized



April 21-23, 2018. The 48th Annual Group Meeting of Sorghum was organized at MPKV, Rahuri in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad. Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture presided over the inaugural function. Dr. I. S. Solanki, ADG (FFC), ICAR, New Delhi was the Chief Guest. Dr. Prabhakar, Project Coordinator of small millets, Bengaluru was the Guest of Honor. Dr. Vilas Tonapi, Director, IIMR, Hyderabad, Dr. J. V. Patil, Associate Dean, PGI, Dr. V. D. Shende, ADR and Dr. A. S. Jadhav, Senior Sorghum Breeder were present on the dais. Dr. Pharande in his presidential address said that the sorghum crop has a lot of scope under changing climatic scenario. Adaptability of this crop to moisture stress is significant. It is a rich source of protein and contains dietic fibre and minerals. Besides it is more responsive crop to additional inputs, he



said. Dr. Solanki in his address said that efforts are required to make the sorghum crop more remunerative and for recapturing the lost area. Consumers demand have to be created for increasing its demand. Awareness on value addition of sorghum is required, he reiterated. Dr. Prabhakar said that there is a lot of scope for increasing the millet area in North-East states. Varieties for food industry can also be given thought. Dr. Patil coined the millets as nutri cereals. He referred to the contribution of MPKV in sorghum research. Dr. Tonapi presented the report. Dr. H. S. Talwar anchored the programme, while, Dr. Jadhav expressed thanks. More than 150 scientists participated in the AGM. Senior retired sorghum and millet scientists were felicitated by Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha in the concluding session.

State level Biosafety Capacity Building Workshop organized



April 13, 2018. A State level Biosafety Capacity Building Workshop was organized by MPKV, Rahuri in coordination with Biotech Consortium of India Limited (BCIL), New Delhi with support from UNEP/GEF supported Phase II Capacity Building Project on Biosafety, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha presided over the inaugural function. Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager, BCIL, New Delhi, Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research, Dr. B. Dineshkumar, Deputy Director, NIN, Hyderabad, Dr. R. W. Bharud, Head, Department of Botany and Dr. A. S. Jadhav, Professor of Botany were present on the dais. Vice Chancellor Dr. Viswanatha in his address stated the developments in molecular biology, biotechnology, genetic engineering for crop improvement. He further said that biosafety measures are needed to be followed while conducting trials. Strict guidelines are needed before testing or release of a variety. The scientists, students and farmers are required to be made aware of biosafety, he said. Dr. Ahuja in her introductory remarks thanked the university for organizing the workshop. Dr. Gadakh gave the welcome remarks. Dr. Pawan Kulwal anchored the programme. Dr. Bharud expressed thanks.



Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti celebrated



April 14, 2018. The Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was celebrated in the university. Dr. Raosaheb Kasbe, noted Marathi writer and Educationist was the Chief Guest for the programme. Dr. K. D. Kokate, Director of Extension Education presided over the programme. In his speech Dr. Kasbe elaborated the situation before the rise of Dr. Ambedkar. He said that Dr. Ambedkar

valued knowledge and wrote many books. He contributed for formulating the Indian constitution. He fought against the ill traditions of the society. He was of the opinion that women should be on par with men and thus gave them the voter rights. Dr. Kokate in his presidential address remembered the thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar for agriculture. Dr. Ambedkar felt that the country could only prosper if the farm, farmers and farm labourers were economically sound, he said. Dr. R. S. Patil, Associate Dean, PGI introduced the Chief Guest. Student Mr. Nilesh Adsule anchored the programme, while, Prof. Sharad Patil proposed thanks. Heads of Departments Dr. S. A. Ranpise, Dr. R. W. Bharud, Dr. S. D. Gorantiwar, Shri. V. B. Jadhav, Dy. Registrar, Admn., staff and students were present on this occasion.

Mahatma Phule Jayanti celebrated



April 11, 2018. The Mahatma Phule Jayanti was celebrated in the university. Noted author Adv. Anant Khalekar was the chief guest on this occasion. Dr. K. D. Kokate, Director, Extension Education presided over the programme. In his address Adv. Khalekar said that Mahatma Phule established the *Satyashodhak Samaj* (Society of Seekers of Truth) to attain equal rights for the deprived masses. Jyotiba and

Savitribai Phule worked for the women's education and felt that literacy in women needed to be increased for progress of the society. Jyotiba himself was a great writer and he preached his thoughts, views through his books. His work extended to many fields including eradication of untouchability and the caste system, women's emancipation and the reform of Hindu family life. Dr. Kokate in his presidential address said that Jyotiba advocated for making primary education compulsory in rural areas. Today women have taken up education and they have progressed in every sphere which is a great contribution



of Mahatma Phule. He also worked for the welfare of farmers. The scientists and students need to keep the role model of Jyotiba for development of agriculture, he opined. Registrar Dr. D. D. Pawar welcomed the dignitaries and introduced the chief guest. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research, Dr. J. V. Patil, Associate Dean, PGI, Dr. R. M. Naik, Vice President, Students Council, staff and students were present on this occasion. Mr. Bukeshwar Godge anchored the programme, while, Prof. S. V. Patil, Student Welfare Officer expressed thanks.



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