

Editorial

After getting overwhelming response of previous issue, We are on the eve of releasing the second issue of UBKV Newsletter, 2013, thankfully acknowledging the able leadership and constant motivation of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and the positive feedback received from every corners of the agricultural society which is our inspiration to make the journey of the Newsletter never ending and sustainable.

Advisors

Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
Dean, Faculty of Horticulture
Dean, Faculty of Technology
Dean, Students' Welfare
Director of Research

Joint Editors

Dr. Kausik Pradhan
Dr. Sumit Chakravarty

Editorial Board

Dr. Prabhat Kr. Pal
Dr. Arup Sarkar
Dr. D. Mukhopadhyay
Dr. Biplab Mitra
Dr. D. S. Gupta
Dr. P. M. Bhattacharya
Dr. Samuel Rai
Dr. Sunita Mahapatra

Published by

Directorate of
Extension Education

Extension outreach

Community Nursery

Community nursery in paddy is a contingent measure in this terai agro-ecosystem under late arrival of monsoon rains. Considering the late arrival of monsoon in 2013, 15 farm-Khagribari village established community nursery under the direct supervision of Coochbehar KVK. The farmers took the initiative for aggregating demand and raised seedlings for other farmers of the village.



Farmers Awarded in Global Agricultural Summit

Safikul Islam of Abutara, Dinhat, Cooch Behar and Kshirendranath Das of Samuktala, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri were felicitated by Govt. of Gujarat in 'Vibrant Gujarat-Global Agricultural Summit' held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat during September 09-10, 2013. Both of them were attached to Coochbehar KVK of the Viswavidyalaya field based since 2007-08. renowned post and producer cum entrepreneur. Sri Das is an innovative Integrated Farming System and Water harvesting & recycling models designer. Both of them were awarded with a cash prize of Rs. fifty thousand, a memento and a certificate for their leading role towards agricultural development.



Farmers' Hostel of Cooch Behar KVK Inaugurated

On July 05, 2013, the Farmers' Hostel of Cooch Behar KVK was inaugurated by Dr. A. K. Singh, Hon'ble Zonal Project Director, Zone-II, ICAR in presence of Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Principal Scientist, CRIDA Technology Component, NICRA, Prof. U. S. Jaiswal, ADEE, Himadri Bhat-tacharya, DEE, UBKV.



Distinguished Visitors

- Mr. M.K.Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal, Chancellor, UBKV
- Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE/ DG, ICAR
- Prof. L. N. Mandal, Ex VC, BCKV
- Dr. Biswapati Mandal, Pro VC, BCKV

Zonal NICRA Project Workshop Organised

The zonal workshop of NICRA project for zone-II was organized at University headquarter during July 04-05, 2013. The workshop was inaugurated by the officiating Vice Chancellor of UBKV, Prof. Apurba Chowdhury. K. U. M. A. R. Dr. A.K. Singh, ZPD, Zone-II, ICAR, Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Principal Scientist, CRIDA and Dr. R. P. Singh Ratan, TDC, NICRA Coordinator, Director of Extension Education, Birsa Agriculture University graced the workshop. The programme Coordinators of different KVKs highlighted their activities under the project. Altogether 15 KVKs of this zone attended the programme. A special presentation by Dr. Dixit regarding functioning of VCRM (Village Climatic Risk Management Committee) in a better way towards technology dissemination was the focal perspective of the workshop.



Parthenium Awareness Week Celebrated

A parthenium awareness programme was organized by Coochbehar Krishi Vigyan Kendra under the Viswavidyalaya on August 21, 2013 involving rural youths from different farmer clubs of the district. The objective of the programme was to make people aware about various aspects of Parthenium hysterophorus.



Saplings Distributed

About 350 saplings of Pongamia, Erythrina and Tephrosia as well as 250 saplings of Gmelina were distributed to 31 farmers of Khagribari village under NICRA project. Gmelina saplings were distributed for bringing low under forest cover and the other plants were distributed for green leaf manuring.



- Dr. Mahesh Gathala, CYMMIT, Bangladesh
- Mr. Goutam Deb, MIC, NBD, GOWB
- Mr. Hiten Barman, MIC, Forest, GOWB
- Mr. Rabindranath Ghosh, Parliamentary Sec. W.B.
- DR. A. P. Srivastava, National Coordinator, NAIP Component-III

Flash News

A book chapter "Deforestation: causes, effects and control strategies" authored by S. Chakravarti, S. K. Ghosh, C.P. Suresh, A. N. Dey and Gopal Shukla in a book entitled "Global perspectives on sustainable forest management" edited by Clement Akais Okia and published by Intech Publishers, Croatia, has received tremendous readers' response in terms of 32000 downloads globally since April, 2012.

Academician Departed

We mournfully remember the sad demise of Dr. Amulya Kumar Mitra, the former Assistant Director of Research, Terai Zone, BCKV and UBKV and veteran Agriculturist and hope his departed soul will rest in heaven. Dr. Mitra, an individual and institution, is the inspiration to the academicians, scientists and extension workers in the field of agriculture.



Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya

Pundibari, Cooch Behar, West Bengal-736165, www.ubkv.org



Newsletter

UTTAR BANGA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA

December, 2013

Volume 3, Issue 2

From the desk of the Vice-Chancellor ...



It is a matter of great pride for everyone associated with Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya that our alma matter, UBKV successfully organized the fourth convocation on 4th October, 2013. It is further heartening to note that his Excellency, Hon'ble Chancellor of the University and Governor of West Bengal, Mr. M. K. Narayanan presided over the ceremony and esteemed Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr. S. Ayyappan was the Chief Guest at the Convocation to deliver the convocation address and Minister-in-charge, North Bengal Development, Government of West Bengal, Sri Goutam Deb was the Guest of honour in the Ceremony. Other distinguished guests present in the Ceremony were Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal, Shri Hiten Barman, Parliamentary Secretary, Department of PWD, Government of West Bengal Shri Rabindra Nath Ghosh, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Professor Biswapati Mandal. With a profound and unfading sense of gratitude, the University honoured Dr. S. Ayyappan, renowned Agricultural Scientist with National and International reputation and Prof. L.N.Mandal, Ex-Professor, Ex-Vice-Chancellor and a pioneer Agricultural Scientist in the field of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry with Doctor of Science (Honoris

Causa) degree as a token of respect. In this auspicious occasion, 306 graduates, 65 post graduates and 35 doctoral degree students had received their degrees. It is also my pleasure to announce that 19 students had received gold medals for their accomplishment, out of which 12 students were at Graduate level and 7 students were at Post Graduate level. My congratulations on behalf of the entire University fraternity goes to each and everyone of you associated with this auspicious occasion. Finally, I quote Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, the former President of India: "We are all born with a divine fire within us. Our efforts should be to give wings to this fire and fill the world with the glow of its goodness".

Inauguration of annexed girl's hostel

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University inaugurated the newly established annexed two storeyed building of the girls' hostel adjacent to the old guest house of the University on 13th November, 2013. Due to the increasing number of girl student there was a need for space for accommodating the girl students in the girls hostel. Under this circumstance the ICAR had given fund to develop a girls' hostel within the campus. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor expressed happiness that now onwards the university is self sufficient to accommodate more number of Post Graduate girl students.



Uttarer Krishi Katha Inaugurated

First time University published a seasonal agricultural extension bulletin. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University inaugurated the journey of Uttarer Krishi Katha on 13th November, 2013. The extension bulletin has been exclusively prepared for the farmers of the northern districts of West Bengal. The bulletin would help the farmer by providing



the knowledge intensive information on season wise scientific crop cultivation, achievement of farmers, soil, disease, pest related advisory services etc.

Honoris Causa



Cooch Behar Association of Cultivation of Agricultural Sciences (COBACAS) is going to organize a National Conference on "Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies of Climate Change for Sustainable Livelihood" during 5-7 March, 2014 at Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Pundibari, Cooch Behar, West Bengal.

Educational tour and exposure visit

Final year Students in graduation attended the study tour covering three southern states viz. Tamilnadu, Kerala and Karnataka and one Union territory i.e. Pondicherry. Many important institutes had been visited by the students



during this tour namely IICPT, Thanje-
vur; TNAU, Madurai Campus, Horticul-
tural Research Station, Kodaikanal; CTCRI, Trivundrum; Rubber Research Institute, Kottayam; CPCRI, Kayankulam; CIFT, Kochi; TNAU & FRI, Coimbatore; IARI, Regional Res. Institute, Wellington; CSWCTRI, Ooty; IIHR, Bangalore, CFTRI, Mysore etc.

New Appointment



Prof. Debasis Mazumdar has taken the charge of Director of Research on 2nd December, 2013. He previously served as Professor in the Department of Agricultural Statistics, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya. He is experienced in handling several national and international projects and recently he is associated with ICT led agricultural development project.

Award



National Environmentalist Association conferred Senior Scientist award, 2013 to Dr. B. Roy in the International Conference on “Harmony with Nature in Context of Ecotechnological Intervention and Climate Change”, Department of Zoology, DDU Gorakhpur University), Ranchi University, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India.

Programme Coordinators Left

- Dr. Samuel Rai, Programme Co-ordinator, Darjeeling Krishi Vigyan Kendra & Asst. Director of Farm (In-charge) of RRS (Hill Zone) has joined as Director, Directorate of Cinchona Plantation, Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, Mongpo, GTA, Govt. of West Bengal.
- Dr. N. C. Sahoo, Programme Co-ordinator, Dakshin Dinajpur Krishi Vigyan Kendra has joined as Programme Co-ordinator, South 24 Parganas Krishi Vigyan Kendra under RKMVU, Kolkata.



The Fourth Convocation of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya was held on 4th October, 2013 at University auditorium (ATIC building), UBKV, Pundibari, Coochbehar. The Hon’ble Chancellor of the Viswavidyalaya and His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal Shri M. K. Narayanan presided over the Convocation and the eminent agricultural scientist Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE, Govt. of India and Director General, ICAR was the chief guest and delivered the Convocation address.

Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) was conferred on the distinguished scientist and eminent research manager Dr. S. Ayyappan and

the illustrious academician in repute and renowned agricultural scientist Prof. L. N. Mandal. It is worthwhile to mention that Dr. Ayyappan is an internationally renowned scientist in Fishery Science and Prof. Mandal is the former Vice Chancellor of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya and renowned soil scientist with national and international repute.

A significant number of Graduate students (168), Post graduate students (52), and Doctorate degree recipients (22) received their degrees in this Convocation. Besides 19 students received Gold Medals for their academic accomplishment.

The 9th CAC meeting of NAIP, Component-3 subproject entitled “Sustainable Rural Livelihood Empowerment Project for Northern Disadvantaged Districts of West Bengal” was held at the UBKV, Lead Centre (Pundibari) under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. Senapati, Former Vice Chancellor, OUAT. Dr. A.P. ordinator, NAIP, Component-3 was also pre-evaluate the progress of the project and to preparation of final project consortium NIRJAFT, CCPI-BCKV, CCPI-ONS, ONLINE, distinguished CAC members, Prof T. P. Mukhopadhyay and Director of Research , UBKV discussed about the sustainability of the project activities after completion of the project.



Australian Council of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) organized a training programme on October to 31st October, 2013 at Siliguri, West Bengal with the active technical collaboration of CRISP, Hyderabad to ACIAR project, UBKV for developing a team during the implementation of the



tional Agricultural Research (ACIAR) organized a training programme on October to 31st October, 2013 at Siliguri, West Bengal with the active technical collaboration of CRISP, Hyderabad to ACIAR project, UBKV for developing a team during the implementation of the

A few innovative initiatives like introduction of external evaluation system and new course curriculum, admission tests for post graduates (M.Sc and Ph.D), creation of new departments undertaken were the thematic areas in the Vice-Chancellor’s address.

The eminent and leading personalities, policy makers and planners in the field of agriculture; MIC, Agriculture; MIC, North Bengal Development; MIC, Forest, Parliamentary Secretary, PWD, Govt. of West Bengal; Pro-Vice Chancellor, BCKV and former Vice Chancellors graced the august gathering.



Dr. Pijush Kanti Mukherjee, Asstt. Prof., Dept. of Agronomy attended the 12th Conference of International Society of Paddy and Water Environment Engineering held in Cheongju, South Korea during October 30-November 01, 2013.

RKVY Outcome

A Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY), Govt. of India multi-disciplinary Research project entitled “Spatial Crop Dynamics and Yield Gap Across different farming situations in North Bengal” has been in operation within the University since 2010 -11 with funding from Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal. The project is aimed at identifying the spatiality in cropping system and the ‘yield gap’ across different size groups of farming in North Bengal agrarian scenario. Recently, Workshop programmes have been held involving extension personnel and the farming community in Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur and Cooch Behar. Farmers have been made aware about the identified yield gaps in individual crops as well as in the entire cropping systems. They have been oriented about the perceived reasons for this identified yield gap.

Plant Tissue Culture

- Traditional scented varieties had been found to have high *in vitro* response in a study with traditional indica rice.
- Few promising somaclones of Kalobhog have been identified and somaclones TC-5-5 and TC-5-1 mature earlier than Kalobhog.



Rice Germplasm Evaluated

- Ten pure lines have been developed from the local cultivar-Kalobhog yields of some of which are 2-3 folds the yield of the base population.
- Characterization of the lines are under way according to the DUS guidelines published by PPV & FRA, Government of India.



Sensitization of SHG for Carp Seed Production

- Sixty eight beneficiaries under 8 SHGs, including both men and women, have started carp spawn production in the four hatcheries established at village level by the fund support from DST, Govt. of India.



Research Project Sanctioned

Title of the Project	Sponsoring Agency	Investigators
Extension of quality seed production techniques and fast grow-out of Indian and exotic carps in terai region of West Bengal	DST, GOI	Dr. (Mrs.) Debapriya Sarkar Dr. N.Ray
Documentation, refinement and promotion of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) in crop protection for environmental sustainability and quality production under terai and hilly region of West Bengal	NABARD	Dr. Nripendra Laskar, Dr. Prabhat Kumar Pal, Dr. Gautam Chakraborty Mr. Sarad Gurung
Innovative fish farming	Ministry of Agriculture, W.B	Dr. (Mrs.) Debapriya Sarkar
Improving dry season agriculture for marginal & tenant farmers in the Eastern Gangetic Plains through conjunctive use of pond and ground water resources	ACIAR, Australia	Dr. Rupak Sarkar, Prof. A. K. Chowdhury, Dr. K. Pradhan, Dr. Debapriya Sarkar, Dr. R. Chatterjee, Dr. T. N. Roy, Dr. S. Maitra, Dr. A. Sinha, Dr. P. K. Mukherjee, Dr. S. Khalko

- A part of the produced spawns are brought and rest are released in the ponds for rearing.

Farmers’ Training on Breeding and Culture of Asian Magur



Hundred eight farmers of two blocks namely Tufanganj-I and Coochbehar-II were imparted hands-on-training under Establishment

of rural bioresources” project funded by DBT, Govt. of India to motivate for large scale seed production of Asian magur and its rearing for entrepreneurship development in terms of socio-economic upgradation of the beneficiaries.

Darjeeling Festival

Festival on Darjeeling Mandarin and large cardamom cum Farmers Training on “Technologies for improving the productivity of Darjeeling mandarin & large cardamom” was organized at Kalimpong from 11th to 13th December, 2013 by Krishak Kalyan Sangathan in technical collaboration with Darjeeling Krishi Vigyan Kendra UBKV, Regional Research Station (Hill zone) UBKV, Kalimpong, Regional Station, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Kalimpong and Zonal office, Spices Board, Kalimpong.

The programme was inaugurated by Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Prof Biswanath Bandhopadhyaya. Prof. Bandhopadhyay in his address



stressed the prospects of Mandarin and Large Cardamom cultivation in hills. The programme was sponsored by NABARD, Regional Office, Kolkata.

Field Day at Uttar Dinajpur

Field day on Farmers participatory evaluation on the performance of different cultivation techniques (zero tillage, drum seeding, SRI, conventional transplanting) and different rice varieties was organized on



07.11.2013 at Uttar Dinajpur KVK instructional farm. A total number of 61 participants comprising Govt. Officials and farmers took part in the event .

Sensitization on Aromatic Rice

The impact of the RKVY stationed at RRS, OAZ, UBKV on aromatic rice depicted that *Tulaipanji* rice is proposed to be sold under the brand name, “Bengal Aromatic Rice”.

Again, the *Tulaipanji* rice was sent to the London Olympic-2012 from the grower/ Samity, “Samasti Krishak

Unayan Samity”, Hemtabad for popularization in the International Market. Moreover, Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce has recommended *Gabindobhog* and *Tulaipanji* for export in their 98th report on “Export of Food Grains-Premium Non-Basmati Rice & Wheat (August, 2011 / Sravana, 1933 (saka), Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi).