

## Republic Day celebrated



January 26, 2021. The country's 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day was enthusiastically celebrated in the university. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan hoisted the national flag. While addressing the staff Dr. Dhawan said that MPKV has contributed significantly to the food security of the nation. The university has developed and released more than 255 varieties of crops, fruits, vegetables and flowers, 36 improved implements and more than 1500 technology recommendations for the benefit of farmers. The university has an immense share of income to farmers through its major varieties as per the impact analysis, he said. Incubation centres will have to be started for developing entrepreneurship qualities in the students. Registrar Shri. Mohan Wagh gave the oath of constitution on this occasion. Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. S. R. Gadakh,



Director of Research and Extension Education, Registrar Shri. Mohan Wagh, Comptroller Er. Vijay Kote, University Engineer Er. M. P. Dhoke, Associate Deans Dr. D. D. Pawar, Dr. P. N. Rasal, Dr. S. A. Ranpise, Dr. M. C. Ahire, Chief Scientist (Seed) Dr. A. V. Solanke, Heads of Departments, staff and employees were present in large number. Prof. Sunil Fulsawange, Security Officer anchored the programme. The security personnel gave the salute. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan inaugurated the SMART Digital Classroom in Post Graduate Institute building.



## Ganeshkhind Botanical Garden declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site

January 5, 2021. The Ganeshkhind Botanical Garden of Zonal Agricultural Research Station located at Pune under MPKV, Rahuri has been declared as the Biodiversity Heritage Site by Government of Maharashtra. The



Ganeshkhind Botanical Garden, one of the oldest premier Horticultural Institution of India originated back to the Pre-British period between 1796-1818, when Bajirao Peshwa planted large number of mango trees on the bank of Mula river has been declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site by Government of Maharashtra considering its biological and historical value. Large diversity as regards to wild and medicinal plants, fungi, microbes, insects, mammals, reptile and birds does exist in flora and fauna at Ganeshkhind, Pune. Dr. Vinay Supe, Associate Director of Research, ZARS, Ganeshkhind said that this declaration will help to conserve the existing biodiversity as well as plant new rare species. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture Dr. A. L. Pharande, Director of Research Dr. S. R. Gadakh and Registrar Shri. Mohan Wagh expressed happiness and satisfaction.

**Vice Chancellor Dr Ashok Dhawan visited Research Stations**



January 11-12-27, 2021. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan visited various Research Stations of the university. Dr. Dhawan visited Agriculture Research Station, Niphad, Dist. Nasik. Dr. S. S. Dodke, Wheat Specialist welcomed him and briefed about the significant achievements of the centre including the varieties, technologies of wheat. Visit to research trials of the centre was also organized. Scientists of the station were present on this occasion.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan visited the Onion and Grapes Research Station, Pimpalgaon Baswant, Dist. Nasik. Dr. J. K. Dhemre, Officer Incharge of the station welcomed him and presented the achievements of the station. Dr. D. V. Kusalkar, Associate Director of Research, ZARS, Igatpuri, Dr. S. S.



Dodke, Wheat Specialist, ARS, Niphad and scientists were present during the visit.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan visited the Zonal Agricultural Research Station, Igatpuri, Dist. Nasik. Dr. D. V. Kusalkar, Associate Director of Research, ZARS, Igatpuri welcomed him. He briefed about the achievements of the station. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan also visited the various Research Projects at Central Campus, Rahuri.

### Online training programme on summer soybean seed production organized



January 12, 2021. An online training programme on summer soybean seed production for the member farmers of Farmers-Scientists Forum was organized by the university in coordination with MAHABEEJ and State Department of Agriculture. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education presided over the meeting. Shri. R. C. Joshi, District Manager, MAHABEEJ, Ahmednagar, Shri. Philip Desouza, Zonal Seed Certification Officer, Shri. Vilas Nalage, Deputy Director. Agriculture, Ahmednagar,

Prof. M. M. Desai, Manager, ATIC and Dr. Milind Deshmukh, Soybean Breeder, ARS, Kasbe Digras, Sangli were present in online mode. In his address Dr. Gadakh said that the summer soybean seed production programme will meet the increasing demand of soybean seed of farmers for kharif season. Besides the incidence of pests, diseases would be at minimum level during summer season. The coordination of all agencies would certainly make this summer soybean seed production programme successful, he hoped. Prof. Desai welcomed and gave the introductory remarks. Shri. Joshi said that farmers would get an additional 25 per cent more market rate for their seed. Dr. Deshmukh guided the farmers on soybean seed production technology. Progressive farmers Krishibhushan Shri. Machindra Gholap and Shri. Bhausahab Nawale expressed their opinion. Dr. Sunil Adangale anchored the programme, while, Dr. G. K. Waman proposed thanks.

### Cleanliness Campaign at central campus



January 26, 2021. A Cleanliness Campaign was launched at central campus, Rahuri on the occasion of Republic Day under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan. Registrar Shri. Mohan Wagh initiated the Cleanliness drive at Sharad colony. He said that the cleanliness campaign would help to make the surrounding clean, neat and a secured one. Mrs. Vaishali Wagh and staff members participated in this campaign in large number. The play grounds, gymkhana and the

residential campus are now having a new look after this cleanliness drive.

### MPKV Agriculture Calendar-2021 released

January 25, 2021. The MPKV Agriculture Calendar-2021 was released at the auspicious hands of Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan. Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education, Registrar Shri. Mohan Wagh, Comptroller Er. Vijay Kote, University Engineer Er. M. P. Dhoke and Officer Incharge, Communication Centre Dr. P. B.



Kharde were present on this occasion. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan hoped that the monthly calendar which comprises of agriculture related information would be helpful to the farmers. It would also be helpful to the students and extension personnel as well, he said.

### **Rabi Kisan Mela organized at KVK, Mohol**



January 19, 2021. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mohol, Dist. Solapur organized a *Rabi Kisan Mela* in collaboration with Crop Care Federation of India, New Delhi for the farmers in the jurisdiction. Mrs. Nirmala Patharwal, Executive Director, Crop Care Federation of India, New Delhi was present as Chief Guest and Dr. T. R. Walkunde, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Mohol chaired the function. Dr. V. R. Patil, Incharge Officer, ARS, Mohol, Dr. Nitin Thodsare, UPL Pvt. Ltd., Osmanabad, Shri. Sampat Kanthale, Agriculture Officer, Mohol were present. Field visit to rabi crop cafeteria was organized and farmers were guided on new crop varieties, crop recommendations etc. The safety kits were distributed to the participant farmers by UPL Pvt. Ltd. The KVK Subject Matter Specialists Shri. D. N. Kshirsagar (FST), Dr. S. G. Jadhav (Agro.) and Dr. P. N. Madavi (Plant Prot.) guided the farmers during the programme.

### **Interaction Meeting with News Reporters organized at KVK, Mohol**



January 6, 2021. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mohol, Dist. Solapur conducted Interaction Meeting with News Reporters of Solapur District on the occasion of *Marathi Patrakar Din*. During this event the role, mandates and extension activities conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mohol and future line of work for effective information dissemination was discussed. A field visit to rabi crop cafeteria was organized and guided on new crop varieties, bio-fortified crop varieties, nutrition garden, fodder crops and crop production technologies, major pests and diseases and crop recommendations. Thirty three reporters participated in the event.

## CAAST-CSAWM programme activities

The Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST) on Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management (CSAWM), MPKV, Rahuri had organized various need based online training programmes for the farmers, students and scientists, faculty during the lockdown period in view of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic situation.

### Brainstorming Workshop Panel Discussion on Drought Early Warning System organized



January 13, 2021. A Brainstorming Workshop Panel Discussion on Drought Early Warning System was organized by Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST) for Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management (CSAWM), MPKV, Rahuri. The draft framework developed for drought early warning system was presented before the expert panelists to seek their guidance followed by the discussion with the members of different organizations. Dr. Rakesh Chandra Agarwal,

National Director (ICAR-NAHEP) and DDG (Education), ICAR, New Delhi was the chief guest for this workshop. Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Dhawan presided over the workshop. For this workshop Dr. M. C. Varshneya, Former Vice Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Anand and Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Dr. R. B. Deshmukh, former Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri, Dr. V.M. Mayande, Former Vice Chancellor, Dr. PDKV, Akola, Dr. B. Venkateswaralu, Former Vice Chancellor, VNMAU, Parbhani, Shri. Vikas Chandra Rastogi (IAS), Project Director, PoCRA, Mumbai, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Prabhakar Deshmukh, Retired IAS Officer and Former Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, Dr. N. Chattopadhyay, Former DDG (Agricultural Meteorology), IMD and President, International Society of Agricultural Meteorology, Dr. Y. V. N. Krishna Murthy, Former Director (NRSC), Scientific Secretary, ISRO and Registrar, Indian Space Agency, Science and Technology, Trivandrum were present for the panel discussion. Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education welcomed all. Mr. Suhas Joshi, Head (Sustainable Development), Bayer Group of India, Mumbai introduced the Drought Action Plan Project. Workshop Co-convenor, PI, CAAST-CSAWM and Head, Department of Agricultural Engineering, MPKV, Rahuri Dr. S. D. Gorantiwar gave a presentation on conceptual framework of Drought Early Warning System.

Dr. Agarwal, in his address mentioned that the aspects selected by MPKV for Drought Early Warning System are very important and an important component of National Agriculture Higher Education Project as well as a national priority. Accurate and reliable weather information for the development of a drought early warning system is very important. Also, accurate predictions are important when making real-time forecasts using available weather information. It is of interest to see how the available public estimates will be more accurate and how it will benefit farmers. There is also a need to impart training in marketing to the students in the field of agriculture and accordingly an action plan needs to be formulated so that the students can participate in other institutions. Dr. M. G. Shinde, Co-PI, CAAST-CSAWM, thanked the dignitaries present on the occasion through online mode. Mr. Sarang Nerkar, Founder, Inosepian Agro-Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai and Research Associates Dr. Vaibhav Malunekar and Dr. Snehal Kanade coordinated the workshop.

## Interactive Session on Drought Action Network at Baramati



January 18, 2021. Drought Action Network (DAN) is being developed as a consortium of government institutions and non-governmental organizations in India for addressing the issues of drought by developing drought early warning system. The DAN is an effort towards focusing all the institutional energies towards finding scientific solutions for drought prevention and mitigation in India. The CAAST-CSAWM has developed collaboration with National and International organizations to support

the different extension, education and research activities of CAAST-CSAWM and Innosapien Agro-Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai is one of the partners of CAAST-CSAWM project. Innosapien Agro-Technologies Pvt. Ltd. along with different ICAR institutions, Bayer Group of India, Mumbai and Agricultural Development Trust, Baramati is collaborating with CAAST-CSAWM, MPKV Rahuri for the development of Drought Action Network (DAN).

Drought Action Network (DAN) which was launched during Krushik 2020 in KVK Baramati has been progressing well especially in the areas of setting up the Drought Early Warning System and better understanding the demand and supply side of water, achieving water efficiencies in major crops like sugarcane and rice. As part of its ongoing activities, the DAN team has been involved in conversations with various stakeholders/institutions to help for developing a state-of-the-art for Drought Early Warning System with experts, academicians and other industry partners working in Maharashtra. With this context an Interactive session was organized during the Krushik 2021 at Baramati for discussion on drought early warning system and other projects of DAN.

The interactive session was held in presence of Shri. Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Government of India, Mrs. Supriya Sule, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Government of India, Shri. Ajit Pawar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Dadaji Bhuse, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Jayant Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources and Command Area Development, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Shankarrao Gadakh, Hon'ble Minister of Soil and Water Conservation, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Dattatray Bharné, Hon'ble Minister of State for Soil and Water Conservation, Government of Maharashtra, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Hon'ble Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, Shri. Rajendra Pawar, Hon'ble Chairman, Agricultural Development Trust, Baramati, Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, MPKV, Rahuri and Dr. S. R. Gadakh, Director of Research and Extension Education, MPKV, Rahuri.

### **Farmers training programme on Onion Crop Production Technology and Precision Irrigation Management organized at Buchkewadi village**

January 29, 2021. A one day farmers training on Onion Crop Production Technology and Precision Irrigation Management was organized by CAAST-CSAWM, MPKV, Rahuri at Buchkewadi village, Tal. Junnar, Dist. Pune. The Organizing Secretary of this training programme was Dr. M. C. Ahire, Associate Dean, Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar College of Agriculture, Halgaon and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, while, Dr. S. S. Sadaphal, Assistant Professor of Agril. Extension was the joint organizing secretary. Experts Dr. Dattatraya Gavade and Mr. Bharat Temkar, SMSs of KVK, Narayangaon and Er. Chakradhar Borkute, Director, e-innovative, Pune guided the farmers. Total 37 farmers participated in this training programme. Research Associates Dr. Shubhangi Ghadge and Dr. Sevak Dhenge coordinated the programme. Dr. Dhenge anchored the programme, while, Dr. Ghadge expressed thanks.

## Demonstration on collection of soil samples from orchard organized at Buchkewadi village



January 29, 2021. The Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST) for Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management (CSAWM), MPKV, Rahuri under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) of ICAR had organized demonstration on Collection of soil samples from orchard at Buchkewadi village, Tal. Junnar, Dist. Pune. In this programme Research Associates Dr. Nilam Kondvilkar, Dr. Anjali Musmade, Dr. Shubhangi Ghadge and Dr. Sevak Dhenge, Dr. Dattatraya Gavade and Mr. Bharat

Temkar, SMSs of KVK, Narayangaon, Mr. Suresh Gaikwad, Deputy Sarpanch of Buchkewadi and farmers of Buchkewadi village were present. Dr. Kondvilkar demonstrated the method of soil sampling for fruit orchards, ideal depth and time of soil sampling and further procedure of labelling, details of farmer and sending to laboratory for analysis. Overall, the demonstration was very useful and informative to the farmers.

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