

Foundation stone of Halgaon College laid at the hands of Hon'ble Chief Minister



January 1, 2018. The Foundation stone of the newly sanctioned Punyasholk Ahilyadevi Holkar College of Agriculture was laid at Halgaon, Dist. Ahmednagar at the auspicious hands of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri. Devendra Fadnavis. Prof. Shri. Ram Shinde, Hon'ble Minister of Water Conservation and Protocol, M.S. and Guardian Minister, Ahmednagar district presided over the function. Shri. Sadabhau Khot, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Horticulture, M. S., Shri. Dilip Gandhi, Member of Parliament, Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha, Shri. Shivajirao Kardile, MLA, Shri. Mahesh Zagade, Divisional

Commissioner, Nasik, Shri. Abhay Mahajan, District Collector, Ahmednagar, University Directors Dr. K. D. Kokate, Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Registrar Dr. D. D. Pawar, Comptroller Er. Vijay Kote, University Engg. Er. Milind Dhoke, Nodal Officer for Halgaon College Dr. V. D. Shende were present on the dias. Hon'ble Shri. Devendra Fadnavis while addressing the farmers hoped that the new college would serve as a platform to agricultural graduates for acquiring latest knowledge of



agricultural technologies. This in turn would certainly benefit the farmers of the region for increasing the crop yields and ultimately their income. He further emphasized on innovations in agriculture, strengthening the market chain and value addition for sustainable agriculture. He praised the efforts of Minister Prof. Ram Shinde for follow up in establishing this college. Hon'ble Minister Prof. Shri. Ram Shinde in his address said that the Halgaon College is a gift by Hon'ble Chief Minister on eve of the New Year. He said that the infrastructure work of Rs. 65 crore would be started shortly. Hon'ble State Minister Shri. Sadabhau Khot said that the Government has taken steps for the welfare of farmers. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha in his welcome and introductory remarks said that the university is completing fifty years of its establishment and various programmes will be organized to

celebrate the Golden Jubilee. He hoped that the new college would benefit the farmers of the region. Minister Prof. Ram Shinde was felicitated by Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion of his birthday. Shri. Rajendra Tak anchored the programme, while, Shri. Subhash Avhad expressed thanks. Officers and farmers attended the programme in large number.

AVISHKAR 2017 inaugurated at MPKV, Rahuri



January 15, 2018. AVISHKAR 2017, the XIIth Maharashtra State Inter-University Research Convention under the theme Creative Innovations for Skill India was inaugurated at the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri by Dr. Vijay Bhatkar, Chancellor, Nalanda University. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha presided over the function. In his inaugural address Dr. Bhatkar emphasized the importance of knowledge and wisdom which was practised in ancient India. He said that we should ask

these fundamental questions as Who am I?, What is the purpose of my life? We had a very good Gurukul system of education in which the students could ask and solve their problems from the teachers. Now, India will be having the largest educational infrastructure of the world with around 1000 universities. But we need to find a way to the exam oriented education system, he said. Dr. Bhatkar further said that learning should be through simulation and game playing since the future development will be only possible through creativity and innovations. He called for an innovation and creative society. Avishkar is a good platform for the students to practice research and innovations. He said that the world is continuously transforming and unless we invent we cannot compete. He called for new ideas, new inventions and new business models for sustainability since the future belongs to discovery and inventions. Many IT and ICT holders are being attracted towards agriculture. He appealed to the students for creating IT farms, Innovation farms since agriculture has a great future.



Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha in his presidential address said that through this platform the student's research attitude and scientific knowledge will be enhanced for societal development. He hoped for innovative and creative ideas through this platform. The university is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. This university has produced more than one lakh graduates and competent human resources. Further, 257 crop varieties, more than 1500 technology recommendations and pioneer research work in pomegranate, sugarcane,

chickpea, rabi sorghum, vegetables and other crops has accounted a large share in the agricultural development of the state and the country. Appropriate skill development is very much needed for the economic and social growth, he said. Dr. Pramod Pabrekar, Observer from Governor Office in his address put forth the objectives and history of the competition. Dr. K. D. Kokate, Director, Extension Education introduced the Chief Guest. Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, F/A gave the introductory and welcome address. Dr. D. D. Pawar, Registrar proposed vote of thanks. Shri. Premraj Chavan anchored the programme. An Information booklet was released on this occasion. Around 600 students from 20 Universities of Maharashtra are participating in this three day event. The Exhibition was also inaugurated at the hands of Dr. Bhatkar. The students presented their research projects in six different categories viz., Humanities, Languages and Arts, Commerce, Mangement and Law, Science, Agriculture and Dairy, Engineering and Technology and Medicine and Pharmacy. Dr. C. V. Bhusari, Acting Vice Chancellor, Gondwana University, Gadchiroli, Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research, Er. Vijay Kote, Comptroller, Er. Milind Dhoke, University Engineer, Associate Deans Dr. J. V. Patil, Dr. R. S. Patil, Dr. P. A. Turbatmath, Dr. R. M. Naik, Chairman, Sub Organizing Committee, Prof. Sharad Patil, Student Welfare Officer and Organizing Secretary, Dr. A. A. Atre, Co-ordinator, Finance Observer Dr. Vivek Sathe, Observors Shri. Ishwar Moharale, Shri. Prashant Gawande, Shri. Shrikant Patil, Mrs. Anita Ravikumar, staff and students were present on this occasion.

Valedictory programme of AVISHKAR 2017



January 17, 2018. The valedictory programme of AVISHKAR 2017 was held in the presence of Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG (Horticulture and Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha presided over the function. In his chief guest address, Dr. Singh highlighted the significant contribution of MPKV, Rahuri for agriculture development. He praised the university's contribution in pomegranate research and appreciated the Avishkar programme. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha in his

presidential address gave an overview of the Avishkar competition. He said that this type of competition will help the young brains in igniting new ideas and innovations. Dr. K. D. Kokate, Director, Extension Education introduced the chief guest. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research gave the introductory remarks. The students gave their feedback about the organization of the event. Dr. Pramod Pabrekar, Observer also addressed on this occasion and appreciated the university's efforts for successful organization of the mega event. Prizes and trophies were presented to the winners. Mumbai University, Mumbai won the General Championship, while, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune bagged the Runners up trophy. Dr. D. D. Pawar, Registrar proposed vote of thanks, while, Shri. Premraj Chavan anchored the programme.



Rabi Crop Technology Demonstrations organized at MPKV, Rahuri



January 22, 2018. Massive rabi crop technology demonstrations on rabi sorghum, chickpea, wheat and different vegetables have been organized at the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri in collaboration with the State Department of Agriculture. Dr. David Bergvinson, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad was the chief guest for the function organized on this occasion. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha presided over the function. In his

address to the farmers Dr. Bergvinson called for harnessing the mobile and information technology for achieving the potential crop yields. He added that increasing the farmers profitability is a challenge before us. He laid emphasis on demand driven innovations, science and delivery and market accessibility. Farmers need to use modern tools for knowledge management thereby reducing risks in agriculture. Participatory approach along with farm mechanization and diversification is essential, he said. Utilization of nutritious food is required to reduce malnutrition. There is a need to adopt social engineering through Farmer Producer Organizations in collaboration with SAUs and private companies, he said. He praised the university efforts for technology backstopping. Vice Chancellor Dr. Viswanatha in his presidential address reviewed the research accomplishments of MPKV. He said that the university is celebrating its



Golden Jubilee Year. Farmers need to take benefit of new crop varieties and technologies. Farmers are also required to be technosavy for getting agriculture information. He stressed the need for reduction in cost of production especially on labour and fertilizers. Dr. S. P. Wani, Research Program Director, Asia and Director, ICRISAT Development Centre in his address called for three aims i.e. eliminating middleman, monsoon and market for increasing farmers profit. Dr. B. R. Patil, Member, Executive Council cited the role of farm women in agriculture and their involvement in training programmes. Shri. Pandit Lonare, District Supdt. Agriculture Officer and Shri. Bhausahab Barhate, Project Director, ATMA, Ahmednagar also addressed the farmers. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research gave the introductory remarks and briefed about the research achievements of the university. Dr. Ashok Jadhav, Senior Sorghum Breeder welcomed the dignitaries. Farmers Shri. Bhausahab Khaire and Shri. Maruti Gite shared their experiences. Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, F/A, Dr. D. D. Pawar, Registrar, Associate Deans Dr. R. S. Patil, Dr. D. B. Yadav, Shri. Shyam Gattani, President, Custard apple Association, Dr.



V. D. Shende, Associate Director of Research, Shri. Korde and Shri. Deshmukh of Mahabeej and farmers, farm women were present in large number. Dr. B. D. Bhakre anchored the programme, while, Dr. R. W. Bharud expressed thanks. The university crop experts Dr. S. K. Kamble, Dr. V. N. Joshi and Prof. L. B. Mhase guided the farmers. Farmers visited the various rabi crop demonstrations and agriculture exhibition organized on this occasion.

Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha felicitated with Lifetime Achievement Award



January 7, 2018. Dr. K.P. Viswanatha, Vice Chancellor of MPKV, Rahuri has been felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement Award by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar and Krishi Vigyan Freshwater Aquaculture Association for his contribution to agriculture development. Dr. Viswanatha received the award during the National Conference on Improving Income of Farmers through Agriculture and Aquaculture through Development Interventions

organized by Society of Krishi Vigyan at the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar. Padmashri Prof (Dr). Ajay Parida, Director, Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Prof (Dr). Nand Lal, Vice-Chancellor, Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha, Dr W.S. Dhillon, ADG, Horticulture, ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. J. K. Sundaray, Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha were present on this occasion.

National Seminar on Recent Trends in Plant Sciences and Agricultural Research at ZARS, Solapur



January 11-12, 2018. A National Seminar on Recent Trends in Plant Sciences and Agricultural Research was organized at ZARS, Solapur. The function was held under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha and Chief Guest Ku. Praniti Shinde, MLA. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research, Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, F/A, Shri. Namdev Chavan, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Solapur, Krishi Ratna Awardee Shri. Anand Kothadia, Ex-scientists Dr. S. P. Kale and Dr. J. R. Kadam and

Associate Deans, scientists, students were present for the function. In his presidential address Dr. Viswanatha rightly pointed out regarding the use and importance of dryland technologies to the farmers under the changing climatic scenario in the scarcity zone of Maharashtra and domain districts of the university. He focused the need and necessity of agricultural education, agricultural graduates and their active participation in making dryland agriculture as profitable enterprise. Madam Ku. Praniti Shinde, MLA and Chief Guest of the function focused on

the agricultural education and its role to the unemployed youth is very useful. The unemployed youth should be engaged in development and utilization of barren land as well as unutilized reserved land in city area, she said. Dr. S. R. Gadakh cited the use of dryland technologies by the farmers and importance of small scale agril. industries especially nursery management and marketing, food processing units, dairy and poultry farming etc. Dr. A. L. Pharande in his speech opined that the *in situ* moisture conservation technologies developed by ZARS, Solapur are well adopted by the farmers by which their farming income and livelihood has been improved. Dr. V. M. Amrutsagar, Convenor of the Seminar and Chief Scientist and Associate Director of Research, ZARS, Solapur welcomed the dignitaries and invitees. Dr. V. A. Shinde, Organizing Secretary and Associate Professor of Agril. Economics expressed vote of thanks.



Republic Day celebrated



January 26, 2018. The Republic Day was celebrated in the university. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha hoisted the national flag. While addressing the staff and students Dr. Viswanatha highlighted the salient achievements of MPKV in the field of education, research and extension education. He said that, university has released eleven crop varieties, three improved implements and sixty nine recommendations for the farmers last year. The Farmers FIRST programme is also implemented for effective transfer of technology. The university has developed IFS model for sustainable and doubling farmers income. This IFS model will be a role model for the small farmers. Directors Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Associate Deans (LAE) Dr. R. S. Patil, (PGI) Dr. D. B. Yadav, Registrar Dr. D. D. Pawar, Comptroller Er. Vijay Kote, University Engineer Er. M. P. Dhoke, staff, students and employees were present in large number. Mr. Goraksha Shete, Security Officer anchored the programme. The NCC cadets under the guidance of Dr. R. N. Kenghe gave the salute. A Blood Donation Camp was organized at DrASCAE & T on this day. Vice Chancellor inaugurated various development works in the campus.

Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha bestowed with ANULOM SANMITRA Award



January 31, 2018. Vice Chancellor Dr. K.P. Viswanatha has been bestowed with the Anulom Sanmitra Award at the auspicious hands of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri. Devendra Fadnavis in Pune. The award has been instituted by the *Anugami Lokrajya Mahabhiyan* of Pune division. The melawa was inaugurated by Shri. Bhaiyuji Maharaj and Dr. Rajendra Singh, Waterman addressed the gathering. Ministers, Principle Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mayor of Pune

Municipal Corporation, Mayor of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation and eminent personalities were present on this occasion. Vice Chancellor Dr. Viswanatha has a rich experience in education, research and extension education. He has initiated the cleanliness campaign in the university. He has called for Clean University Green University campaign.

Brainstorming Workshop organized



January 12, 2018. A Brainstorming Workshop on Researchable Issues in Agriculture and Avenues for External Funding was organized at MPKV, Rahuri. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha presided over the function. Directors Dr. K. D. Kokate, Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dr. S. R. Gadakh were present on this occasion. The Key note speakers Professor M. Udayakumar, Department of Crop Physiology, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore addressed on Stress adaptation of crops-An Overview. In his presentation he highlighted that abiotic and biotic stresses are the major constraints to realize potential yields. He put forth the concept of Virtual water and water requirement to meet the caloric demand. He discussed on the Rainfed droughtprone situation in India, More crop per drop, Genetic enhancement of desirable traits and its features, Molecular breeding and the present Transgenic scenario. Professor M. Udayakumar presented the topic Quest for Science and Funds-Drives, Discoveries and Innovation for awareness among the scientists and staff



members. Dr. K. V. Prabhu, Jt. Director (Research), IARI, New Delhi presented the topic Combining QTLs for improved drought tolerance in wheat through Marker Assisted Recurrent Selection (MARS). In his presentation Dr. Prabhu discussed about the abiotic stresses in wheat, wheat breeding strategies for drought and heat tolerance, strategies to cope abiotic stresses, MARS and Backcross Breeding etc. He also deliberated on the Avenues for External Funding. Vice Chancellor Dr. Viswanatha urged the scientists and staff to convert patience into passion and go for external funded projects. He hoped that this exercise would certainly benefit the faculty and the need for motivating the young staff. Dr. S. D. Gorantiwar anchored the programme and expressed thanks.

Workshop on Preventing Grain Losses organized at College of Agriculture, Pune



January 29-30, 2018. A regional workshop on Preventing Grain Losses: Scientific Approach was inaugurated at the hands of Vice Chancellor Dr. K.P.Viswanatha at the College of Agriculture, Pune in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and the Entomological Society of India. In his inaugural address, Vice Chancellor Dr. Viswanatha stated that losses to food grains during storage result in more loss of calorific value as compared

with losses in other farm produce and hence, safe grain storage is of utmost importance in maintaining food and nutritional security. He said that even the ten per cent of loss to food grains during storage of the total 275 million tonnes of food grains produced annually within the country is enormous when the time, effort and hard work gone behind the production of these food grains is considered. He hoped that the workshop will be beneficial to students, scientists and personnel engaged in food grain storage to understand and implement modern concepts and practices. Dr. Chitra Shrivastav, Head of the Agril. Entomology Department, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Dr. S. Mohan, Director, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore emphasized on the important role and responsibility that students of agriculture have to play in agriculture, especially safe grain storage. Mr. Raju Parulkar, President, Indian Pest Control Association mentioned that transfer of knowledge and skills regarding grain storage technology is not only limited to the country but is taking the form of a mission, globally. Dr. V.V. Ramamurthy, Chief Secretary, Entomological Society of India and Organizing secretary of the workshop stated that there is large scale unawareness and apathy amongst the farmers regarding important aspects of grain storage like appropriate and safe use of insecticides during storage. Dr. Sattappa Kharbade, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Karad, Dr. Sunil Masalkar, Associate Dean, College of Horticulture, Pune and Dr. Uttam Hole, Head, Dept. of Agril. Entomology were present on this occasion. Mrs. Nirmala Patharwal, Head, Crop Care Federation of India, New Delhi welcomed the dignitaries. Dr. P. N. Rasal, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Pune gave the welcome address. Dr. P. D. Suryawanshi anchored the programme, while Dr. D. D. Pokharkar proposed thanks. Farmers, scientists, officers, representatives of related industries and departments, students were present in large number for the workshop.

Pune Smart City launches cycle service in College of Agriculture, Pune



January 23, 2018. After its successful implementation in Aundh and Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) campus, the Pune Smart City Development Corporation Limited (PSCDCL) launched the public Bicycle Sharing Service pilot project in the College of Agriculture (CoA) on Tuesday. As part of the service, 50 Zoomcar PEDL bicycles will be made available to students at the college campus. On this occasion Vice Chancellor Dr. K.P. Viswanatha said

that this is a great step towards making Pune the city of cycles again, like it was in the 1990s. Mr. Rajendra Jagtap CEO, Pune Smart City appealed to the students that they must take care of public property, taking into account that thousands of students will need these bicycles on a daily basis. He said that after the launch of the bicycle service, the Pune Smart City is planning to launch projects such as biodiversity conservation, e-rickshaws and rooftop solar panels on the SPPU premises. Dr. P. N. Rasal, Associate Dean, staff and students were present on this occasion.

Farmers Rally and Rabi Demonstrations organized at ZARS, Solapur



January 10, 2018. A farmers rally and rabi demonstrations were organized at ZARS, Solapur. While addressing the farmers, Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha emphasized the need for reducing the cost of production. Farm mechanization is another crucial sector which needs to be looked upon. Value addition of fruits and vegetables will certainly bring additional income to the farmers, he said. Directors Dr. K. D. Kokate, Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Dr. Surinkumar Bansal, Indian Potash institute, New Delhi, Shri. Vijaykumar Barbade, PD, ATMA, Solapur, Shri. Pratap Patil, Dy. Director, Dept. of Agriculture, Shri. Prabhakar Chandane, President, Pomegranate Growers Association, Shri. Navnath Kaspate, President, Custard Apple Association, Dr. V. D. Shende, ADR and Heads of Departments were present on this occasion. Dr. V. M. Amrutsagar, Chief Scientist and ADR, ZARS, Solapur welcomed the dignitaries and gave the introductory remarks. The university scientists guided the farmers during the rally. Rabi demonstrations of various dryland crops were organized and farmers, students in large number visited them.

Farmers Exposure visit organized under ICAR FFP



January 20, 2018. A Farmers Exposure visit was organized under the ICAR Farmer FIRST programme. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha and Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director, Extension Education and Director of Research flagged the bus. Vice Chancellor Dr. Viswanatha hoped that the farmers will be benefited through this visit and gave best wishes to the farmers and farm women. Dr. P. B. Kharde, PI, ICAR FFP put forth the objective of organizing the exposure visit. About 40 farmers and farm women from Chinchvihire and Kangar villages visited the fishery farm ponds in Watephal village of Ahmednagar district. They shared their experiences with other farmers who are practicing fishery since last three years. Further, they visited Ralegan Siddhi where they were very much impressed by the work of Padmashri Shri. Anna Hazare. The team also visited the model village Hivre Bazar, where they could observe the Panchasutri and watershed models under the guidance of Shri. Popatrao Pawar. The visit was guided by Co-PIs Dr. S. S. Sadaphal, Dr. B. A. Deshmukh, SRF Shri. Vijay Shedge, Field Assistants Shri. Magar and Shri. Gaikwad.

Meetings organized in January-2018



Jan. 5, 2018. The XVth Extension Education Council (EEC) meeting was organized on 5th January, 2018 under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.P. Viswanatha at MPKV, Rahuri. Hon'ble Members and Former Directors, Zonal Project Directorates Dr. S. Prabhukumar and Dr. A. M. Narula, Progressive farmers Shri. Narendra Patil and Shri. Rajaram Chaudhary gave valuable suggestions during the meeting.



Jan. 9, 2018. The XVIth meeting of Council for Co-ordination and Review of Seed Production and Agricultural Development Programme was held on 9th January, 2018 at Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.P. Viswanatha. Hon'ble Members and Invitees Dr. H. K. Kausadikar, Director of Research, MCAER, Pune, Shri. V. M. Hiremath, Dy. Director, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Pune, Dr. C. K. Deshmukh, District Manager, Mahabeej, Ahmednagar, Shri. Y. C. Korde,

Divisional Seed Certification Officer and Shri. Bhagwat Lambe, Regional Manager, MAIDC, Nasik offered suggestions during the meeting.



Jan. 13, 2018. The XXth meeting of Agriculture Research Council was held on 13th January, 2018 at MPKV, Rahuri under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.P. Viswanatha. Hon'ble Members and Invitees Dr. R.B. Deshmukh, Former Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri, Dr. V. M. Mayande, Former Vice Chancellor, Dr.PDKV, Akola, Dr. S. Lingappa, Former Director of Research, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. M. R. Dinesh, Director, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Dr. K. V. Prabhu, Jt. Director (Research), IARI, New Delhi, Dr. Dattaprasad

Waskar, Director of Research, VNMKV, Parbhani Dr. A. V. Solanke, Sugarcane Specialist, CSRS, Padegaon were present for the meeting.



Publisher : Dr. K. D. Kokate, Director of Extension Education

Editors : Dr. P. B. Kharde, Officer Incharge, Communication Centre
Dr. S. S. Sadaphal, J.R.A., Communication Centre