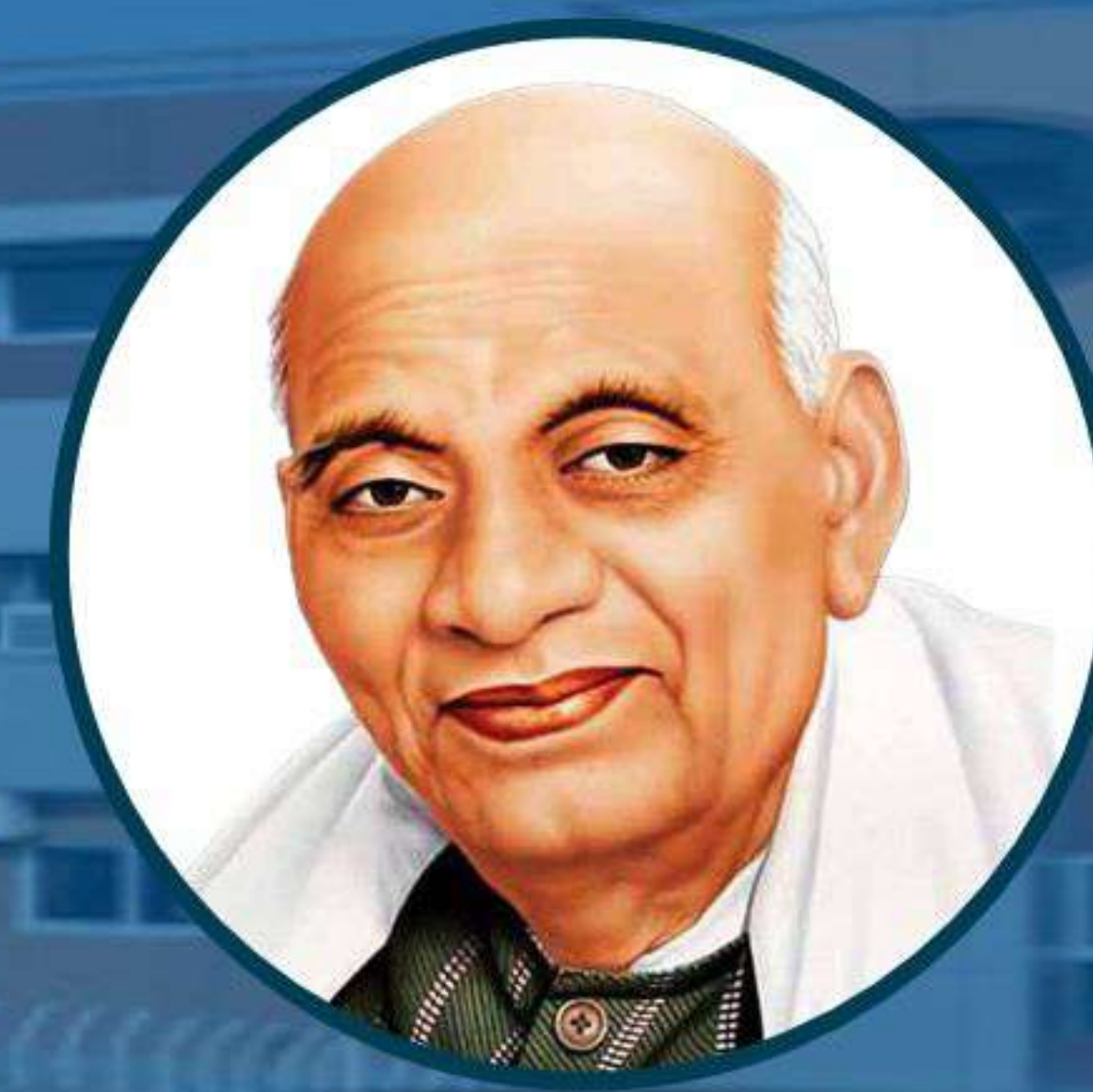




JUNAGADH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Newsletter



Number: 78 (Quarterly)

January-March, 2025

Sukla Paksh Pausa to Sukla Paksh Chaitra, Vikram Samvat 2081

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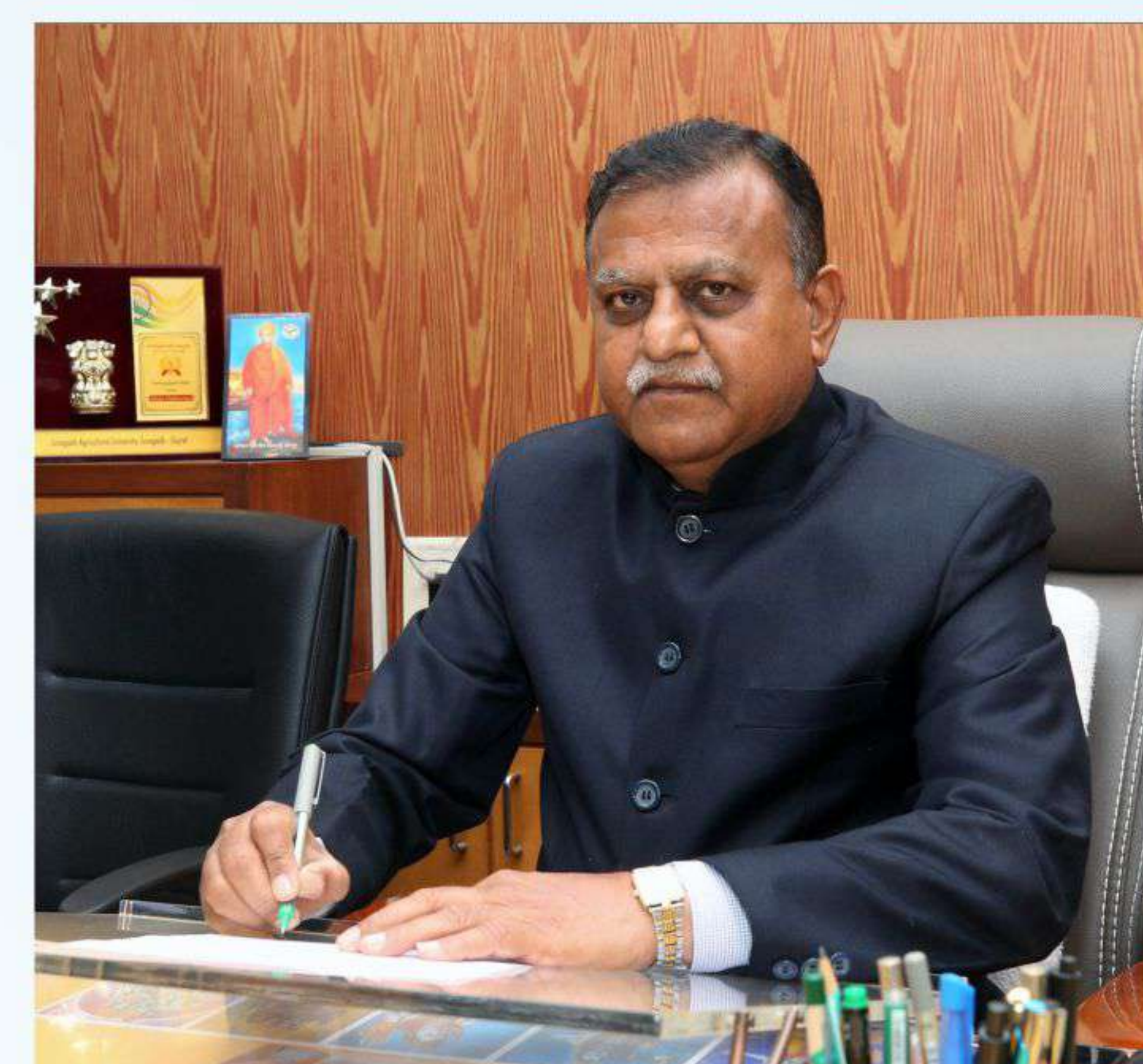
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From the Vice Chancellor's Desk

Reimagining Agri-Education Through the Sixth Deans' Committee Blueprint

Agriculture remains the cornerstone of India's economy, sustaining more than half the population. As India's global economic stature rises, strengthening the national agricultural education system becomes a strategic imperative. Our agricultural universities, rooted in India's ancient educational traditions, today serve a triple mandate—education, research, and extension. With a student base of over 1.65 lakh, it is time to modernize and expand this ecosystem to meet the challenges of sustainability, entrepreneurship, and global competitiveness.



A significant milestone in this direction is the Sixth Deans' Committee Report (2021), which brought sweeping reforms in agricultural education. This committee revised undergraduate curricula with a focus on excellence and relevance, aligning it with the National Education Policy (NEP-2020). Key reforms include holistic, skill-based learning, multiple entry-exit options, lateral admissions, and a robust choice-based credit system. For the first time, academic flexibility was combined with experiential learning to make students job-ready and entrepreneurially inclined. The inclusion of new-age courses such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics reflects a forward-looking approach to education in the digital era. Initiatives like “Deeksharambh” for value-based orientation, industry internships, skill enhancement modules, and an Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) platform aim to ensure that students are not just degree-holders but agile, competent professionals equipped for real-world challenges.

While these curriculum reforms lay a solid foundation, further steps are essential. Introducing agriculture at the school level can inspire youth and bridge the rural-urban knowledge gap. Promoting polytechnic education in agriculture will address the need for skilled manpower. Concurrently, the development of a vibrant startup ecosystem supported by industry and academia can nurture agri-tech innovation. Programs like ICAR's READY, combined with Skill India and Startup India, offer pathways for practical entrepreneurship training to students.

However, quality assurance remains a concern. Unlike veterinary or medical education, agricultural colleges often operate without mandatory accreditation. This must change. Uniform standards in infrastructure, faculty, land, and labs are non-negotiable. Equally vital is continuous capacity building of teachers to adapt to global pedagogical trends and emerging domains.

India must also strive for internationalization. Enhancing infrastructure, easing admission norms, and establishing exchange and dual-degree programs will attract global talent, especially from Asia and Africa.

The path ahead demands synergy between education and research, leveraging technology and policy reforms to create a globally relevant, innovation-driven agricultural education system. The efforts of the Sixth Deans' Committee provide a visionary blueprint, and it is now our collective responsibility to translate it into impactful action.

(V. P. Chovatia)

Twentieth Annual Convocation

Junagadh Agricultural University celebrated the 20th Annual Convocation on the day of January 20, 2025 in presence of Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University, Shri Acharya Devvratji; Prof. Sukanta Kumar Senapati, Vice-Chancellor, Shree Somnath Sanskrit University as a chief guest and Shri Raghavjibhai Patel Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Cow Breeding, Fisheries, Rural Housing and Rural Development, Government of Gujarat remain present virtually as a Guest of Honour. The convocation program started with welcome address by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of JAU. He presented the glimpses of activities and achievements of JAU in teaching, research and extension.



A total 67 Gold Medals/Gold Plated Silver Medals including 3 Chancellor's Gold Medals, 3 Vice Chancellor's Gold Medals, 2 Donors' Gold Medals and 59 Donors' Gold Plated Silver Medals and 1 cash prize awarded to 24 graduates and post graduates from different faculties for their brilliant academic performance.

The Chief Guest of the convocation, Prof. Sukanta Kumar Senapati, delivered the convocation address. He appreciated the scientists and teachers of JAU for their significant contributions to the farming community. He also encouraged the graduates to apply their knowledge in practical fields and develop innovative scientific approaches and technologies to benefit Indian agriculture.

The Guest of Honor of this occasion Shri Raghavjibhai Patel appreciated the achievements of JAU for remarkable excellence in teaching, research & extension activities and also motivated the students for their higher studies and inspired them to utilize their skills and knowledge to phase challenges of agriculture sector in the nation.

Shri Acharya Devvrat, Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University conferred a total 588 degrees to Graduates and Post Graduates of various faculties of JAU. The Chancellor appreciated students for their academic excellence and asked them to adopt natural farming and popularize its benefits to serve the farming community. Dr. Y. H. Ghelani, Registrar, proposed vote of thanks to dignitaries, all guests and students.



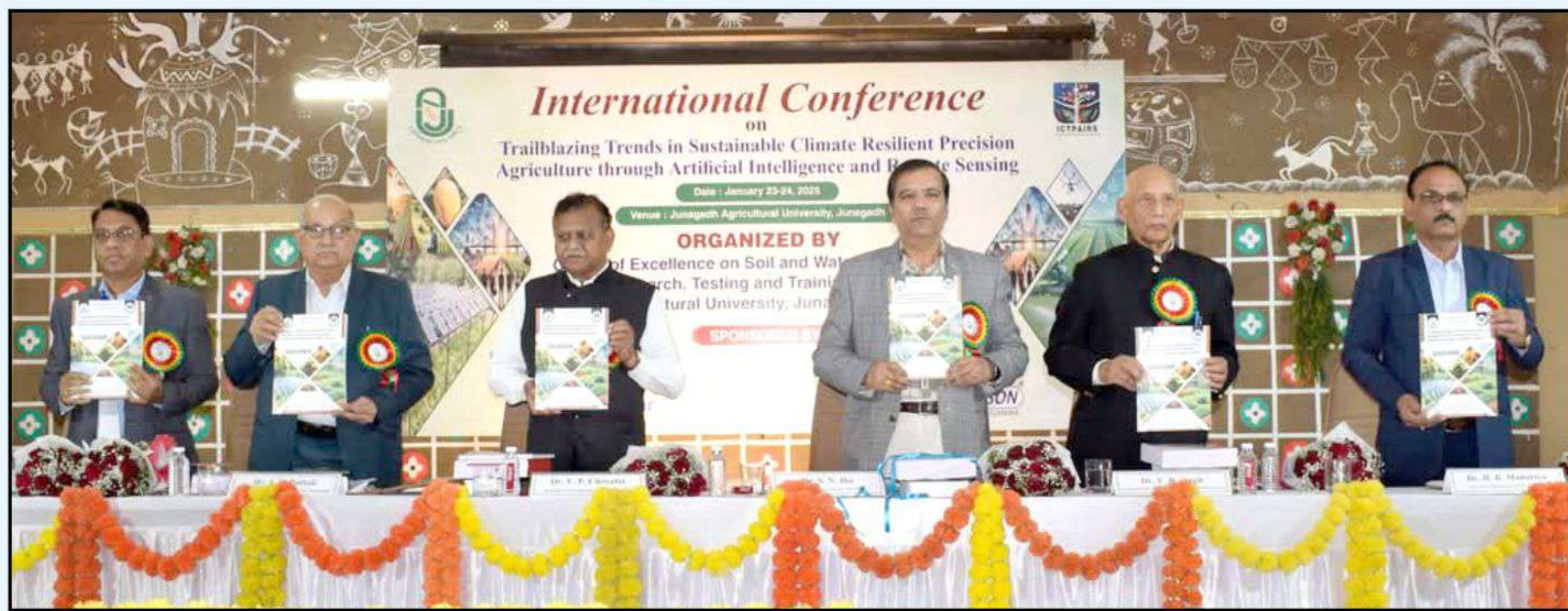
International Conference Organized by Centre of Excellence on Soil & Water Management

The International Conference on "Trailblazing Trends in Sustainable Climate-Resilient Precision Agriculture through Artificial Intelligence and Remote Sensing" was organized during January 23-24, 2025, by Centre of Excellence on Soil & Water Management, Research Testing and Training Centre (RTTC), JAU, Junagadh. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. S. N. Jha, Deputy Director General (Agri. Engg.), in the esteemed presence of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Patron and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Vijay P. Singh, Distinguished Professor and Regents Professor, Texas A&M University, USA, who served as the Chief Guest. Dr. A. R. Pathak, Hon'ble Ex-Vice Chancellor of JAU and NAU, joined the event as the Guest of Honour. Dr. R. B. Madariya, Convener and Director of Research, JAU, and Dr. G. V. Prajapati, Organizing Secretary.



The conference was enriched by keynote and lead speakers of international repute such as Dr. Vijay P. Singh (USA), Dr. Biswajeet Pradhan (Australia), Dr. Mahendar Thudi (USA), Dr. Rameshwar S. Kanwar (USA), Dr. R. P. Rudra (Canada), and Dr. Ashish Pandey (IIT Roorkee), among others.

During the Inauguration, three publications were released, including the special issue of Plant Archives Journal (NAAS rating 5.59) featuring 132 research articles, an ISBN book comprising 52 research papers (available on Google Books and Amazon), and a Book of Abstracts containing 224 abstracts.



The technical program included 3 keynote addresses, 13 lead lectures, 106 oral presentations, and 103 poster presentations.



In addition, a Farmers-Industry-NGO-Academia Interaction Meet was organized, presided over by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, along with the presence of Dr. N. B. Jadav, Director of Extension Education; Dr. H. C. Chhodvadia; and Dr. G. V. Prajapati. The event witnessed active participation from 150 progressive farmers of the Saurashtra region and representatives from organizations such as PIDILITE Industries Ltd., GHCL Foundation Trust, AKRSP (I), Ambuja Foundation, CSPC, and KVK Pipalia. During the meet, 13 progressive farmers were felicitated with the Innovative Farmer Award for their remarkable contributions.



The conference concluded with the valedictory function, where key discussions and policy recommendations were presented by Dr. G. V. Prajapati, Organizing Secretary. A total of 38 participants received Best Oral/Poster Presentation Awards across various thematic areas. Dr. P. A. Pandya, Co-organizing secretary expressed sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Director of Research Dr. R. B. Madariya,



Director of Extension Education Dr. N. B. Jadav, university officials, faculty members, students, and all contributors for their dedicated efforts. Special appreciation was extended to all the sponsors including Silver Consumer Electricals Pvt. Ltd., PIDILITE Industries Ltd., GHCL Foundation Trust, GUJCOST Gandhinagar, Ambuja Foundation, Gujarat Green Revolution Company Ltd., Parth Polywoven Pvt. Ltd., AKRSP (I), Balson Polyplast Pvt. Ltd., and Fieldman Engineers Pvt. Ltd. All sponsors, along with Editor-in-Chief of Plant Archives Journal Dr. R. S. Yadav, were honored with mementos during the event. The conference served as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and collaborative efforts towards advancing precision agriculture and sustainable innovations.

SSK Rajat Jayanti Farmer Award (2023-24)

On the sidelines of the International Conference on "Trailblazing Trends in Sustainable Climate Resilient Precision Agriculture through Artificial Intelligence and Remote Sensing," organized by JAU, Junagadh, the Rajat Jayanti Award (2023-24) in the Farmer Award Category was conferred by the Sardar Smruti Kendra (SSK), JAU, Junagadh, on Shri Upendrabhai Dayabhai Nathani, a progressive famrer based at Ramod village of Kotada Sangani taulka in Rajkot.



The award was bestowed for his outstanding contributions to realize 'Maximum production through micro-irrigation systems.' The award was given by Dr. S. N. Jha, Deputy Director General (Agril. Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi, on January 23, 2025, in the esteemed presence Dr. V. P. Chovatia,

Patron of the conference & Hon'ble VC, JAU; Dr. Vijay P. Singh, Distinguished Professor at Texas A&M University, USA (Chief Guest); Dr. A. R. Pathak, former VC of JAU & NAU (Guest of Honour); and Dr. R. B. Madariya, Convener of the conference & DR, JAU. Dr. G. V. Prajapati and Dr. P. A. Pandya served as the organizing secretaries of the conference

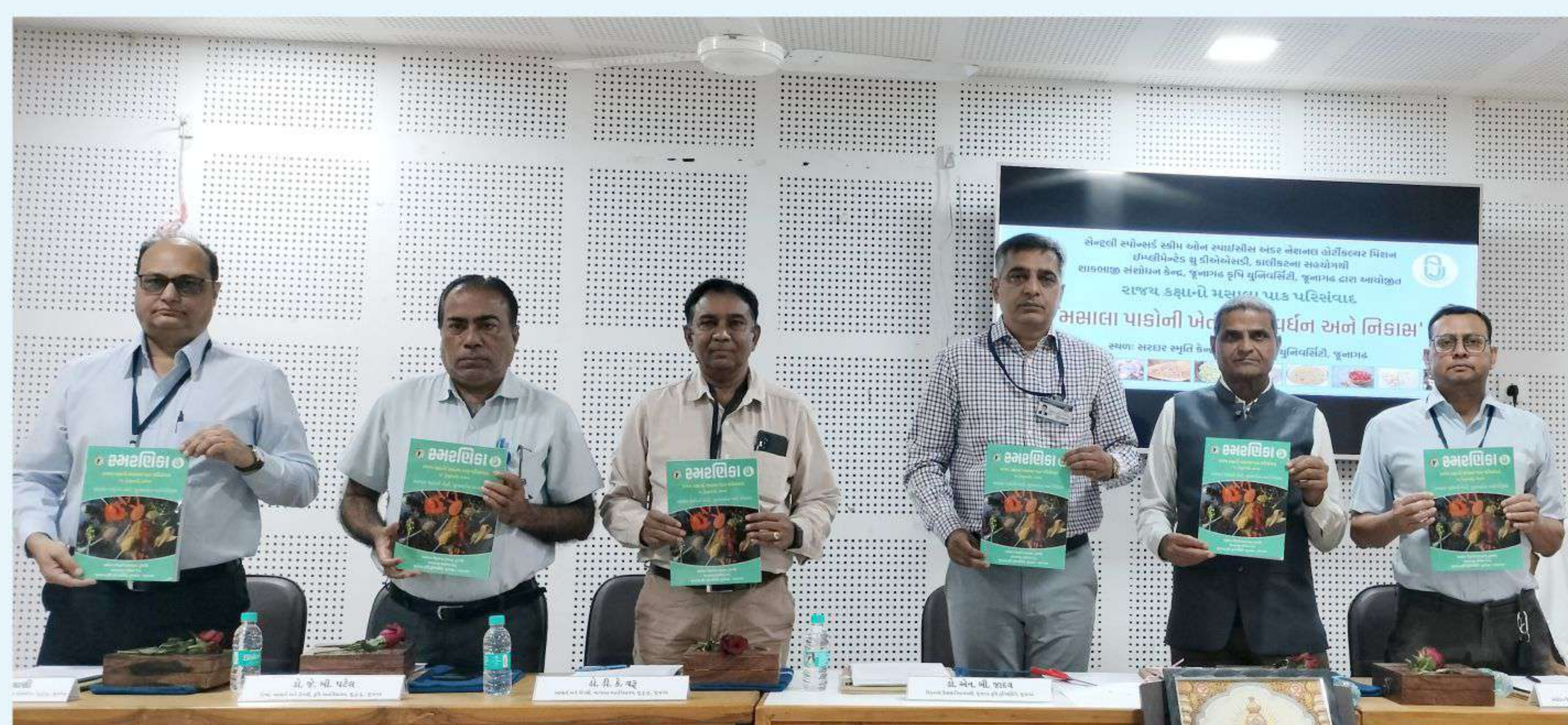
Registration of Design for the “Unmanned Mechatronic Precision Planter”



The Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, registered the design for the 'Unmanned Mechatronic Precision Planter' under design number 435749-001 on February 6, 2025. This automated robotic vehicle features a mechatronic metering system, combining electronics and mechanics to improve planting accuracy. Its lightweight design and precise operation, with its electronic seed metering system controlled by an Arduino Mega 2560 microcontroller board, make it ideal for high-moisture conditions while providing a labour-free solution. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC; Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, DR; and Dr. H. D. Rank, Principal & Dean of the college congratulated the team of scientists on their outstanding achievement.

State Level Seminar on Spice Crops: Production, Value addition and Export

A state-level seminar on “Spice Crops: Production, Value Addition and Export” was organized by the Vegetable Research Station, JAU, Junagadh, on February 11, 2025, at SSK, JAU, Junagadh. A total of 250 progressive farmers from various districts of Gujarat participated in the seminar.



Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, JAU, Junagadh, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the program by lighting the ceremonial lamp. In his

address, he emphasized the importance and potential of seed spice crops in enhancing farmers' income. Dr. V. H. Kachhadia, Research Scientist (G&O), Vegetable Research Station, welcomed all dignitaries and delivered the introductory address, highlighting the significance of scientific cultivation practices and value addition in spice crops.

Dr. A. S. Jethava, , Dr. K. B. Asodariya, and all staff members of the Vegetable Research Station were also actively involved in organizing and participating in the event.

During the seminar, various subject matter experts delivered insightful lectures on key topics such as: Scientific cultivation and improved varieties of seed spice crops, Economics, marketing, harvesting, grading, processing, and value addition, National and international rules, regulations, and procedures for export and strategies to enhance production and profitability in spice crop cultivation.

Celebration of Days

Republic Day

Republic Day was celebrated on January 26, 2025, with a patriotic atmosphere at the Sports Complex, JAU. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, performed the ceremonial flag hoisting. The celebration featured spirited performances and enthusiastic participation from students, staff, and their family members. Adding to the grandeur of the occasion, NCC cadets participated in a disciplined march-past and saluted the national flag with pride and respect, showcasing their commitment and training. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW, JAU, Junagadh.



International Women Day KVK Amreli

On the occasion of International Women's Day, KVK Amreli organized an off-campus training program focused on value addition in agricultural products. During the session, KVK scientists provided hands-on training in the value addition of various bakery items as well as fruits and vegetables. The event saw active participation from 76 rural women and 4 farmers, highlighting the community's strong interest in skill development and entrepreneurship.



KVK Jamnagar

KVK Jamnagar, in collaboration with ATMA Jamnagar, celebrated International Women's Day on March 6, 2025 at the KVK Campus, Jamnagar District. The event focused on Natural Farming, covering topics such as nutrient, pest, and disease management, and the core principles of Natural Farming, led by Prof. A. K. Baraiya. A total of 89 farm women participated in this insightful programme. Simultaneously, another celebration was held at Moti Khokhri village, Khambhaliya Taluka, Devbhumi Dwarka, in collaboration with the Aga Khan Rural Development Trust. Dr. K.P. Baraiya, SS & Head, inspired farm women to engage in value addition, marketing, vermi-composting, dairy management, kitchen gardening, and food preservation. He also encouraged them to start small-scale home industries for sustainable livelihoods. The programme witnessed participation from 45 farmers and 165 farm women.

KVK Surendranagar

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, JAU, Surendranagar, in collaboration with AKRSP, celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 2025 at Sayla, highlighting the vital role of women in agriculture. Dr. J. N. Vyas encouraged women farmers to adopt high-quality hybrid seeds for sustainable income and self-reliance. Around 700 women participated, engaged in exhibitions, live demonstrations, and shared their success stories.

KVK Pipalia

KVK Pipalia celebrated International Women's at its campus with the participation of 60 rural women from Varjangjadiya village of Upleta Taluka. The event focused on empowering women to become self-reliant, confident, and capable of making independent decisions. As part of the programme, a live demonstration of bakery products was conducted to inspire the participants towards entrepreneurship and small-scale business opportunities.



KVK Targhadia

KVK Targhadia celebrated International Women's Day with the participation of 30 farm women, highlighting their role in agriculture and empowering them through awareness and interaction.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti

CAET, JAU, Junagadh, celebrated the 128th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhashchandra Bose, on January 23, 2025. Floral tributes to the statue of the great leader were paid by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC; Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR; Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE; Dr. Y. H. Ghelani, Registrar; and Dr. H. D. Rank, Principal & Dean of the college in the presence of university officers, principals of other colleges, faculty members, staff and students



International Day of Forests

The NSS unit of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, celebrated the International Day of Forests on March 21, 2025, in collaboration with the Junagadh Division, Gujarat State Forest Department under the theme of "Forest and Food". The event emphasized the role of forest in sustaining life on earth and included activities to enhance awareness about forest conservation, afforestation, and ecological balance. In all, 160 UG students pursuing B. Tech. (Agril. Engg.) participated in the event along with faculty members and technical staff from the college and officers and rangers from the forest department. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, graced the event as its president and planted a tree sapling to mark the significance of the day.





World Water Day

World Water Day – 2025 was celebrated on the theme of “Glacier Preservation” on March 24, 2025 by ICAR-AICRP on Irrigation Water Management, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, with the participation of 200 UG/PG students, 30 faculty members and 15 technical/supporting staff from the college. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, DR; Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE; Dr. Y. H. Ghelani, Registrar; Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW; and Dr. H. D. Rank, Principal & Dean

The event was also celebrated by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS) units of CoA, JAU, Junagadh on March 22, 2025 under the chairmanship of

Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU. The Commanding Officer of 8 Gujarat Battalion, N.C.C., Junagadh, Lt. Col. Vijay Kumar Mishra, accepted the invitation to remain present as the special guest. The event dwelled on its theme of 'Glacier preservation' and saw the enthusiastic participation from the NCC cadets and NSS volunteers. Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, DR; Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE; Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW; and



Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal & Dean of the college remained present along with the Professor and Heads and faculty members of the college.



Special Lectures

Significance of Agricultural Engineering Profession

The CAET Alumni Association (CAETAA), CAET, JAU, Junagadh organized an interactive session of UG/PG students on January 23, 2025, with the Dr. S. N. Jha, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering), ICAR, New Delhi and President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), New Delhi. During the session, Dr. Jha highlighted the significance of the agricultural engineering profession, role of agricultural engineers in advancing the present farming systems, and the pressing need to establish an Agricultural Engineering Department in Gujarat. The event was graced by Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Former Registrar and President of CAETAA, JAU, Junagadh; and Dr. H. D. Rank, Principal and Dean of the college. Dr. P. R. Davara, Secretary, CAETAA and other faculty members also remained present and contributed to the discussion



The Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, JAU, Junagadh, organized a special lecture on the "Impact of Physical Education on Mental Health" on February 1, 2025 under its National Service Scheme (NSS) unit. Altogether, 30 NSS volunteers participated in the event besides faculty members and staff. Dr. Payal Dhaduk, a fitness expert based at Junagadh was roped in as the resource person. Besides dwelling on the essential aspects of fitness, sleep and healthy food habits, Dr. Payal conducted practical exercises involving stretching, jogging, meditation and the chanting of 'OM', inspiring the participating students to lead an active lifestyle.



National Pathfinder, Best Diplomat, Strategic Politician: Devi Ahilyabai Holkar

The "Late Shri Kantibhai Thakar Nidhi Memorial" lecture on the topic "National Pathfinder, Best

Diplomat, Strategic Politician: Devi Ahilyabai Holkar" was organized by CoA, JAU, Junagadh, on February 21, 2025. The event saw the participation of 144 UG students besides faculty members and staff from the college. Professor Ashish Kacha, Director, Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul Gyan Bagh, Junagadh, delivered a lecture on the life and times of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, instilling the values of national service through social work among the students. Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR, served as the Chief Guest. Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal and Dean, and Dr. V. D. Tarpara, ADR also remained present.



Effective Time Management

College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh, organized a motivational lecture on "Effective Time Management" on February 21, 2025, in which Dr. V. P. Ramani, Former Principal, CoA, AAU, Vaso served as the resource person. This lecture was attended by 122 UG students along with faculty members and technical staff of the college. Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR; Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal and Dean of the college; and Dr. V. D. Tarpara, ADR, attended the event and delivered their addresses, necessitating the importance of the topic. Dr. M. H. Sapovadia, Associate Professor (Genetics and Plant Breeding) and Dr. B. H. Tavethiya, Assistant Professor (Agril. Extension) of the college served as the organizers of the event.

Cyber Awareness

The Polytechnic in Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh, organized a special lecture on "Cyber Crime Awareness" on March 5, 2025. Shir N. A. Joshi, PSI, Cyber Police Station, Junagadh, and Mr. Piyush Rathod, Cyber Crime Awareness Volunteer, served as the resource persons and educated the students on various cybercrimes, virus attacks, social networking security, password protection, and financial frauds. The session was peppered with real-life examples and anecdotes from Shri Joshi's police experience. Dr. R. M Solanki, DSW; Dr. D. K. Varu, Principal and Dean, CoH, JAU, Junagadh; and Dr. K. D. Patel, Principal of the polytechnic remained present as dignitaries, while Dr. Hitesh Vasava, NSS Programme Officer, coordinated the event. A total of 108 students and 15 staff participated in the event.



A similar lecture on "Cyber Awareness" was jointly the Polytechnic in Agro Processing, JAU, Junagadh, and the Polytechnic in Agriculture, JAU, Sidsar on March 7, 2025, which was attended by 125 NSS volunteers and 12 staff members from both the polytechnics. Shri B.R. Jugal, PSI, Cyber Crime Branch, Junagadh Police Station, served as the guest speaker. In his lecture, Shri Jugal highlighted the critical importance of being aware of various ongoing frauds, scams, and alerts in the digital world. She also answered the queries of the students with latest incidents of cyber frauds, including digital arrests, and provided guidance on the safe use of digital platforms during cash transactions and while entering one's personal details. Dr. D. K. Gojiya, Assistant Professor, Polytechnic in Agro Processing and Dr. S. H. Lakhani, Assistant Professor, Polytechnic in Agriculture (Sidsar), served as the coordinator of the event.



Webinar on "Women's empowerment on financial literacy"

A one-day webinar on "Women's empowerment on financial literacy" was organized by CoA, JAU, Mota Bhandariya by the NSS unit of the college on March 19, 2025. The webinar registered the participation of 57 girl students besides faculty members and staff.



Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela

CAET, JAU, Junagadh, organized its much-awaited Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela on March 20, 2025, at Sardar Patel Sabhagruh, Junagadh. The event was organized in collaboration with the AICRP on FIM, PHET, IWM, PEASEM of the college, CRP on EA, ISAE (Gujarat Chapter), and other research platforms and with sponsorship from Tirth Agro Technology Pvt. Ltd. and Action for Food Production (AFPRO), Gujarat. The mela featured 43 leading agricultural industries who showcased their advanced machinery and technology, benefitting over 1200 farmers, farm professionals, university staff and students. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, inaugurated the event in the auspicious presence of Shri Dharmeshbhai Poshia, Mayor, Junagadh Municipal Corporation as Chief Guest. Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, DR; Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE; Dr. H. D. Rank, Principal & Dean and Dr. K. C. Patel, Director (IT Cell) and other university officers graced the occasion.



Dignitaries Visit

Dr. Shakir Ali Syed, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Zone-VIII, Pune

Dr. Shakir Ali Syed visited the Main Dry Farming Research Station, JAU, Targhadia, on January 28, 2025. During his visit, he observed various experiments related to dry farming and appreciated the excellent work being carried out in this field.



He acknowledged the team's efforts in providing weather-based advisory services to farmers, which are highly beneficial for dryland areas in implementing preventive measures for various crops. He extended his best wishes to the entire team and the head of the centre for their future success and congratulated them on their commendable work for the benefit of the farming community.

Dr. V. P. Singh, Distinguished Professor at Texas A&M University, USA



Dr. V. P. Singh, Distinguished Professor at Texas A&M University, USA, visited the Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, on January 27, 2025, and interacted with the faculty members and research scholars of the college, appreciating their valiant innovative efforts and endeavours in the schemes on AICRP on Plastic Engineering in Agricultural Structure and Environment Management and Consortia Research Project on Energy from Agriculture.

Mr. Pratik Shah and Dr. Ravindra P. Kulkarni, V. M. Shah Group of Companies, Sangli

Shri Pratik Shah, Managing Director at Pratik Industries, a subsidiary of V. M. Shah Group of Companies, and Dr. Ravindra P. Kulkarni, Technical & Development Head, V. M. Shah Group of Companies, Sangli, Maharashtra, visited the Department of Agricultural Economics, CoA, JAU, Junagadh, on March 12, 2025, and interacted with the faculty members and students on the need for entrepreneurship development in organic input sector.

Shri N. M. Thakkar, BASF

Shri N. M. Thakkar, BASF paid a visit to CoA, JAU, Junagadh, and interacted with Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal and Dean of the college and other faculty members from the disciplines of crop protection and social sciences about the I



importance of safety measures during pesticide application and the awareness and behaviour of farmers regarding their safety while using chemicals. The technical manual developed by the BASF Gujarat unit was also shared with the college for its wider dissemination.

Exposure Visit of Students

Students from the Polytechnic in Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Sidsar visited the Agricultural Research Station, JAU, Amreli, on February 5, 2025 as part of an exposure visit to gain practical knowledge about research activities related to sesame, soybean, groundnut, castor, sunflower, cotton, and other crops. Additionally, forty students from Government High School, Mota Lodhpur visited



the same research station on March 25, 2025, to learn about the ongoing research on sesame, soybean, groundnut, and other agricultural activities carried out at the centre.

NSS Special Camps

Special camps were organized under the National Service Scheme (NSS), with details as follows:

College/Polytechnic	Location and Date
College of Agriculture, Junagadh	Alidhra, District Junagadh, from March 3 to 9, 2025.
College of Agril. Engg. Technology, Junagadh	Biodiversity Centre, Khadiya, village Dungarpur, Dist. Junagadh, from January 25-31, 2025.
College of Horticulture, Junagadh	Chanaka, Taluka and District Junagadh, from March 6-12, 2025.
ASPEE College of Agriculture, Khapat, Porbandar	Kuchadi, Taluka and District Porbandar, from March 5-11, 2025.
College of Agriculture, Mota Bhandariya, Amreli	Jaliya, Dist. Amreli, from March 17-23, 2025
Polytechnic in Horticulture, Junagadh	Dungri, Taluka Vanthali, District Junagadh, from January 28 to February 3, 2025.
Polytechnic in Agriculture, Sidsar (Junagadh)	Ghudvadar, Taluka Vanthali, District Junagadh, from February 17-23, 2025.
Polytechnic in Agriculture, Dhari	Govindpur, Taluka Dhari, Dist. Amreli, from February 17-23, 2025.

Polytechnic in Agricultural Engineering, Targhadiya	Kothariya (Jadeshwar), Taluka Wankaner, District Morbi, from January 6-12, 2025.
Polytechnic in Agriculture, Halvad	Ghanshyampur, Taluka Halvad, District Morbi, from March 5-11, 2025.

The activities carried out during these camps included environment protection, cleanliness awareness, drug abuse prevention, fruit and vegetable preservation, bakery recipe demonstrations, grain storage techniques, prabhat pheri, slogan writing on walls, tree plantation, women empowerment initiatives, khedut shibirs (farmer camps), youth leadership training, interviews with successful farmers, and many other community-centered activities.



Students participation in West Zone Sports Competitions

A team of four students participated in the West Zone Table Tennis (Women) tournament held from January 3–6, 2025, at Awadesh Pratap Singh University, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. Dr. J. D. Bhatt, Assistant Professor, was acted as the team manager. Additionally, a team of twelve students participated in the West Zone Kho-Kho (Men) tournament held from March 7–11, 2025, at Vikrant University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Dr. A. M. Butani, Assistant Professor, and Mr. H. S. Kodiyatar, Laboratory Technician, acted as the team manager and coach, respectively.

Students participation in All India Inter University Wrestling Competitions

Ms. Rathod Bansari, a student of the CAET, JAU, Junagadh, represented the university in the All India Inter-University (AIIU) Wrestling Competition (Women), held from January 14-17, 2025 at Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda, Punjab. Competing in the 62 kg weight category, she successfully advanced past the first round.



Dr. Bhawana Asnani, Assistant Professor served as the team manager and coach for the event.

Gujarat State Inter Agricultural University Sports Tournament

Gujarat State Inter Agricultural University Volleyball (M & W), Badminton (M & W), Table Tennis (W) and Basketball (M) competitions were held on February 1, 2025 at NAU, Navsari. Team of 48 JAU students participated in the event. JAU, Junagadh was the Runners-up in Volleyball (W), Badminton (W), Table Tennis (W) and Basketball (M).



Gujarat State Inter Agricultural University Cricket and Chess competitions were held on March 20-21, 2025 at AAU, Anand. Team of 20 JAU students participated and stood Runners-up in Cricket and Chess.



Gujarat State Inter Agricultural University Kabaddi (M), Kho-Kho (M) and Table Tennis (M) competitions were held on March 16, 2025 at SDAU, S.K.Nagar. Team of 28 JAU students participated and became Champion in Table Tennis (M) and Runners-up in Kho-Kho (M).



Gujarat State Inter Agricultural University Polytechnic Sports Tournament

Gujarat State Inter Agricultural University Polytechnic Volleyball (Boys & Girls), Table Tennis (Boys & Girls) and Badminton (Boys & Girls) Tournament was held during March 3, 2025 at JAU, Junagadh. The event was inaugurated by Dr. V.P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor JAU. The success of the event was made possible through

the dedicated efforts of the Directorate of Students' Welfare, as well as Dr. B. S. Gohil, and Dr. N. V. Kanani, Physical Instructor. A total of 160 participants from all four State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) of Gujarat took part in the event, with 40 students representing Junagadh Agricultural University. JAU, Junagadh, emerged as the champion in Table Tennis (Men) and Volleyball (Men).

A Team of 30 JAU students participated in Gujarat State Inter-University Polytechnic Cricket, Kho-Kho (M) and Chess competitions were held on March 10-11, 2025 at NAU, Navsari.

Basic Rock Climbing Camp

A Basic Rock Climbing Camp was organized at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Mountaineering Center, Junagadh, from January 28 to February 6, 2025, for girl students, and from February 9-18, 2025, for boy students. A total of 200 students from JAU participated, including 55 from the College of Agriculture, Junagadh; 19 from the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Junagadh; 25 from the College of Horticulture, Junagadh; 17 from CoA, Mota Bhandariya, Amreli; 25 from ASPEE CoA, Khapat; 16 from the Polytechnic in Horticulture, Junagadh; 19 from the Polytechnic in Agriculture, Sidsar; 7 from the Polytechnic in Agriculture, Dhari; 13 from the Polytechnic in Agro-Processing, Junagadh; and 4 from the Polytechnic in Agricultural Engineering, Targhadia.



During the camp, students were trained in various mountaineering techniques, including climbing, monkey climbing, traversing, river crossing, and rappelling.

Participation of the students in ICAR PG Exam Workshop

CoA, JAU, Junagadh, nominated 10 students pursuing B. Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture for their participation in the 15-day intensive crash workshop for ICAR-AIEEA-PG and other entrance examinations, organized by the UG-BT-CBC Cell of ASPEE SHAKILAM Biotechnology Institute (ASBI), Surat, and sponsored by the Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM), Gandhinagar, from January 20 to February 3, 2025. Dr. B. Swaminathan, Associate Professor (Agril. Economics), coordinated the participation of the students from the college.



Demonstration of Agricultural Spraying Drones

The Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, conducted the demonstrations of agricultural spraying drones as part of its "Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization for Implementation of its Components Under Drone Technology Demonstration." Among the three demonstrations organized in this quarter of January-March 2025, the first demonstration was held at the farm of Pulses Research Station, JAU, Junagadh, on January 22, 2025, followed by the second demonstration at the Farmers Training Centre, Loej, Mangrol on January 28, 2025, and the last one in the Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela organized by the university on March 20, 2025. In all, 1320 farmers directly benefited from these demonstrations besides university staff and farm professionals.



Farmers Training on Coarse Cereals

Pearl Millet Research Station, JAU, Jamnagar organized a one-day farmer training program under the ICAR scheme "Frontline Demonstration (FLD) on Coarse Cereals" under NFSM-Coarse Cereals on February 4, 2025. Dr. K. D. Mungra, Research Scientist (Pearl Millet), along with the scientists of the centre Dr. K. K. Dhedhi, Dr. G. M. Parmar, Prof. A. C. Detroja, Dr. S. K. Parmar, and Dr. R. J. Chaudhari delivered valuable lectures on the package of practices and benefits of millets. Around 50 farmers participated

in the training. Input kits (biofortified pearl millet hybrid GHB 1231 and castor cake) were distributed to the farmers.



Farmer's Day program

Cotton Research Station, JAU, Kukada organized "Farmer's Day" program under the chairmanship of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU on March 5, 2025. As part of the Agricultural Demonstration Activities under the SSP Command Area Phase-2 scheme, implemented by Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd., Gandhinagar, the event aimed to educate farmers from the Surendranagar district on modern, crop-oriented farming systems, natural farming practices, and ideal animal husbandry methods.



Experts from various centers of JAU including Dr. D. S. Hirpara, Dr. M. G. Valu, Dr. M. V. Varia, and Dr. R. P. Kalma provided insightful and practical guidance during the program. The event witnessed the esteemed presence of Dr. R. B. Madariya Director of Research, JAU, Junagadh; Dr. H. C. Chhodavadia, ADE, JAU, Junagadh along with officials from affiliated departments and a large number of farmers. Special appreciation goes to Shri C. K. Dharajiya and the dedicated staff of the Cotton Research Station, JAU, Kukada, whose sincere efforts contributed significantly to the successful organization of the program.

Training Programme on Bee Keeping

The Directorate of Extension Education and the Department of Agricultural Entomology, JAU, Junagadh, jointly organized a two-days training program on beekeeping from February 04–05, 2025. The event was inaugurated by Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, who highlighted the role of bees in pollinating cross-pollinated crops. A total of 60 participants from the Saurashtra region attended. Dr. P. D. Kumavat, Principal and Dean, CoA, shared insights on various honeybee species, while Dr. D. M. Jethva and other experts from the department conducted lectures and practical sessions covering key aspects of beekeeping.



Training Programme for Farm Women

The Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh, organized a farmer training program at SSK, Junagadh, for farmers from Wadhvan Taluka, Surendranagar district, on March 17–18, 2025. Dr. H. C. Chhodvadia, Associate Director of Extension, emphasized the judicious use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to reduce input costs. He also highlighted the importance of soil sample analysis and the use of soil health cards to lower cultivation expenses. The training also included sessions for farm women on animal husbandry. These sessions focused on providing practical knowledge and skills for effective and sustainable livestock management. Participants were informed about improving milk production and livestock productivity. The training aimed to enhance profitability through better animal husbandry practices. Various experts conducted interactive sessions and demonstrations. A total of 60 farmers actively participated in the program.



Certificate Course on Integrated Nutrient Management for Fertilizer Dealers

The Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh successfully conducted a 15-days' "Certificate Course on Integrated Nutrient Management for Fertilizer Dealers". The program aimed to enhance dealers' knowledge on restoring soil fertility, sustaining crop productivity, reducing production costs, and promoting the judicious use of fertilizers. Fertilizer dealers, being key sources

of technical guidance for farmers, were trained to disseminate accurate information on fertilizer management. The inaugural session was graced by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, who emphasized the efficient use of fertilizers. Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, encouraged participants to utilize the JAU iKrushiSanhita app for updated agricultural insights. Distinguished dignitaries including Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, Dr. Y. H. Ghelani, Dr. V. D. Tarpara, Dr. H. C. Chhodavadiya, and Dr. H. L. Sakarvadiya were also present. Altogether 94 participating dealers were awarded certificates upon successful completion.



JAU Showcases Innovations at Global Patidar Business Summit 2025

Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU) actively participated in the Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) 2025, held from January 09-12 at the Helipad Exhibition Ground in Gandhinagar organized by Sardardham, the summit was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel.



GPBS 2025 served as a dynamic platform for fostering collaborations across diverse sectors, with a strong focus on agriculture and rural development. Aligned with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the summit aimed to promote self-reliance and innovation within the business community. At the event, JAU showcased its cutting-edge technologies, innovative products, and services in agriculture and allied sectors. The university's participation highlighted its ongoing commitment to advancing agricultural development and empowering farmers. The summit attracted a vibrant mix of over 80,000 attendees, including entrepreneurs, business leaders, farmers, students, and other key stakeholders from across the country.

HRD Training: Digital Solutions for Agricultural Technology Transfer

Junagadh Agricultural University organized a three-day Human Resource Development training program on “Digital Solutions for Agricultural Technology Transfer” from March 18-20, 2025. The program began with participant registration and a pre-training evaluation, setting the stage for a series of insightful sessions led by subject experts. Throughout the training, participants explored a range of contemporary topics, including the use of social media to bridge extension gaps, blockchain applications in agriculture, Right to Information and office administration protocols, and the integration of digital tools in agricultural extension systems. The second day featured discussions on ICT-based solutions for agricultural outreach, emerging technologies in modern farming, administrative and accounting procedures, and the effective use of mobile applications and websites for technology dissemination. On the final day, participants gained hands-on experience through an institutional and museum visit, aimed at enhancing practical understanding. The training concluded with a post-evaluation, followed by a valedictory and certificate distribution ceremony. Esteemed dignitaries, including Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor; Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, Director of Research; Dr. N. B. Jadav, Director of Extension Education; and Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal and Dean, graced the occasion. A total of 47 JAU officials participated in the training, significantly enriching their knowledge and skills in leveraging digital technologies for effective agricultural technology transfer.



Krishi Mela 2025: Showcasing Modern Farming Techniques

KVK Amreli

Amreli, under the aegis of Junagadh Agricultural University, successfully organized Krishi Mela 2025 – Exhibition of Modern Farming Methods. The event was held as part of the Special Cotton Project, a collaborative initiative between KVK Amreli and the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, aimed at promoting closer spacing techniques in cotton cultivation. The fair featured numerous stalls displaying innovative technologies and advancements in agriculture and allied sectors, with participation from progressive farmers and agri-based companies. The exhibition stall of KVK, JAU, Amreli was inaugurated by the Honorable Member of Parliament

and the Honorable Vice Chancellor of Junagadh Agricultural University, marking the formal commencement of the event. Shri Bharatbhai Sutaria, Member of Parliament On February 28, 2025, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, from Amreli and Chairman of the Krishi Mela, welcomed the farmers and urged them to adopt innovative and scientific farming practices. The Chief Guest, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, highlighted the importance of close spacing in cotton cultivation and shared insights into the ongoing research by the university. The event also saw valuable contributions from other dignitaries including Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, who encouraged the adoption of scientific agricultural techniques. The Mela witnessed an enthusiastic participation of around 1,000 farmers and farm women, who benefitted from the demonstrations and interactions. The event was led by Dr. Minaxi K. Bariya, SS & Head, KVK Amreli, along with her dedicated team who played a pivotal role in its successful execution. Also present at the event were Shri J. K. Kanani DAO, Shri M. Z. Zid, PD, ATMA Amreli, Dr. S. P. Deshmukh, Principal, College of Natural Farming, Gujarat Natural Farming University, Amreli, Dr. A. S. Dudhat Principal, CoA, JAU, Mota Bhandariya, and Dr. V. N. Gohil, Research Scientist, ARS, Amreli.

KVK Surendranagar

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, JAU, Surendranagar also organized a Kisan Mela on March 06, 2025 to promote awareness about High Density Planting System (HDPS) in cotton. Experts highlighted the benefits, crop management practices, and successful demonstrations of HDPS, encouraging large-scale adoption. Around 440 farmers, including women, actively participated in the event and interacted through feedback sessions and an agriculture exhibition.



KVK Targhadia

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Junagadh Agricultural University, Targhadia organized Krishi Mela-2025 on March 7, 2025, under the Special Project on Cotton, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, and guided by ICAR-CICR, Nagpur. The event aimed

to promote new agricultural technologies and High-Density Planting System in cotton among Rajkot district farmers. Over 350 farmers attended, along with dignitaries including Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiriya as Chief Guest and senior officials from JAU. The Mela featured 20 stalls by companies and natural farming practitioners, drawing active participation from all attendees.

Millet Mela

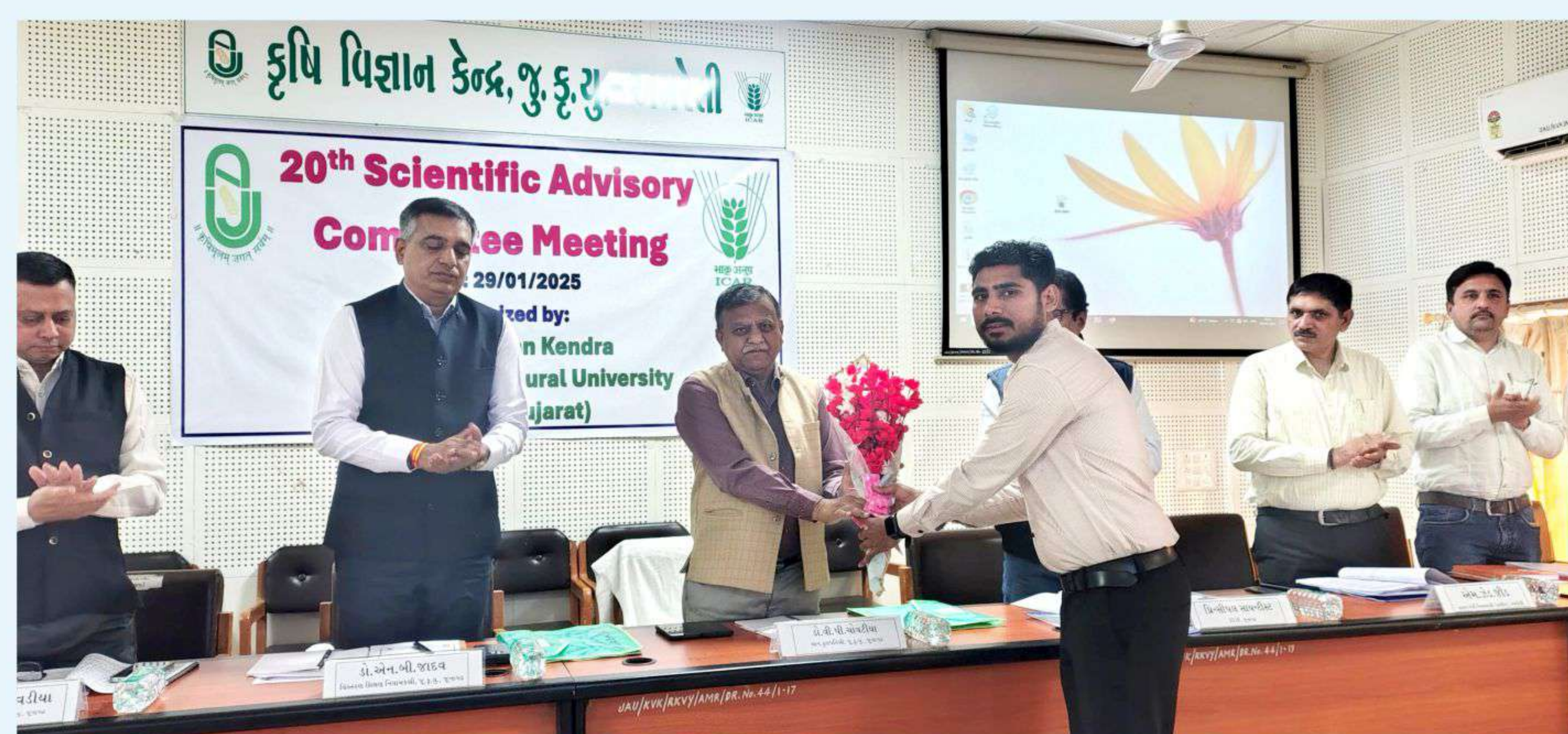
KVK Jamnagar

A Millet Mela was organized by the District Agriculture Officer at JMC Ground, Jamnagar on February 8-9, 2025. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, JAU, Jamnagar actively participated in the two-day exhibition, showcasing various millet farming practices and value addition techniques through live demonstrations. Dr. K. P. Baraiya, Scientist at KVK Jamnagar, delivered an informative lecture with a presentation on millet cultivation and its value-added products. Live samples of different millet varieties and their recipes were also displayed to engage and educate visitors. The exhibition received an overwhelming response, attracting around 25000 visitors over two days.



Scientific Advisory Committee meeting

The Scientific Advisory Committee meetings of all KVKs of JAU were organized during February-March 2025. The meetings were chaired by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU and Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE. The line department officials from the GoG and progressive farmers also remained present in the meetings. In the events held at individual KVKs on different dates, Senior Scientists & Heads of the respective KVKs presented the Annual Progress Reports for FY 2024-25 and Action Plans for FY 2025-26. In addition, scientists of KVKs presented their subject-wise reports and action plans. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, and Dr. N.B. Jadav, DEE, appreciated the collaborative projects taken up by the KVK with the line departments of the respective districts. The interdisciplinary research works of the KVK scientists were also appreciated. The committee members of the different projects gave suggestions to improve the overall research output.



Event on Natural Farming

KVK Morbi

KVK Morbi, in collaboration with GNFC Morbi, organized a training program on “Importance and Criteria of Natural Farming” on February 27, 2025, at Panchasar, Taluka Morbi. Dr. K.N. Vadaria, Professor and Scientist (Agronomy) at KVK Morbi, delivered an insightful lecture during the session. A total of 30 farmers from Morbi Taluka actively participated in the program.

KVK Porbandar

The Natural Farming Parisamvad and Exhibition was held at KVK on January 3, 2025, organized by the Gujarat Natural Farming Development Board and ATMA, Porbandar. With 346 participants, the event featured expert talks, including a session by KVK Scientist V.M. Savaliya, and stalls showcasing organic inputs and sustainable practices. The program promoted natural farming by highlighting its benefits—improved soil health, reduced chemical use, and better market value—while offering farmers a platform to learn, interact, and share experiences.



Awards and Accolades

Best Performing Groundnut Breeder Seed Producing Centre

The Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Groundnut was held from March 18-20, 2025, at Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur (Rajasthan). The Main Oilseeds Research Station, Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU), Junagadh, received the award for “Best Performing Groundnut Breeder Seed Producing Centre” among all AICRP centres across India. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor; Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, Director of Research; and Dr. N. B. Jadav, Director of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh, applauded the commendable efforts of Dr. R. B. Madariya, Research Scientist (Groundnut), Dr. N. D. Dholariya, and their team for this outstanding achievement.



Best Performing Groundnut Seed Hub Centre

In the event mentioned above, Groundnut Seed Hub “Creation of Seed-Hubs for Enhancing Quality Seeds Availability of Major Oilseed Crops – Groundnut” running at the Department of Seed Science and Technology, JAU, Junagadh has been adjudged as the “Best Performing Groundnut Seed Hub Centre for the period of 2024-25. The award with certificate received by Dr. J. B. Patel, Professor and Head, Department of SST by the hands of Dr. Arvind Verma, Director of Research, MPUAT, Udaipur in the auspicious presence of Dr. S. K. Bera, Director, ICAR- Indian Institute of Groundnut Research, Junagadh.



Best Oral and Poster Presentation Awards

At the 25th (Silver Jubilee) National Conference of the Maharashtra Society of Agricultural Economics, Akola, organized at MPKV, Rahuri, Maharashtra, from 27-28 February, 2025, Dr. B. Swaminathan, Associate Professor, along with the PG students of the Deptt. of Agricultural Economics, CoA, JAU, Junagadh, bagged the following awards:

Late Shri Wamanrao Mahindre Sir Memorial Award for outstanding paper presentation	Dr. B. Swaminathan
Smt. Venutai Ulemale Memorial Award for the best oral presentation of the conference	Dr. B. Swaminathan Ms. Sneha M., Ph.D. scholar
Best Oral Presentation (Theme-wise First Position)	Ms. Alpa Karmur, Ph.D. scholar
Best Poster Presentation (Theme-wise First Positions)	Ms. Rutvika Makwana, M. Sc. (Agri.) Ms. Krishna Vora, M. Sc. (Agri.)
Best Poster Presentation (Second Position in Theme V)	Ms. S. R. Lavanya, M. Sc. (Agri.)

Best Oral and Poster Presentation Awards during International Conference

The International Conference on "Trailblazing Trends in Sustainable Climate-Resilient Precision Agriculture through Artificial Intelligence and Remote Sensing," was organized by the Centre of Excellence on Soil and Water Management and the Research, Testing, and Training Centre (RTTC), Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh on January 23–24, 2025.



A total of 9 faculty members and staff, along with 14 students, were honored with Best Oral and Poster Presentation Awards during the conference.

The awards were presented in recognition of innovative research methodologies, and impactful presentations across various conference themes.



Selection of Student at the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament



Shri Digvijay Vala, a student pursuing B. Tech. (Agril. Engg.) at CAET, JAU, Junagadh, brought laurels to the university with his selection at the district level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GoI under its MY (Mera Yuva) Bhart Initiative at Gandhinagar on March 29, 2025. Mr. Vala also secured the fourth among the participating students from the three nodal districts of Junagadh, Gir Somnath, and Porbandar. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC and Dr. H. D. Rank, Principal & Dean of the college congratulated the students on his credible achievement.

Superannuated Faculty/Staff
JAU Parivar Wishes All for a Hale and
Healthy Second-Innings Ahead

Sr	Employee Name	Designation
January - 2025		
1	Shri R. P. Juneja	Asst. Prof.
2	Shri H. P. Ponkia	Asst. Prof.
3	Shri D. D. Vala	Agri. Sup.
4	Smt Labhuben R. Vaghela	Lab Boy
February – 2025		
5	Shri. D. V. Khanapara*	Asst. Prof.
6	Shri D. R. Rathod	Agri. Sup.
7	Shri H. K. Lakhnotra	Agri. Sup.
8	Shri M. B. Rakhasiya	Farm Labor
9	Shri S. C. Jeed	Lab. Tech.
March – 2025		
10	Shri V. K. Sardhara	Asst. Prof.
11	Shri D. D. Parmar	Agri. Asstt.
12	Shri R. S. Bheda	Lab Boy

*Demised



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