



RLBCAU NEWS LETTER



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From the Vice-Chancellor Desk



Over the years, till initial years of green revolution, with lesser resources of irrigation, the Bundelkhand has witnessed remarkable change in cropping patterns. The semi-arid climate favoured the cultivation of hardy, low-water-demanding crops such as jowar (sorghum), bajra (pearl millet), and kodo-kutki, along with pulses like urad (black gram), moong (green gram), lentil, arhar (pigeon pea) and gram (chickpea). Oilseeds, including sesame and linseed, also featured prominently. The post-independence period, particularly from the 1960s onward, saw the introduction of irrigation through canals and tube wells though limited compared to other regions which encouraged farmers to adopt high-yielding varieties of wheat. This transition led to a slow but steady decline in the cultivation of millets and pulses. Unlike the fertile Indo-Gangetic plains, the region's terrain and scarce water resources limited the large-scale spread of the Green Revolution. Despite these constraints, wheat and mustard became increasingly dominant during the Rabi season, replacing traditional coarse grains.

The late 1980s and 1990s saw the widespread adoption of commercial crops such as soybean, groundnut, and sunflower, driven by rising market demand and government policies. Recently, Bundelkhand has witnessed a notable increase in rainfall and the expansion of irrigation infrastructure. This trend has resulted in significant replacement of pulses like black gram and green gram in kharif and chickpea in Rabi with groundnut and paddy in some pocket and wheat, respectively. This region is also known for large number of cattle population with low productivity and stray cattle. Though good breeds of buffalo are becoming preference, indigenous breeds of cow like Sahiwal and Tharparker are showing higher productivity in Bundelkhand region. Goatry has huge potential and fish production can also help farmers. While these shifts reflect resilience, adaptation, and the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods, they also demand urgent attention from research and development organizations. The transition from low-input, rain-fed crops like pulses to irrigation-intensive crops such as paddy and wheat must be investigated and managed carefully to safeguard the long-term sustainability of agriculture in Bundelkhand.

This situation calls for the formulation of strategies for sustainable use of resources in the region. This involves developing profitable cropping patterns and integrated farming system that serve as alternatives to the existing system, as well as promoting resource-efficient horticulture, agroforestry, and livestock-based farming systems. Collaborative efforts between local farmers, scientists, and policymakers will be essential to create a balanced approach that supports both productivity and agroecological sustainability of the Bundelkhand region.

Vice-Chancellor



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❖ **Intensive focus of UP Government on promotion of pulses and oilseed in the Bundelkhand region: Shri Surya Pratap Sahi**

On June 11, 2025, *kharif* campaign under Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan was graced by the august presence of Shri Surya Pratap Sahi, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Research and Education, Uttar Pradesh Government, at RLBCAU, Jhansi. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister addressed the huge gathering of farmers and during his address he said that UP government is consistently working on promotion of the pulses and oilseeds in state as well as in the *Bundelkhand* region. He also highlighted, the various agricultural and allied sector related programme govern by the State Government for the socio-economic upliftment of the farming community of the state. He emphasized upon execution of AGREES (Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Growth Rural Enterprises Ecosystem Strengthening) especially for *Bundelkhand* region of U.P. He urged to farmers to adopt natural farming components on gradual basis. Promotion of millets is the need of the hour, he told.



Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh also highlighted coverage of green gram after harvest of field pea in Jalaun district on large scale. He emphasized in brief outcome of usable technologies developed by RLBCAU, Jhansi. More than 200 farmers took part in this programme. On this occasion, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister provided the mini kit of groundnut, sesame and black gram for promotion of oilseeds & pulses in the *Bundelkhand* region. On this occasion, Sri Shyam Bihari Gupta, President, Gau Sewa Ayog at the rank of State Minister of U.P., Member of Legislative Assembly, Garautha Assembly of Jhansi, Director, IGFRI, Jhansi, Chief Development officer, Jhansi, Joint Director (Agriculture), Deputy Director Agriculture Extension, District Agriculture Officer were present in the programme.

❖ **RLBCAU reaches Over 36,000 farmers in Bundelkhand under 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan'**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, has launched a nationwide massive pre-*Kharif* campaign named 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' from May 29th to June 12th 2025,

in convergence mode involving ICAR Institutes, Agricultural Universities, KVKs, and State Government line departments. This is a significant initiative aimed at understanding farmers' concerns, fostering direct engagement between farmers and scientists, and accelerating the adoption of modern agricultural technologies.

As a part of this programme, 90 teams of scientists from RLBCAU, Jhansi, with the involvement of KVKs, ICAR institutes, and line departments, interacted with more than 36,000 farmers (11,000 female and 25,000 male) from 255 villages in three districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in the Bundelkhand region.

The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan programme was launched in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. A. K. Singh at Birguwan village of Jhansi district on May 29, 2025. On June 10, 2025, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor visited Hardua village of Jalaun District, where more than 400 farmers were participated in this event. During the event, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor urges to farmers to include durum wheat, pulses, oil seeds, millets, citrus, aonla, ber, guava goat and dairy farming in their farming system to ensure the stable income generation from their farm enterprises. In this event, Director Extension Education, Director Research, Dean (Horticulture & Forestry) and University scientists were also participated and shared important agricultural information with farmers.



❖ **RLBCAU and ICRISAT to collaborate on research and capacity building in climate-resilient crops**

A collaborative meeting between Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid

Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, was held on May 6, 2025, under the chairmanship of Dr. A. K. Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of RLBCAU. ICRISAT was represented by Dr. Manzoor Dar and Dr. Randhir Singh. The meeting was also attended by statutory officers, department heads, and scientists from the university. The discussions focused on identifying common areas of collaboration in research, extension, and education, aligned with the agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions of the Bundelkhand region, the needs of local farmers, and the strengths and expertise of both institutions. Key areas of mutual interest included research on climate-resilient crops such as groundnut, millets, chickpea, and sesame. Both institutions agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (M.o.U) to formalize the collaboration and undertake joint research initiatives. Additionally, they committed to organizing capacity-building programs for students and faculty members of RLBCAU, thereby strengthening the academic and research ecosystem of the university.



❖ **RLBCAU and Dhanuka Agritech promote pulses cultivation and good agricultural practices in Lalitpur**

Dhanuka Agritech Ltd., in collaboration with Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, the State Department of Agriculture, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), organized a one-day awareness programme on Pulses Cultivation and Good Agricultural Practices on May 5, 2025. The event was held at the Kalyan Singh Auditorium in Lalitpur. Dr. A. K. Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of RLBCAU, Jhansi, inaugurated the programme as the Chief Guest, emphasizing the critical role of pulse crops in ensuring nutritional security and enhancing farm income. Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, Director of Research at RLBCAU, highlighted the ecological benefits of pulse cultivation, especially in promoting sustainable farming systems. Dr. S. K. Singh, Director of Extension Education, RLBCAU, encouraged farmers to adopt Zaid/Summer green gram to boost additional income and improve soil health. The programme served as an important platform to educate farmers on improved pulse cultivation techniques and sustainable agricultural practices tailored to local agro-ecological conditions.

❖ **CoVAS Datia launched Veterinary OPD to strengthen livestock and pet healthcare services**

The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CoVAS), Datia marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of the Outpatient Department (OPD) at its state-of-the-art Veterinary Clinical Complex (VCC) on 8th May 2025. The inauguration ceremony was held in the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Chancellor Prof. Panjab Singh and Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. A. K. Singh. They were joined by Dr. V. P. Singh, Dean of CoVAS, Dr. P. K. Pandey, Dean of the College of Forestry, faculty members, university officials, students, and local farmers.



The newly launched OPD is set to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality veterinary healthcare services to livestock owners and pet guardians in the region. It offers a wide range of clinical services including routine health check-ups, disease diagnosis, vaccination, deworming, reproductive care, pet counselling, and emergency medical treatment. This initiative underscores CoVAS's integrated approach to veterinary education, research, and outreach, reinforcing its commitment to community service and animal welfare.

❖ **RLBCAU organized a series of training programmes on natural farming**

The Centre of Natural Farming established at RLBCAU successfully organized a series of nine intensive training programmes from 7th April to 23rd May 2025. These programmes were specifically designed for Scientists, Lead Natural Farming Implementers (LNFIs), and Field Master Trainers (FMTs), with a total participation of 570 trainees. Total 9 training programmes organized and out of which, 6 training courses were three days long and remaining 3 trainings courses were four days long.



The training focused on core principles and practices of natural farming, including soil health management, preparation and use of bio-inputs like Jivamrit, Beejamrit, and Ghanyamrit, and eco-friendly methods for pest and disease management. Additional components included crop diversification strategies, farmer-led transformation experiences, practical demonstrations, model farm visits, and interactive sessions featuring success stories from the field. The programme also emphasized strategic planning for on-ground implementation and monitoring of natural farming activities. The initiative aimed to strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders to promote sustainable, cost-effective, and environmentally sound agricultural practices across various regions. Majority of participants from Krishi Vigyan Kendras, State Department of Agriculture (ATMA) and progressive farmers took part from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

❖ **RLBCAU pays Tribute to Rani Laxmi Bai on her Martyrdom Day with solemn ceremony**

A heartfelt tribute and remembrance ceremony was organized on 18th June 2025 at the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU) campus to mark the martyrdom day of the legendary freedom fighter Rani Laxmi Bai. The programme included a *Pushpanjali* (floral tribute) and *Deepanjali* (lamp-lighting) ceremony held near the iconic statue of Rani Laxmi Bai, installed at the university's main gate. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, as the chief guest. Dr. Singh garlanded the statue, offered floral tributes, and lit the ceremonial lamp in homage to the brave queen on behalf of a grateful nation. In his address, he remarked that Rani Laxmi Bai is a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism, and her valiant efforts to defend the motherland

continue to inspire generations. The event witnessed the participation of all statutory officers, heads of departments, faculty, non-teaching staff, and students of the university, reflecting a shared spirit of respect and national pride.



❖ **Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey joined as Dean, College of Fisheries, Datia**

Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey took over charge as the Dean, College of Fisheries, Datia, on April 2, 2025. As a distinguished academician, Dr. Pandey brings with him over 37 years of exemplary service in fisheries education, research, extension and administration. Dr. Pandey has made significant contribution at various nationally recognized institutions like ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal; CAU, Imphal, and ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai. Dr. Pandey's visionary leadership and significant contributions will guide the College of Fisheries toward new heights in fisheries education, research, and rural development in the Bundelkhand region and beyond.



❖ **RLBCAU celebrates International Yoga Day**

On the occasion of International Yoga Day on 21st June 2025, mass yoga session was organized in the Jhansi and Datia campuses of RLBCAU. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh and other dignitaries of the university. Around 80 students along with faculty and staff of RLBCAU participated in this event. During this event, the NSS unit of the university organized a Yoga Posture Competition and a webinar on "Yoga for One Earth, One Health." In the webinar, the keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Hare Ram Pandey, Yog Acharya, Department of Yoga, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak (MP).



❖ **Instructional livestock farm complex inaugurated at veterinary college Datia to boost practical training and rural livestock entrepreneurship**

The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia, has established an advanced Instructional Livestock Farm Complex (ILFC) to enhance its academic, research, and extension capabilities. This state-of-the-art facility houses dedicated sections for cattle, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, horses, and poultry, each supported by modern infrastructure. The ILFC is equipped with ventilated animal sheds, milking parlours, feed and fodder storage units, waste recycling systems including biogas and composting units, as well as a fodder block featuring silage pits and green fodder plots. These facilities provide a robust foundation for nutritional management and hands-on learning. Designed as a “living laboratory,” the ILFC offers students and researchers valuable opportunities for practical training, live demonstrations, and small-scale research trials in areas such as animal genetics, nutrition, and health management. In addition, it will serve as a resource hub for farmer training, technology dissemination, and the promotion of livestock-based entrepreneurship in rural communities.



❖ **Radio Krishi Paathshaala: An initiative of RLBCAU's outreach program**

Radio Krishi Paathshaala a programme by Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi aired on All India Radio (Akashwani, Jhansi) –delivered research-based farm advisory service tailored to the semi-arid conditions of Bundelkhand region. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. A. K. Singh and Director Extension Education Dr. S.K. Singh inaugurated the program. As a part of this initiative, RLBCAU scientists provided guidance

to farmers through radio broadcast on seed selection, improved cultivation practices of major agricultural crops, establishment of plantations on degraded or rocky lands, and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants to promote soil regeneration and support sustainable livelihoods.



❖ **Bhartiya Kisan Sangh, Kanpur and RLBCAU, Jhansi jointly organized two days workshop**

Bhartiya Kisan Sangh, Kanpur Prant, U.P. along with RLBCAU, Jhansi organized the two days workshop for the farming community of Kanpur Province on 11 and 12 May 2025 at RLBCAU, Jhansi. During the workshop; discussions had been made between participating farmers, officials of Kisan Sangh and scientists of the University for promotion of pulses, millets, groundnut, mustard, durum wheat, natural farming along with development of horticultural, animal husbandry and fishery sector in the region. Total 76 farmers from seven districts of the Kanpur Prant participated in this workshop.



❖ **Secretary of MP administrative reorganization commission Visits RLBCAU, Datia**

Shri Akshay Kumar Singh, Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Administrative Unit Reorganization Commission, visited the Datia campus of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi on 23rd May 2025. The visit included inspections of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CoVAS), the College of Fisheries (CoF), and the University Veterinary Hospital. Dr. V. P. Singh, Dean of CoVAS, and Dr. P. K. Pandey, Dean of CoF, warmly welcomed the Secretary and presented an overview of the colleges' academic accomplishments, infrastructure advancements, ongoing research projects, and community outreach programs.



In addition, discussions were held on the pivotal role of the university in enhancing veterinary and fisheries education and services across the Bundelkhand region. Shri Singh commended the University its Robust Academic Infrastructure, progressive developmental initiatives, and its student-focused approach. He acknowledged RLBCAU's growing impact in empowering the region through education, research, and extension activities.

❖ **RLBCAU celebrates world environment day 2025 with tree plantation, awareness activities, and anti-Plastic campaigns**

RLBCAU observed World Environment Day 2025 with great enthusiasm across its Jhansi and Datia campuses, aligning with the global theme "End Plastic Pollution." The week-long celebration concluded on June 5 with a series of impactful events, including a tree plantation drive, an environmental awareness rally, and student-led poster exhibitions promoting sustainable practices.

The concluding event was chaired by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. A. K. Singh. Mr. Mahaveer Koujalagi (IFS), Chief Conservator of Forests, witnessed the event as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Ravikant Pathak, Professor at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, graced the occasion as the Special Guest. In their insightful addresses, the dignitaries highlighted the pressing need to reduce plastic pollution and advocated for the widespread adoption of eco-friendly habits, underscoring the importance of both individual and collective action in safeguarding the environment.



Throughout the week, students actively participated in various competitions such as slogan writing, quizzes, poetry recitals, poster-making, and nature photography, showcasing

their creativity and commitment to environmental causes. Winners were honoured with certificates during the closing ceremony. Adding to the celebration, the 32 UP Girls Battalion NCC, Jhansi organized a special plantation drive at Pahuj Dam, planting 100 saplings of Karanj, Shisham, Imli, and Tecoma along the dam's periphery, further reinforcing the university's dedication to environmental stewardship.

❖ **The 27th Board of Management meeting organized**
27th Board of management meeting was held on 12/06/2025 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RLBCAU, Jhansi, in hybrid mode. Dr. Anupam Mishra, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, C.A.U. Imphal along with nominated members including progressive farmers was present physically in this meeting. Agriculture Commissioner, GoI, New Delhi, Assistant Director General (HRD), and other members took part virtually. Several agenda items were thoroughly discussed and fruitful suggestions were given by the Hon'ble members of BOM. Registrar, RLBCAU Jhansi acted as member secretary of this Board of Management meeting.



❖ **Working group meeting for development of the textbook for the job role of fish seed grower**

The PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE), a constituent unit of NCERT, Bhopal (M.P.), in collaboration with the College of Fisheries, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Datia, organized a three-day working group meeting from 11th to 13th June 2025. The meeting focused on the development of a vocational textbook for the job role of *Fish Seed Grower* for Grade 12 students.



❖ **RLBCAU organizes webinar on prevention of children's sexual abuse**

A webinar was organized on 4th April 2025 in collaboration with Sakshi under the Rakshin Project on the topic “Stop Child Sexual Abuse,” focusing on the provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012. The session featured Ms. Aaradhna, a core member of Sakshi, as the keynote speaker. While addressing the critical issue of child sexual abuse, Ms. Aaradhna also broadened the discussion to include sexual harassment faced by adults in the workplace. She elaborated on the rights available to victims under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 commonly known as the POSH Act. Emphasizing the Act's objective, she noted that it was enacted to ensure a safe, respectful, and secure working environment for women. The session aimed to raise awareness about the legal mechanisms available to combat sexual abuse and harassment, and to encourage proactive measures to create safer spaces for both children and adults.

❖ **NSS activities of the university**

The NSS Unit of RLBCAU, Jhansi organized Ambedkar Jayanti on 14th April 2025 by creating awareness among NSS volunteers through a quiz competition. A pledge on the occasion was taken at Madhyamik School of Simardha Village.



Under Posan Pakhwada (8-22 April) NSS unit organized poster making competition, rally in Simardha village and performed a *Nukkad Natak* on them 'Sahiposhan: Desh Roshan' at Madhyamik School to create the awareness on importance of nutrition. Similarly, NSS unit was also engaged in organizing registration campaign for Viksit Vibrant Villages Program on My Bharat portal (26 April), Swachhata Campaign in Manu Hostel and Vivekananda Hostel (3May), Fit India Mission i.e. Sunday On Cycle (4 May & 1 June), session on Relaxation and Meditation with the collaboration of Heart fulness team (17 & 31 May), training session for registration of volunteer's civil defense on My Bharat portal, ELP on cyber security/Jan aushadhi/Agriculture etc (17 May) and organized Swachhata activity at Ram Mani temple on 24th May 2025.

❖ **B.Sc. Forestry IV semester students embark on one-week study tour**

From April 20–27, 2025, the B.Sc. (Forestry) IV semester students embarked on an intensive study tour to explore

India's premier forestry and ecological institutions located at Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The study tour started from the Forest Research Institute (FRI), followed by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) campus; ICAR-IISWC; Wildlife Institute of India (WII); Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS); Northern Regional Centre of Botanical Survey of India (BSI), and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). This cohesive week-long study tour enriched the student's academic perspective by blending theoretical and applied forestry, conservation biology, ecological monitoring, and Himalayan geology.



❖ **RLBCAU NCC Girl cadets shine at 10-Day training camp in Jhansi**

The girl cadets of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) from Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, participated in a 10-day intensive training camp organized by the 32 UP Girls Battalion NCC, Jhansi, from May 8 to May 17, 2025. The cadets attended under the guidance of Associate NCC Officer Dr. Priyanka Sharma. A total of 34 cadets from the university took part in the camp, which focused on developing essential skills such as drill, parade, basic self-defence, firearm handling, and sports, aimed at building courage, discipline, physical fitness, and leadership. These camps are instrumental in nurturing patriotism, team spirit, and camaraderie, contributing significantly to the cadets' holistic development.



RLBCAU cadets earned notable accolades during the camp. Cadet Anchal Singh was honoured with the Best Cadet Award, Cadet Deepika Bhoi secured first prize in poster making, Cadet Ananya won second prize in the debate competition, and Cadet Srishti Singh was recognized for her performance in the firing competition.

❖ B.F.Sc. students from Mathura visit college of fisheries, Datia

On 15th May 2025, a group of 29 B.F.Sc. students along with 3 faculty members from the College of Fisheries Science, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University and Gau Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura, visited the College of Fisheries, Datia, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU) as part of an educational tour.

During the visit, Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dean of the College of Fisheries, welcomed the delegation and highlighted the critical role of the fisheries sector in ensuring food security, employment, and economic growth. He also provided insights into the college's achievements, academic excellence, advanced laboratory infrastructure, and the initiatives being undertaken for the holistic development of students. The educational tour served as a platform for academic exchange and exposure, enhancing students' understanding of fisheries education and research at RLBCAU.



❖ RLBCAU NSS volunteers showcase Uttar Pradesh's culture at national integration camp

Ten dedicated NSS volunteers from Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, proudly represented Uttar Pradesh at the National Integration Camp held at Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad, from June 6 to 12, 2025. The camp was jointly organized by Gujarat Vidyapith and the Regional Directorate of NSS, Ahmedabad, and brought together 200 volunteers and 11 program officers from 11 different states across India.



The RLBCAU team, led by NSS Programme Officer Dr. Ashutosh Kumar, comprised students from the Colleges of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Forestry. They actively participated in various cultural events, showcasing the rich folk arts and vibrant cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh. Beyond cultural exchanges, the camp featured a series of skill-building workshops on photography, civil defence, fine arts, swimming, creative arts, and disaster management. These sessions aimed to promote the holistic development of volunteers by nurturing leadership qualities, enhancing creativity, and fostering a strong sense of social responsibility among youth.

