

Ranking of SAUs: MPKV ranked 24th in the country and 1st in Maharashtra



July 18, 2019. The Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri has been ranked at the 24th position in the country and ranked first position in Maharashtra as per the rankings of sixty SAUs declared by the ICAR, New Delhi for the year 2018. Earlier in 2017, MPKV, Rahuri was ranked at 34th position in the country. The university's efforts in quality education, research and extension education activities for the past year under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha ably supported by Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education resulted in elevating this ranking ladder by ten positions. There was valuable contribution from the Registrar Shri. Sopan Kasar, Comptroller Shri. Vijay Kote, University Engineer Shri. Milind Dhoke and Nodal Officer for ICAR Dr. Milind Ahire in preparation of the Ranking Report of the university. The other SAUs of the state include DrBSSKV, Dapoli ranked at 32nd position, VNMAU, Parbhani at 45th position and DrPDKV, Akola ranked at 48th position in the country. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha acknowledged the efforts of all officers, scientists, staff and students for this achievement and hoped for future improvement in the ranking.

Vice Chancellor greets the new Agriculture Minister of Maharashtra



July 3, 2019. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha met the new Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture of Maharashtra State, Dr. Anil Bonde in his office at Mantralaya, Mumbai. Dr. K. P. Viswanatha greeted the Hon'ble Minister Dr. Bonde, briefed him about the University activities and handed him the University publications.



Vanmahotsov and Krishi Din celebrated



July 8, 2019. *Vanmahotsov* and *Krishi Din* programme was organized at the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri to celebrate the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister of Maharashtra late Vasantrao Naik. Dr. K. P. Viswanatha, Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri presided over the function. Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education, Shri. Fasiuddin Shaikh, Tahsildar, Rahuri, Shri. Milind Dhoke, University Engineer, Associate Deans Dr. P. A. Turbatmath, Dr. S. A. Ranpise, Dr. V. D. Shende, Nodal Officer, Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar College of Agriculture, Halgaon and Shri. Devkhile, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Ahmednagar were present on the dais. Vice Chancellor Dr. Viswanatha in his presidential address recollected the contribution of late Vasantrao Naik, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra in the agricultural development of the state. He said that today we are also celebrating the festival of forests. He said that we are experiencing the climate change due to global warming and it is the human negligence responsible for imbalance of nature. The Government is taking efforts for planting trees and we all must give our share for the planting and survival of trees. Trees are needed for good environment, reducing carbon dioxide and carbon sequestration. MPKV is taking a lead in clean and green campus and also plastic free campus, he said. Dr. Gadakh in his welcome and introductory remarks briefed about the tree plantation programme. Shri. Shaikh appreciated the tree plantation drive of the university. Shri. Devkhile informed about the Government's tree plantation programme in Ahmednagar district. Dr. R. S. Wagh gave a presentation on how to plant the saplings in a scientific way. The new version of updated and informative website of MPKV was launched at the hands of Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha during the programme. Dr. S. D. Gorantiwar briefed about the new website. Dr. B. D. Bhakre anchored the programme, while, Dr. A. V. Solanke expressed vote of thanks. Later after this programme tree plantation was done at various sites in presence of Shri. Rahul Dviwedi, District Collector, Ahmednagar, Shri. Adarsha Reddy, District Conservator of Forests, Ahmednagar and Mrs. Kirti Jamdhade, District Forest Officer, Ahmednagar. The university staff and students planted trees at the central campus. These include neem, jamun, mango, bamboo, karanj, aonla, hirda, behada, kagzi lime and various medicinal and forest plants.

Statelevel meeting on Zero Budget Farming organized at Pune



July 13, 2019. A one day statelevel meeting on the concept of Zero Budget Farming as proposed by the Central Government was organized at College of Horticulture, Pune. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha presided over the meeting. Vice Chancellors of SAUs Dr. V. M. Bhale (DrPKV, Akola), Dr. A. S. Dhavan (VNMAU, Parbhani) and Dr. S. D. Sawant (DrBSKKV, Dapoli) alongwith Dr. M. C. Varshney, Former Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand and

Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Prof. Nathaji Chaugule, Member, Executive Council, Directors of all SAUs, Dr. P. N. Rasal, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Pune, Dr. S. D. Masalkar, Principal, College of Horticulture, Pune and progressive farmers of the state were present for the meeting. In his presidential address Vice Chancellor Dr. Viswanatha said that already the organic farming was practiced by the farmers before independence and green revolution. But owing to the increased population and more demand farmers have gone for inorganic farming. The SAUs have recommended a balance between organic and chemical inputs for farming. The SAUs have already been conducting research on organic farming which we need to expedite, he said. The Vice Chancellors of SAUs, Directors and progressive farmers took part in the discussion. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research gave the introductory remarks. Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture proposed thanks. Dr. S. B. Shinde, Professor of Agril. Extension anchored the programme.

Vice Chancellor's Live Programme on DD, Sahyadri



July 25, 2019. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha participated in a *Krishi Darshan* live phone in programme telecasted on Sahyadri channel of Mumbai Doordarshan. In this programme he answered the farmers queries. He also briefed on the educational, research and extension education achievements of MPKV. Dr. Viswanatha informed about the university's impact of selected crop varieties on the economy of farmers. He narrated the contribution of MPKV in the agricultural development of the state. Shri. Vinaykumar Awate, DSAO, Pune anchored the programme.

Workshop on Soil Health and Land Use Planning for Climate Smart Agriculture organized under CAAST project



July 4-5, 2019. A workshop on Soil Health and Land Use Planning for Climate Smart Agriculture was organized by the CAAST-CSAWM project at MPKV, Rahuri. Dr. V. S. Tomar, Vice Chancellor, JNKVV, Jabalpur was the Chief Guest for the function. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha presided the programme. Dr. S. K. Chaudhary, Assistant Director General (S&WM), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. S. R.

Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education, Dr. P. A. Turbatmath, Associate Dean, PGI, Dr. S. A. Ranpise, Associate Dean, LAE, Dr. S. D. Gorantiwar, PI, CAAST-CSAWM, Dr. M. G. Shinde, Co-PI, CAAST-CSAWM were present on this occasion. Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha while speaking on this occasion emphasized on the soil organic carbon. He also mentioned that people should be aware about compost making from biodegradable waste and plastic waste should be used for biofuel production. Dr. Tomar spoke on recent technologies for soil health improvement under climate smart agriculture He addressed the soil health for climate smart resilient agriculture. Dr. Chaudhary laid emphasis on soil and water quality management for climate smart agriculture. Dr. S. D. Gorantiwar, PI, CAAST-CSAWM explained the preamble of project. Dr. B. D. Bhakre, Senior Scientist, IWM welcomed the participants. Dr. S. D. Thorat and Dr. Mangal Patil anchored the programme, while, Dr. M. G. Shinde proposed the vote of thanks. Heads of Departments, scientists, staff and students were present on this occasion.

International Symposium on Strategizing Education and Innovations in Robotics, Drones and IoTs for Climate Smart Agriculture organized



July 23-25, 2019. An International Symposium on Strategizing Education and Innovations in Robotics, Drones and IoTs for Climate Smart Agriculture was organized by CAAST-CSAWM project, MPKV, Rahuri. Dr. Gajendra Singh, Former Deputy Director General (Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the symposium. The function was presided over by Vice Chancellor Dr. K. P. Viswanatha. Dr. Singh in his address mentioned the advanced technologies like drone, robotics, IoT for increasing agricultural

production. Dr. Agrawal emphasized on technology exposure especially to the students for attaining research of international level. Dr. Ghosh highlighted the use of protected cultivation. Dr. Rastogi hoped for creating awareness of these technologies among the farmers. Dr. Viswanatha called for utilization of mobile apps for advanced agriculture. Dr. S. M. Nalawade, Organizing Secretary and Head, Dept. of FMPE,

MPKV, Rahuri, introduced all the delegates and participants and provided an overview of the International Symposium. Dr. S. D. Goarantiwar, Principal Investigator, CAAST–CSAWM, MPKV, Rahuri gave a preamble on CAAST mentioning importance of Robotics, UAVs, IoTs in CSAWM with special emphasis on capacity building of the faculty, students and farmers. For this symposium distinguished delegates from industry and academic were present. Special guest was Dr. R.C. Agrawal, National Director, NAHEP, ICAR, New Delhi and guest of honor Dr. P.K. Ghosh, National Coordinator, CAAST, NAHEP, New Delhi, Shri. V. C. Rastogi, IAS, Project Director, POCRA, Dr. Prabhat Kumar, convener and Coordinator, CAAST, 2A Component-NAHEP, New Delhi, Dr.V.K Tewari, Professor, IIT, Kharagpur, Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research, MPKV, Rahuri, Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, MPKV, Rahuri were present.

Training on Linux Programming organized under CAAST project



July 1-3, 2019. A training programme on Linux programming was organized by CAAST-CSAWM, MPKV, Rahuri. The programme started with the inaugural function chaired by Dr. A.L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture. Dr. S. D. Gorantiwar, PI, Dr. M.G. Shinde, Co-PI, Dr. S. M. Nalawade, CAAST-CSAWM member, Dr. B. K. Gavit, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering and experts were present for the function.

Dr. Pharande in his presidential address briefed about the importance of technologies and their applications in developing the climate smart agriculture. Dr. Gorantiwar gave the introductory remarks. Dr. S. K. Dingre, Organizing secretary welcomed and introduced the guest. Er. Prasad Kalane, Er. Suraj Gayke and Er. Nikhil Dhamdhare, Application Engineer, Anubhuti Research and Development Centre, Pune, Er. Tushar Kute, Researcher, MITU Skillologies, Pune and students trainees were present. Er. Mangal Patil, Research Associate (IDE) anchored the programme, while, Dr. Shinde expressed vote of thanks.

Training Programme on Vermicompost production and Silage making organized under ICAR Farmer FIRST prog.

July 9, 2019. A Training Programme on Vermicompost production and Silage making was organized at the Integrated Farming System project of MPKV, Rahuri under the ICAR Farmer FIRST programme. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education inaugurated the programme. Dr. Prahlad Pogle, Director, Horticulture, M. S., Dr. A. V. Solanke, Head, Department of Agronomy, Shri. Hasanabade, PD, NHM, Dr. P. B. Kharde, PI, ICAR FFP, Dr. U. S. Surve, Principle Scientist, IFS project were present on the dais. Dr. Gadakh in his presidential address highlighted the importance of integrated farming system for sustainable income to the farmers. He hoped that the vermicompost production and silage making are new opportunities for the rural youth to enrich the soil and also earn from these enterprises. Use of vermicompost is essential for organic farming, he added. Dr. Gadakh further hoped for expanding the IFS model developed by the university to the end users. Dr. Pogle while addressing the trainees called for adoption of IFS model for



minimizing the risk in monocropping. The IFS components would certainly strengthen the farmers economic condition, he hoped. Dr. Kharde in his welcome and introductory remarks briefed about the outcomes and activities of the ICAR FF project. University scientists Dr. Ulhas Surve, Dr. Mahendra Mote and Dr. Sunil Adangale guided on IFS model, vermicompost production and silage making along with demonstrations during the one day training programme. Dr. B. A. Deshmukh, Co-PI anchored the programme, while, Dr. S. S. Sadaphal, Co-PI expressed vote of thanks. Vermicompost and silage bags were distributed to the trainees. Fifty participant farmers and farm women of Chinchvihire and Kangar villages participated in this training programme. Shri. Vijay Shedge, SRF, Shri. Kiran Magar, Field Asstt. and Shri. Amol Gaikwad, Field Asstt. took efforts in organizing the programme.

Visit of Director of Research and Extension Education to ICAR Farmer FIRST villages



July 19, 2019. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education, MPKV, Rahuri visited the ICAR Farmer FIRST villages viz., Chinchvihire and Kangar. He visited the PKV Mini Dal Mill unit run by a women Self Help Group in Chinchvihire village. This SHG is engaged in processing of dal. Later on he visited the Integrated Farming System model of participant farmer Shri. Dilip Nalkar. He visited the bajra-*Adishakti* variety and red gram-*Phule Rajeshwari* variety crop demonstration plots and also the dairy unit, goat rearing and backyard poultry. Dr. Gadakh then visited the red gram demonstration of Shri. Bapusaheb Shete and pomegranate orchard (*Bhagwa* variety) of participant farmer Shri. Sunil Walke of Chinchvihire village. Thereafter, he visited the loose housing system of cattle of Shri. Bhaskar Shete, goat rearing unit of Shri. Rajendra Warghude, bajra demonstration and backyard poultry unit of Shri. Raosaheb Gade in Kangar

village. Dr. Gadakh interacted with the farmers and gave valuable suggestions. Dr. P. B. Kharde, PI briefed about the project activities. Dr. Y. G. Fulpagare, Head, Department of Animal Science and Dairy Science also accompanied Dr. Gadakh during the visit. Dr. S. S. Sadaphal, Co-PI proposed thanks.

Workshop on Village Level Crop Contingency Plan organized at village Shenit



July 9, 2019. A workshop on village level crop contingency plan was organized at village Shenit, Tal. Akole by CAAST-CSAWM project, MPKV, Rahuri. Dr. R. P. Andhale, Associate Professor presented the MPKV developed crop contingency plan. Dr. N. V. Kashid, Officer Incharge, ARS, Vadgaon Maval guided the farmers about rice crop and its management, Dr. R. D. Nigade guided on finger millet crop management with new varieties, pest management in finger millet, Dr. M. G. Shinde, Co-PI

discussed with farmers about water harvesting and water storage, farmpond construction, water management techniques, Dr. V. E. Narwade briefed the livestock diseases management, vaccination schedule, fodder management, silage preparation, milk production, sheep and goat production, poultry management etc. Dr. S. D. Mandakmale informed to the participants about livestock management, artificial insemination, care and maintenance of local breeds. Dr. A. A. Atre Head, Department of Soil Water and Conservation guided farmers on different soil and water conservation practices, CCT, watershed management, farmponds and importance of tree plantation, Dr. S. S. Kaushik, Senior Scientist, KVK, Dahegaon-ne suggested different contingency measures like seed treatment before sowing, weed control, soil solarization, mulching, nursery management, pest and disease management in major crops in Akole village cluster. The overall workshop was coordinated by Dr. S. G. Kanade, Research Associate (Agromet) and Dr. S. S. Misal, Research Associate (Agromet), CAAST-CSAWM project, MPKV, Rahuri.

Exposure visit of ICAR Farmer FIRST programme organized



July 25, 2019. A one day exposure visit of ICAR Farmer FIRST prog. participant farmers and farm women was organized to KVK, Babhaleshwar and various vermicompost, goat rearing units at Kolhar, Khandala villages of Rahata taluka and Devgad, Punatgaon villages of Newasa taluka. Dr. P. B. Kharde, PI and Co-PIs



Dr. A. G. Durgude, Dr. B. A. Deshmukh, Dr. S. S. Sadaphal and Dr. R. G. Nimse participated in the visit and guided the participants. At the outset Dr. Kharde briefed about the objectives of the activity. Dr. Durgude flagged the visit. The farmers and scientists first visited the vermicompost unit of young entrepreneur farmer Shri. Sanjay Raut of Kolhar village. Shri. Raut narrated his experiences on vermicompost production and its marketing. The farmers were informed of his low cost vermicompost technology and learnt its scientific hints of production and packaging. Later on they visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Babhaleshwar. The farmers visited the Egg Incubator unit. The Head of KVK Dr. Sambhaji Nalkar and his associates Shri. Sunil Borude and Dr. Vitthal Vikhe interacted with the farmers. Thereafter, the team visited a successful goat rearing unit of Shri. Chandrakant Mundhe of Khandala village. They were abreast of goat breeds, feeding management, vaccination and marketing. The farmers later on visited the silage making unit of Shri. Bapusaheb Pawar of Punatgaon village. A demonstration was organized on silage packing on his farm. Finally the farmers visited a dairy unit and vermicompost unit of Dr. Bhaskar at Devgad village. He explained the importance of loose housing system of dairy animals and vermicompost production as an enterprise for rural youth. Thirty participant farmers and farm women from ICAR FFP villages of Chinchvihire and Kangar participated in the exposure visit. The visit was organized with the efforts of ICAR FFP team Shri. Vijay Shedge, Shri. Kiran Magar and Shri. Amol Gaikwad.

Workshop on Protected cultivation technology organized under CAAST project



July 15-19, 2019. A five days Workshop programme on Protected cultivation technology was organized by CAAST-CSAWM project, MPKV, Rahuri at Sub Campus, College of Agriculture, Pune. The programme was inaugurated by the organizing secretary Dr. J. S. Pachpute, Co-PI, Sub Campus, CAAST-CSAWM, COA, Pune, Dr. S. B. Shinde, Professor of Agril. Extension presided over the inaugural session, while, Dr. R. K. Agrawal, Dy. Director (NHB), Ministry of Agriculture, New

Delhi was the Chief Guest. Dr. J. S. Pachpute gave a preamble on CAAST mentioning importance of Protected cultivation technology with special emphasis on capacity building of the faculty, students and farmers. Total forty participants including students and faculty participated in the programme.

New appointments

July 19, 2019. The following new appointments have been made at MPKV, Rahuri after the selection by Maharashtra Agricultural Universities Recruitment Board of MCAER, Pune.

- Dr. S. D. Gorantiwar, Head, Department of Agril. Engineering
- Dr. B. D. Bhakre, Head, Department of Soil Science and Agriculture Chemistry
- Dr. U. D. Chavan, Head, Department of Food Science and Technology
- Dr. C. S. Patil, Head, Department of Agril. Entomology
- Dr. T. K. Narute, Head, Department of Plant Pathology
- Dr. R. M. Naik, Professor of Biochemistry
- Dr. M. S. Mane, Professor of Inter-faculty Department of Irrigation Water Management
- Dr. S. B. Nandgude, Professor of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering
- Dr. S. B. Swami, Professor of Agricultural Process Engineering



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