

RLBCAU organizes its First Convocation

The first convocation of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi was held on 21st January, 2019. It was a memorable occasion for the newly-established University when the students of the first batch (2014-2018) of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture received their degree. Four students received Merit Certificate (OGPA >8.5/10.0), while the University Gold Medal was bagged by Ms. Manisha Duhon for securing the highest OGPA (9.12/10.0).

The convocation address was delivered by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. He appreciated the progress made by the University within a short period, and exhorted the students to reach the limits of the sky. He also outlined a strategic plan for the development of the agriculture in the Bundelkhand region, which included soil and rainwater management, high-value crops, quality seed production and farm mechanization.

The function was presided over by Dr. Panjab Singh, Chancellor of the University. He mentioned that Indian agriculture is transforming fast but also facing several challenges including threat of climate change. He advocated technological solutions for improving water-use efficiency, diversification, integrated farming systems, and eradicating *Annapratha* in the region. He emphasized on developing partnerships and linkages among different institutions including IGFR, CAFRI, Bundelkhand University and RLBCAU for solving the problems of the farmers of Bundelkhand region in a holistic manner.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, Vice Chancellor presented the progress made by the University in academics, research, extension and infrastructure development. He thanked the Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR for paying special attention to the University, and hoped that the work for the second campus at Datia will commence soon. He wished that this '*Institution of National Importance*' enacted by the Parliament will become the Harvard of India in near future. Members of the Board of Management, Academic Council and the Board of Studies were also present at this historic moment.