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From the Vice-Chancellor Desk



The India's agricultural sector stands at a pivotal juncture where strategic reforms can accelerate the nation's journey toward self-reliance and global competitiveness. The vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat underscores the transformation of agriculture into a resilient, technology-driven, and self-sustaining sector. Two critical objectives underpin this vision: enhancement of agricultural exports and reduction of import dependence.

In FY 2023–24, India's agricultural exports reached USD 48.76 billion, accounting for 11.16% of total merchandise exports. This performance reflects strong potential for further growth. To sustain this trajectory, policy focus must prioritize value addition, quality enhancement, and market diversification. Investments in processing infrastructure, certification systems, and compliance with international standards are essential to strengthening India's position in global agri-food value chains.

On the domestic front, several government initiatives such as cluster demonstration programmes, seed hub initiatives, and enhanced Minimum Support Prices (MSP) have contributed to a resurgence in oilseed and pulse production. Notably, Bundelkhand has emerged as a key contributor, with significant expansion in groundnut area, high yield potential in mustard, and widespread soybean cultivation. These developments have collectively advanced India's progress toward self-reliance in edible oils.

Despite these positive trends, India continues to import a substantial volume of agricultural commodities particularly edible oils. In FY 2023–24, agricultural imports were valued at USD 37 billion, with nearly half spent on edible oils. This highlights the need for a strategic intensification of domestic production through area expansion, technological advancement, and strengthened research and development (R&D) systems.

While public investment in agricultural R&D has been substantial, its impact can be amplified through targeted procurement policies, financial instruments, and focused promotion of diverse oilseed crops, including coconut. Strengthening R&D linkages with extension systems and private sector participation will further enhance productivity and resilience across the oilseed and pulse sectors. To actualize the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, India must continue to advance export-oriented growth while systematically reducing import reliance through innovation, investment, and policy coherence. A revitalized R&D and innovation ecosystem, supported by enabling policies and institutional coordination, will be central to achieving sustainable agricultural growth, food and nutritional security, and a stronger global footprint for Indian agriculture.



Vice-Chancellor

❖ Inauguration of Veterinary Clinical Complex/ Veterinary Hospital, CoVAS, Datia

The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia, witnessed a historic moment with the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Veterinary Clinical Complex (VCC)/ Veterinary Hospital on 26th August, 2025. The facility was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Government of India, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in the august presence of Mrs. Sandhya Rai, Member of Parliament, Bhind-Datia; Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR; Dr. A. K. Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RLBCAU and Dr. V. P. Singh, Dean of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences along with all the Deans, Directors & Statutory officers of the university, faculty members, students and a large gathering of farmers from the region.

The Veterinary Clinical Complex has been envisioned as a multispecialty veterinary healthcare hub designed to cater to both small and large animals. The hospital will also have a provision for housing indoor cases along with their owners, thereby ensuring enhanced care, comfort, and continuous monitoring during treatment. The inauguration of the Veterinary Clinical Complex marks a milestone in veterinary education and animal healthcare in Bundelkhand. By combining modern diagnostic and surgical facilities with a commitment to community service, the Complex is poised to enhance livestock health management, support farmers with reliable veterinary services, strengthen student learning, and contribute meaningfully to rural development.



❖ 30th Annual Group Meet on Rabi Pulses of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Rabi Pulses (19-21 August, 2025)

The 30th Annual Group Meet of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Rabi Pulses was organized during 19-21 August 2025. Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. M.L. Jat, chaired the inaugural session and brainstorming session on "Roadmap for attaining self-sufficiency in pulses production". By The inaugural session was also graced was graced by Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, Dr. D. K. Yadava, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR, Shri Sanjay Kumar Agrawal, Joint Secretary, DA&FW, GoI, Prof. A. K. Singh,

Vice- Chancellor, RLBCAU, Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Assistant Director General (Oilseeds and General) and Directors of ICAR several institutes. Dr. M. L. Jat outlined a comprehensive roadmap for strengthening pulses research and development. Also, he emphasised the need to enhance productivity and area expansion, while highlighting the vital role of pulses in enriching soil health, providing protein-rich nutrition to humans, and sustaining ecosystem balance. The group meeting was attended by more than 175 scientists from various organisations, including State Agriculture Universities, BARC, ICRISAT, ICARDA, and ICAR institutes. He suggested that scientists should focus on designing high-yielding cultivars suitable for surface seeding, relay cropping, stress-prone areas, and high/low input areas.

The brainstorming session brings together researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders to discuss strategies for advancing rabi pulses research and strengthening farmer-centric innovations. In his presidential remarks, Prof. A. K. Singh highlighted Bundelkhand's untapped potential in pulses and oilseeds, citing the potential of mustard, groundnut, and summer mung bean. He also mentioned a model of best practices for pea cultivation in Jalaun District. Joint Secretary, DA & F, Shri Sanjay Kumar Agrawal, briefed on the pulse mission and other government initiatives, and he presented the current scenario of pulses. The Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR, Dr D. K. Yadava, said that scientists should make efforts to develop production and protection technologies to minimise crop loss due to weeds, disease, and insect pests. He said dedicated efforts should be made to mechanise pulse cultivation from planting to harvesting. He further emphasised that efficient data management will be instrumental in better planning and monitoring of pulse development. Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, Director of Research, welcomed the dignitaries and participants. Dr G. P. Dixit, Director of ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur, presented the R&D activities of Rabi Pulses in India. At the same time, Dr Shailesh Tripathi, Project Coordinator for Rabi Pulses, discussed the progress and achievements of Rabi Pulses over the past year.

A three-day exhaustive session was conducted to review the progress of the past year and to formulate the technical programme for the upcoming year. The different sessions for crop improvement, crop protection, crop production, breeder seed production and technology dissemination were conducted. The representatives from international organisations like ICRISAT and ICARDA presented the R&D activities. On August 21, 2025, the valedictory session was chaired by Prof. A. K. Singh and Dr Sanjeev Gupta, ADG (Oilseeds and Pulses), Dr G. P. Dixit, Director, ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur, Dr. Shailesh Tripathi, Project Coordinator, Rabi Pulses, and Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, Director Research. Dr. Shailesh Tripathi, Project Coordinator, Rabi Pulses, presented recommendations for three-day sessions. In their concluding remarks, the dignitaries emphasised the need for enhancing the productivity of rabi pulses, strengthening varietal development and protection strategies, improving soil health, promoting sustainable technologies, and

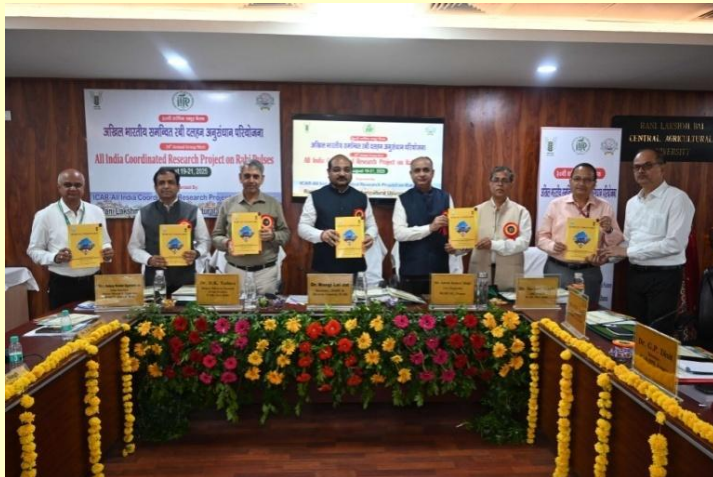
localised research efforts to achieve the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in Pulses.



❖ Release of RLBCAU Vision 2047

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, proudly released its long-term strategic document "RLBCAU Vision 2047", outlining the University's Roadmap to contribute meaningfully towards building a sustainable, resilient, and innovation-driven agricultural ecosystem in India by 2047.

The Vision 2047 document encapsulates the University's commitment to excellence in education, research, extension, and innovation, with a focus on transforming the Bundelkhand region into a hub of agricultural advancement. It lays down a comprehensive framework for climate-smart farming, digital agriculture, entrepreneurship, and rural livelihood empowerment.



Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR, and Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RLBCAU, formally released the document in the presence of Deans, Directors, faculty members, and stakeholders from allied sectors during the All India Coordinated Research Project on Rabi Pulses, held from August 19–21, 2025.

In his address, Dr. Jat emphasised that *"RLBCAU Vision 2047 serves as a guiding blueprint to align our institutional growth with the national priorities of Viksit Bharat 2047 emphasizing sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation."*

The vision document also highlights the University's mission to:

- ✓ Strengthen cutting-edge research and technology dissemination for farmers.
- ✓ Promote entrepreneurial and skill-based agricultural education.
- ✓ Establish centres of excellence in frontier areas of agriculture and allied sciences.
- ✓ Foster collaborations with national and international institutions.

The release of "RLBCAU Vision 2047" marks a significant milestone in the University's journey towards shaping the next generation of agricultural leaders and ensuring food and nutritional security for all

❖ Inauguration of Speed Breeding Facility

The Speed Breeding facility developed by the University was inaugurated by Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, in the august presence of Deputy Director General Dr. D. K. Yadava, DDG (Crop Science), and Prof. A. K. Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, on August 19, 2025. In a significant breakthrough aimed at increasing crop production in the country and addressing the impact of climate change on agriculture, the Central Agricultural University has established an innovative crop breeding research facility. This facility will enable 3-4 crop generations a year under controlled climatic conditions. The speed breeding facility will accelerate ongoing research experiments on mustard, chickpea, wheat, and groundnut at the University, enabling 4-6 harvests of wheat and chickpea and 3-4 harvests of mustard and groundnut in a year. Similarly, this method will accelerate the development of crop varieties for Bundelkhand's main crops. This technology will not only enable environmentally friendly farming but will also ensure food security by accelerating the cultivation of key crop varieties.



❖ Organization of Catalytic Workshop for Farmers' Prosperity

The "Catalytic Workshop for Farmers' Prosperity" was jointly organised by the Bundelkhand Kisan Morcha, Jhansi, and the RLBCAU, Jhansi, on September 16, 2025, at the University's main campus. Honourable Member of Parliament, Shri Anurag Sharma (Jhansi-Lalitpur), graced the event as the chief guest. In his address, he encouraged farmers to adopt scientific farming and diversify farm enterprises to combat the ill effects of climate change. He

also advised farmers to link with FPOs to maximise their profits through collective efforts. Presiding over the program, Honourable Vice Chancellor Dr Ashok Kumar stated in his address that the University is promoting groundnut, summer mungbean, mustard, and horticultural crops, including aonla, citrus, okra, kharif onion, milk, and fish production, tailored to regional conditions. Certificate courses are also being offered to promote enterprises such as mushroom production, beekeeping, fisheries, and goat rearing. He said that all such initiatives have been designed to bring overall development and prosperity to the farming community of the region. In the technical session, University scientists delivered lectures on essential topics such as plant protection, animal husbandry, and seed processing. Over 250 farmers, scientists, and representatives from various institutions, including the Agriculture Department, Balini FPO, and Bundelkhand Kisan Morcha, actively participated in the program.



❖ **CIFOR-ICRAF DG Dr. Robert Nasi's Visit to RLBCAU Jhansi: Building Global Forestry-Agroforestry Partnerships**

Dr. Robert Nasi, Director General of the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and Director of Science at CIFOR-ICRAF, recently visited Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, to explore and strengthen collaborative research and training in forestry and agroforestry. Hosted by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh and senior faculty, the visit included a field tour of experimental forestry model sites such as *Gmelina arborea* (Gamhar), *Melia dubia*, *Neolamarckia cadamba* (Kadam), *Ailanthus excelsa*, Bamboo, Neem, and other lesser-known timber and medicinal tree species, along with integrated farming systems. Dr. Nasi underscored the importance of hands-on, international exposure for students by expressing CIFOR-ICRAF's willingness to send forestry and agroforestry students to global partner institutes in Nairobi, Kenya, and Bogor, Indonesia. Key areas discussed included sustainable land use, climate change mitigation, agroforestry innovation, and the role of academic institutions in transferring research-based technologies to farmers. The meeting also involved CIFOR-ICRAF's Country Director, Dr. Manoj Dabas, and Senior Advisor Dr. Ravi Prabhu, each of whom shared insights on ongoing initiatives and prospective collaborations in carbon farming,

landscape resilience, and farmer-centred innovation. Prof. Singh reaffirmed RLBCAU's commitment to integrating international scientific cooperation into its academic, research, and outreach programs, particularly for the benefit of the Bundelkhand region. The dialogue reaffirmed shared goals for sustainable forestry and agroforestry practices. It paved the way for new partnerships to help address global challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and rural livelihoods.



❖ **Summer School Training on Techniques in Mass production and quality control of microbial bio-pesticides'**

A Summer School Training sponsored by the Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR) was conducted at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, from 16 to 23 September 2025. The training, titled "Techniques in Mass Production and Quality Control of Microbial Bio-pesticides," was designed to build advanced technical capacity among professionals in the field of agricultural microbiology and plant protection. A total of 17 participants from seven states attended the programme, representing State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. The participants included Assistant Professors, Scientists, and Subject Matter Specialists. The inaugural programme was presided over by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. A.K. Singh, while Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director General, UPCAR, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. On this occasion, a training manual titled "Techniques in Mass Production and Quality Control of Microbial Bio-pesticides" was released by the dignitaries and distributed among all participants.

The week-long training featured expert lectures by eminent Plant Pathologists, complemented by hands-on practical sessions in the laboratory. The practical component covered key areas such as isolation and identification of *Trichoderma* spp., bioassay methods for evaluating biocontrol potential, mass multiplication techniques, preparation of fermentation media, isolation and preservation of microbial bioagents, formulation technology (solid and liquid), quality testing, bio-efficacy assessment of entomopathogenic fungi (EPFs), and field application methods.

The training was coordinated under the leadership of Dr. P.P. Jambhulkar, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, who served as the Course Director. The

programme provided participants with valuable theoretical insights and practical expertise, contributing to capacity building in sustainable pest management through microbial bio-pesticides.



❖ Stakeholders Consultation Meeting on "Promotion of Groundnut and Sesame Production in Bundelkhand region"

A stakeholder consultation meeting on "Promotion of Groundnut and Sesame Production in Bundelkhand region" was organised at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, on 28-29th August 2025.



The objective of the meeting was to review the current status, challenges, and opportunities in groundnut and sesame production in Bundelkhand, and to draw a roadmap for enhancing productivity, profitability, and sustainability. To facilitate interaction between scientists and farmers, a field visit was organised, attended by more than 240 farmers from Jhansi and adjoining districts. More than 240 farmers from Jhansi and adjoining districts. Along with the farmers, scientists, and development practitioners from key agricultural institutions viz., IOPEPC, Mumbai; ICRISAT, Patancheru; GRC, Junagadh; BUAT, Banda; Agriculture Department, Jhansi; RVSKVV, Gwalior; FPOs of Jhansi and KVKs of Jhansi, Datia, Shivpuri, and Lalitpur.

❖ RLBCAU, Jhansi, organized a Stakeholder Meet to promote the gainful employment and sustainable income generation among the SC farmers of the partner FPO in Jhansi district

Under the RLBCAU-FPOs linkage extension model, Directorate of Extension Education, RLBCAU, Jhansi, organised a Stakeholder Meet on September 26 2025, with the participation of (i) Bundelkhand Ayushadhi Farmer

Producer Company Ltd., Jhansi, U.P. and its Dal Mill Management Committee, (ii) Bharat Heavy Machines, Kanpur, U.P. (the manufacturer of IIPR Mini Dal Mill). This initiative was undertaken under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University and the Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur. The meeting primarily focuses on demonstrating and discussing the IIPR Mini Dal Mill, promoting value addition and marketing of pulses, and strengthening institutional linkages to ensure gainful employment and sustainable income generation among farmers, especially the rural youth of the SC community in the Bangra block of Jhansi district. This area is particularly known for the production of rabi pulses (gram, peas, and lentils), which cover 70% of the cultivated area of the Bangra block. For the effective operation of the dal mill, the Directorate of Extension Education has also formed a dal mill management committee of 20 Scheduled Caste farmers. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh urged farmers to increase pulse production and make full use of this dal mill to maximise profits. This machine will enable Scheduled Caste farmers to run small enterprises and move towards self-reliance while living in the village.



❖ Radio Krishi Paathshaala -Winter Season Advisory

Radio Krishi Paathshaala is a dedicated farm advisory broadcast by Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, in collaboration with Akashvani (AIR Jhansi). It focuses on delivering research-based guidance adapted to the semi-arid Bundelkhand region. In the winter season, the programme addresses the cultivation of rabi crops such as wheat, barley, chickpea, lentil, field pea, mustard, and linseed, along with horticultural crops (vegetables, tubers, flowers, spices) and allied enterprises (animal husbandry, fisheries). Expert scientists offer advice on selecting cold-tolerant or early maturing varieties; using seed treatment (e.g. Rhizobium, fungicides) for pulses; balanced fertiliser scheduling (split N, micronutrients); weed, pest and disease monitoring and timely interventions; protected cultivation techniques (row covers, tunnels) for vegetables; proper spacing, irrigation scheduling, and disease control for tuber crops; microclimate management, pruning, and pest control in flower, agroforestry trees and spice crops; provision of wind-proof shelter, extra feed, vaccination, and deworming

for livestock during cold spells; and in aquaculture, maintaining dissolved oxygen, adjusting feeding rates, and judicious choice of cold-tolerant fish species. The broadcasts are timed to remind farmers of critical operations (sowing windows, spray schedules, fertilisation dates) and often include responses to farmer queries, thereby bridging the gap between research and on-field practice in the Bundelkhand context.



❖ Completion of the second batch and initiation of the third batch of the Certificate course on mushroom cultivation

The second batch of the Certificate course on Mushroom cultivation was completed on July 4, 2025. Under the course, 13 entrepreneurs from Jhansi, Mathura, Gwalior, and Datia districts were enrolled. During the course, they have learned about various mushroom species, their morphology, nutritional and medicinal properties and health benefits. In this course, participants received hands-on training in the production of spawn and the cultivation of oysters and white button mushrooms to help them establish a mushroom farming model for income generation. They have also learnt about value addition, post-harvest management, grading, packaging, storage, and marketing. During the course, lectures on how to establish a mushroom production unit, legal procedures for setting up the mushroom unit, technical, financial and commercial aspects of business, government-sponsored schemes and subsidies, company/industry registration and legal procedures in agricultural finance were also conducted and discussed to support the entrepreneurs for establishing mushroom production as a venture. The third batch with 11 participants also commenced from July 31, 2025.

❖ CoVAS, Initiates three Certificate Courses to Boost Rural Livelihoods

The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CoVAS), Datia, has launched three region-focused certificate programs from 17th September 2025, aimed at enhancing rural livelihoods and promoting self-employment in Bundelkhand. A total of 29 participants has enrolled in these courses, which blend theoretical instruction with hands-on training. The programs include two one-month certificate courses on Commercial Goat Farming and Management of Reproduction and Production in Dairy Animals, along with a 15-day course on Histological Techniques. The

Commercial Goat Farming course equips participants with skills in breed selection, feeding, disease prevention, housing, and marketing-enabling them to establish small-scale goat enterprises and contribute to the rural economy. The Management of Reproduction and Production in Dairy Animals course provides practical training in reproductive physiology, breeding systems, artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, and nutrition directly supporting improved livestock productivity and better employment opportunities in both public and private sectors. The Histological Techniques course develops laboratory skills in tissue processing, staining, and microscopic analysis, preparing participants for careers in research, diagnostics, and pathology services. These initiatives are creating clear pathways for self-employment, improved farm operations, and technical employment in the animal health and production sectors. By building skills aligned with regional needs, CoVAS, Datia is contributing to enhanced livestock productivity, rural employment generation and community-level economic growth.



❖ Three days training program on Poultry Farming Management Techniques:

The College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia successfully organized a three-day training programme for farmers of the Bundelkhand region on the theme “मुर्गीपालनप्रबंधनतकनीक” (Poultry Farming Management Techniques) from 31st July to 2nd August, 2025.



A total of 25 farmers from Nouner, Pathari, Udgawan, Palother, Kamer, Janouri, and SalaiyaPamar villages of Datia district actively participated in the training programme. The training featured expert-led lectures covering key aspects of poultry farming such as breed selection, feeding, housing, disease prevention, and marketing strategies. In addition to classroom sessions, farmers were provided with practical demonstrations on feed formulation, brooding, vaccination, and biosecurity measures. A field exposure visit to a model premier poultry farm, Jhansi was also organized, allowing participants to observe modern poultry management practices and interact with successful poultry farmers.

❖ **One Day MPEDA-funded Training on Value Added Fish Products organised at College of Fisheries, Datia**

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Regional Division Mumbai, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in collaboration with the College of Fisheries, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Datia, successfully organised a day of training on the preparation of value-added fish products on August 20, 2025. Value-added fish products such as acetes chutney powder, fish balls, fish bread pakoda, and fish pickle were demonstrated. A hands-on session was organized for 20 SC farmers and fishers to familiarize them with technologies and market opportunities related to fish-based value-added products. The programme emphasized the importance of diversification in fish utilization to increase farmers' income and promote nutritional security in the Bundelkhand region. Experts highlighted the scope of value-added products in both domestic and export markets. Participants actively engaged in practical demonstrations, gaining confidence in adopting small-scale processing as an additional livelihood option.



❖ **MPEDA-funded Capacity Building Training on Biosecurity for SC Fish Farmers Organized at College of Fisheries, RLBCAU, Datia**

The College of Fisheries, RLBCAU, Datia, in collaboration with the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Regional Division Mumbai, successfully conducted a capacity-building training programme on August 21, 2025, for fishers and fish farmers of the Bundelkhand region. The training focused on biosecurity

and personal hygiene in fish farms and hatcheries for 30 SC farmers, providing hands-on exposure to safe and scientific aquaculture practices. Dr. Lata Shenoy (Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai), and Dr. G. Rathinaraj (Former Joint Director, MPEDA, Dr. S. K. Singh (Director of Extension Education, RLBCAU), Dr. V. P. Singh (Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia), Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey (Dean, College of Fisheries, Datia), graced the event. They highlighted the immense potential of fisheries in Bundelkhand, emphasising that adopting scientific techniques, hygiene, biosecurity, and value addition can make the region self-reliant, boost employment, and enable fish products to meet international standards. Participants were also encouraged to integrate safe fish-handling practices and personal hygiene into their daily routines. A key feature of the programme was the distribution of plastic crates with lids and T-shirts to participating farmers, promoting safe fish handling and hygiene. The training concluded successfully, reaffirming RLBCAU and MPEDA's commitment to empowering Bundelkhand farmers with modern aquaculture practices and value addition for sustainable livelihoods.

❖ **College of Fisheries, Datia, celebrated National Fish Farmers Day 2025 and the Stakeholders Meet.**

The College of Fisheries, Datia, celebrated National Fish Farmers Day with great enthusiasm on July 10, 2025, alongside a Stakeholders' Meet on "Fisheries in Bundelkhand Region: Current Status, Prospects, and Challenges." The event was sponsored by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad. The event was presided over by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. A. K. Singh, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi. The programme was graced by Dr. Shubhadeep Ghosh (ADG, Marine Fisheries, ICAR), Dr. Azad Dubey (an Aqua-Entrepreneur), Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey (Dean, College of Fisheries, Datia) and Dr. V. P. Singh (Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia), who shared their valuable insights on aquaculture expansion, innovation, and allied opportunities. Dr. Dilip Kumar, Former Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai, delivered an inspiring address, underscoring the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship, and farmer-centric research in fostering sustainable fisheries growth. The event also featured the felicitation of progressive fish farmers under various categories, including Traditional Aquaculture, Integrated Fish Culture, Innovative Fish Farmer, and Fish Hatchery Development. To encourage student participation, engaging competitions such as Awareness Quiz, Group Quiz, and Slogan Writing Contest were organized, followed by a vibrant cultural programme presented by the students of the College of Fisheries.

A technical session followed, featuring deliberations by invited experts and government officials on the challenges and opportunities in Bundelkhand's fisheries sector. The celebration successfully brought together fish farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and policymakers, reaffirming RLBCAU's commitment to advancing fisheries education, research, and sustainable livelihood development in the Bundelkhand region.



❖ Three-day annual training-cum-interaction workshop of CS Scheme

Training-cum-interaction workshop was organised from August 28-30, 2025 at RLBCAU, Jhansi, for the skill development of field functionaries under C.S. Scheme. The event was presided over by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. A. K. Singh, RLBCAU, Jhansi. The workshop was graced by Dr. S. K. Singh (Director of Extension Education, RLBCAU) and Dr. D.V.Singh (Field Officer, CS Scheme). Apart of this, two virtual monthly meetings were also organised with all staff of the scheme, chaired by the Director of Extension Education/Nodal Officer, to discuss the technical work status and administrative issues for the smooth functioning of the scheme during July to September 2025 under the C.S. Scheme.



❖ Buffalo Unit Established at Livestock Farm Complex, CoVAS Datia:

The Livestock Farm Complex (LFC) at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CoVAS), Datia, has been further strengthened with the establishment of a dedicated buffalo unit to support academic, research, and extension activities. In addition to the existing cattle, goat, and sheep units, the buffalo unit now houses 15 animals, including adult Murrah and Bhadawari buffaloes, along with male and female calves. The Murrah buffaloes were procured from the ICAR–Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB), Hisar, while the Bhadawari buffaloes were sourced from the ICAR–Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) unit of CIRB. The addition of this unit will provide students and researchers with enhanced opportunities for hands-on learning, breed management, and applied research, while also supporting regional livestock development initiatives.



❖ 20th installment of the P.M. Kisan Samman Nidhi

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi organized Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi programme on 02/08/2025 in the multi-purpose hall of University. On this occasion, Hon'ble Prime Minister released 20th installment of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi to more than 10 crores farmers of the Country.



Hon'ble P.M. also addressed to farming community, Scientific community, Policy makers, Development Departments on various programmes& activities for achieving self-sufficiency in pulses & oil seeds in coming years. RLBCAU, Jhansi arranged more than 275 farmers including 67 farm women of nearby villages of Jhansi to show live programme of P.M.-Kisan Samman Nidhi on

02/08/2025. After programme, Scientific Staff of University also briefed about production packages of various cereals, oil seeds, pulses, vegetables, fruit plant, agro-forestry etc. aspects. Hon'ble Vice – Chancellor, Statuary officers, faculty members, students also took part in this programme

❖ Farmers from the Singrauli district of M.P. visited the RLBCAU main campus.

On July 26, 2025, 30 farmers & extension personnel from the Agriculture Departments of Singrauli district in M.P. visited the University's main campus as part of an ATMA-sponsored exposure visit. The university scientists facilitated this visit, and during the visit, farmers observed the crop cafeteria and experimental farm of the University. Apart from these, they also visited a protected cultivation unit, a hydroponics unit, a water conservation management unit, a honey bee vatika, a seed processing plant, and a natural farming demonstration unit etc.

❖ Annual Report 2023-24

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, has successfully prepared and submitted its 10th Annual Report for the year 2023–24, which has been laid before both Houses of the Parliament of India. The Annual Report 2023–24 encapsulates the University's significant achievements, progress, and initiatives across the key domains of education, research, extension, and institutional development. It reflects the University's unwavering commitment towards advancing agricultural education and research, fostering innovation, and empowering the farming community, particularly in the Bundelkhand region.



❖ Celebration of the 79th Independence Day

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University celebrated the 79th Independence Day on August 15, 2025, with great enthusiasm. The program commenced with the garlanding of the statue of Rani Lakshmi Bai at the university entrance. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Colonel (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Singh hoisted the national flag, followed by a parade by NCC cadets and PRD personnel. Recalling the sacrifices of the country's freedom fighters, the Vice-Chancellor noted that India's independence was won through their selfless efforts. He mentioned the contributions of leaders like Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, and Subhash Chandra Bose and acknowledged the soldiers at the border, whose dedication allows citizens to sleep peacefully. Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, holds national significance and continues progressing. Various cultural programs were performed on the occasion. The event was attended by statutory officers, faculty, students, and non-teaching staff.



❖ हिन्दी पखवाड़ा का आयोजन (12-27 सितंबर 2025)

विश्वविद्यालय में 12 से 27 सितम्बर 2025 के मध्य हिन्दी पखवाड़ों का आयोजन किया गया। हिन्दी पखवाड़ों की शुरुआत हिन्दी दिवस के आयोजन से हुई तथा इस उपलक्ष पर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में प्रो. (डॉ.) पुनीत बिसारिया, अधिष्ठाता (कला संकाय) उपस्थित रहे। उन्होंने अपने उद्बोधन में शोध एवं संस्कृति में हिन्दी की महत्ता को बताया। हिन्दी पखवाड़ों के दौरान निरंतर विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं जैसे निबंध लेखन, स्व-रचित कविता प्रतियोगिता, पोस्टर प्रतियोगिता, हिन्दी व्याकरण, श्रुत लेखन, निबंध लेखन, अंताक्षरी एवं स्वयं द्वारा ली गयी फोटो शीर्षक प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन तीन श्रेणियों (शैक्षणिक, गैर-शैक्षणिक एवं विद्यार्थी) में किया गया।



सभी प्रतियोगिताओं में कुल 123 प्रतिभागियों ने उत्साहपूर्वक भाग लिया। हिन्दी पखवाड़े का समापन समारोह का आयोजन दिनांक 27 सितंबर 2025 को विश्वविद्यालय के दतिया परिसर में कवि सम्मेलन के रूप में हुआ। हिन्दी पखवाड़ों के समापन समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि माननीय डॉ. रवींद्र शुक्ल जी पूर्व शिक्षा मंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने अपने संबोधन में हिन्दी राष्ट्र को आत्मा, संस्कृति की संवाहक कहा। इस मौके पर कवि श्री सुमित ओरछा एवं श्री राज गोस्वामी जी ने श्रोताओं को काव्य पाठ की मनमोहक प्रस्तुति दी। राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति के अध्यक्ष डॉ. सुशील कुमार चतुर्वेदी ने विश्वविद्यालय के कर्मचारियों को हिन्दी में अधिक से अधिक कार्य करने के लिए प्रेरित किया। माननीय कुलपति महोदय ने हिन्दी को हमारी पहचान एवं आत्म गौरव कहा। मुख्य अतिथि महोदय एवं सभी सम्मानित मंच के सदस्यों ने सभी प्रतियोगिताओं के विजेताओं को प्रमाण पत्र वितरित किए।

❖ National Sports Day, 2025, was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi.

National Sports Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, from 29 to 31 August 2025. The celebration began with a floral tribute to Major Dhyan Chand, paid by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, along with all the Directors, Deans, academic and non-academic staff of the university. Following this, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor administered the "One Hour in the Sports Field" oath to all faculty members, staff, and students, emphasizing the significance of active participation in sports and physical fitness.



In his address, Dr. Singh highlighted the importance of sports in human life and encouraged everyone to make physical activity an integral part of their daily routine for maintaining good health and overall well-being. A series of sports events were organized across the Jhansi and Datia campuses, witnessing enthusiastic participation from both students and staff. Competitions such as tug of war, running races, volleyball, cricket, badminton, and cycling were conducted, fostering team spirit, discipline, and sportsmanship among participants.

The event was graced by the Director of Extension Education, Director of Education, Dean, College of Agriculture, Dean, College of Horticulture and Forestry, and other university officials. The entire celebration was coordinated by Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Dr. Harsh Hegde, Dr. Arjun Lal Ola, and Dr. Vishwanath, with valuable assistance from Dr. Tomar, Dr. Umesh, Dr. Saurabh, Dr. Vaibhav, Mr.

Abhishek, and several other staff members who contributed to the successful organization of various sports activities. The three-day celebration truly reflected the university's commitment to promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle among its students and staff.

❖ Organization of National E-Quiz on "Zoonotic Diseases":

The Department of Veterinary Microbiology, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia, successfully conducted the National E-Quiz on "Zoonotic Diseases" on 28th September 2025 to commemorate World Rabies Day. The event received an overwhelming response, with nearly 1000 participants from over 20 Indian states including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The students from undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Veterinary, Medical, Agriculture, Life Sciences, and allied disciplines enthusiastically participated. The online quiz aimed to enhance awareness of zoonotic diseases, their public health impact, and implications for food safety and sustainability. All participants received e-certificates in recognition of their engagement. The programme was organized under the guidance of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. K. Singh and Dean, CoVAS, Dr. V. P. Singh along with Dr. Vinod Kumar Singh and Dr. Vivek Kumar Singh as organizing secretaries.

❖ Anti-Ragging Week 2025 Inaugurated at RLBCAU, Datia Campus

The Datia Campus of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi observed anti-ragging week from August 12th to 18th, 2025. Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries, and Dr. V. P. Singh, Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, emphasized the importance of building a respectful, inclusive, and ragging-free campus culture. The observance, scheduled from 12th to 18th August, featured a range of student-centric activities including Slogan Writing, Essay Writing, Poster Making, Debate Competitions, Short Film Screening on Anti-Ragging Awareness, and an Interactive Session with Prize Distribution to winners in various competitions. It reaffirmed the University's commitment to ensuring safety, dignity, and harmony across its campus.



❖ From Classroom to Coastline: Third Year B.F.Sc. Students Dive into Marine Fisheries Learning

The third-year B.F.Sc. Students of the College of Fisheries, RLBCAU, Datia, recently undertook an educational state tour to Veraval, Gujarat, and Diu from 2nd to 8th August 2025, for marine exposure. The tour aimed to provide students with practical insights into marine fisheries, fish processing, and coastal biodiversity, complementing their classroom learning.

During the visit, students explored prominent research institutes such as the ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) Veraval Research Centre, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Veraval Regional Centre, and the College of Fisheries, Kamdhenu University, gaining exposure to ongoing research projects, laboratory facilities, and practical applications in fisheries technology. Industrial visits included Gadre Marine Export Pvt. Ltd., Shailganga EU Export Unit, Castlerock Fisheries Pvt. Ltd., and the MPEDA Regional Office, where students observed surimi processing, value-added product preparation, cold storage management, seafood export procedures, and regulatory compliance.



The tour also included a short visit to marine fishing craft and ecological and biodiversity observations at Chorwad Beach, Ghogla Beach, Nagaon Beach, and the Somnath coastal region, providing students with a holistic understanding of marine ecosystems. This immersive experience successfully bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and field-level practices, enhancing students' technical skills, professional exposure, and ecological awareness.

❖ B.F.Sc. Second-Year Students Visit Parichha Dam to Explore Fisheries Activities

On September 29, 2025, BFSc second-year students of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Datia, visited Parichha Dam in Uttar Pradesh to gain practical insights into fisheries and related activities in the dam area. The students were guided throughout the visit on fish species, habitat, and aquaculture practices, gaining hands-on exposure to fisheries management, fishing techniques, and local aquatic ecosystems. The educational tour provided a valuable opportunity for practical learning in inland fisheries and enhanced the students' understanding of applied fisheries science.

