



UHF News

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From the Vice Chancellor's Desk

Dear readers,

I take this opportunity to welcome all freshers who took admissions in various programmes of the university and also extend my wishes to the students who passed out this year and will now be shining across the world through their work.

University has been continuously adding facilities for the overall development of the students and enriching the academic environment. The 500 seater Open Air Theatre 'Rangmanch' was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and a play 'Bade Bhai' was screened. The place has since become a stage for different student extracurricular activities and has provided them a chance to hone their skills. Several other infrastructure development projects like the university main gate, Yoga Centre and Alumni Engagement Centre along with other works are also moving towards completion in the campus and outstations.

The green initiatives of the university were acknowledged at the GREEN School Conference 2022 held at New York where the university was bestowed with the International Green University Award. This award was among the many accolades which were won by our scientists and students in various conference and workshops.

As a precursor to the International Year of Millets 2023, the university decided to apprise the farmers of the benefits of these superfoods. We have tried to promote the cultivation and consumption of millets through several awareness camps, trainings and expert lectures by Dr. Khadar Vali and Shri Nek Ram Sharma, who have been the flagbearers of millets production and promotion in the country, and have been conferred Padam Shri recently for their contributions. An

activity calendar containing the month-wise activities for 2022 and 2023 was also prepared.

To apprise the farmers about the new technologies developed by the university, Apple Day and Kisan Melas were held at Nauni, Kandaghat, Mashobra, Bajaura, Tabo and Thunag. A three day conference 'HIMSAMWAAD' on finding localized solutions for the Himalayan region saw the participation of three Padam Shree Awardees and several experts, policy makers and academicians.

The university has been playing a leading role in the promotion and scientific validation of natural farming across the country. We did not sit on our laurels after hosting the prestigious XII Biennial KVK Conference at the university campus in June. Building on this success, our scientists have been sharing their knowledge gained on natural farming with agricultural professionals and KVK scientists from different parts of the country. Besides, the exercise of preparing course curriculum for school students through NCERT, B.Sc. (Natural Farming) and certificate course in this environmentally friendly methodology have also been completed. We successfully paved the way for the establishment of the first Natural Farming Farmers' Producers Company based out of Chopal. The university helped in the food processing and value addition of natural farming produce and managed to increase the overall profit of the farmers.

We also welcomed, six new statutory officers (Deans of four colleges and Directors) who assumed charge after going through a highly competitive selection process.

I congratulate the team involved in the publication of this newsletter.


Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel

TRAININGS/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/ CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Directorate of Extension Education organized five-days training programme on High-Density Apple Plantation for 22 farmers of the Dodra-Kwar region of District Shimla during July, 2022. The training was sponsored by the Department of Horticulture, Shimla. Expert lectures on various aspects of high-density plantation, canopy management, nutrient use efficiency, orchard floor management, plant propagation and nursery management, role of honey bees in pollination and integrated management of insect, pests and diseases of fruit crops, etc. were delivered to the trainees besides field visits and hand on trainings. The trainees also visited KVK Solan at Kandaghat where they were apprised of various scientific interventions and government schemes for the welfare of the farming community.

Directorate of Extension Education organized two-days training cum exposure visit for CRPF jawans attending Gardeners Training at TOT School, Dharampur during July, 2022. They were given practical training on cultivation of fruits, medicinal plants, floriculture, mushroom production, natural farming and plant protection. The trainees were apprised of the selection of site, preparation of pits and other aspects of fruit production, kiwi plantation, handling of honeybees and identification and management of insect pests in fruits and vegetables.



KVK Tabo organized three days Skill development training programme on “Processing and value addition in Seabuckthorn” for 30 farmers and farm women of Demul village of Spiti Valley w.e.f. 11 to 13 July, 2022. They also organized five days Skill development training programme on “Model Food Processing Techniques” at UHF Nauni for nine farm women of Spiti Valley w.e.f. 19-23 December, 2022.

RHR&TS, Mashobra organized Three days training programme on “Mushroom Cultivation” for the farmers of Kullu Distt. Sponsored by Development foundation, Vaishali, Gaziabad (U.P) w.e.f 3-4 August, 2022.

The Department of Forest Products conducted 72 hrs vocational certificate course on “Entrepreneurship Development in Production and Processing of Medicinal and Aromatic plants” on 7th October, 2022, under IDP, NAHEP in hybrid mode.

Department of Plant Pathology organized Ten Days Short Course on “Recent Developments in Organic Production Systems and Natural Farming” w.e.f 14-23 November, 2022 sponsored by ICAR, New Delhi. Seventeen participants from seven different universities attended this capacity building short course and learnt different aspects of organic production system and natural farming.

Department of Food Science and Technology in collaboration with KVK, Tabo (Lauhal & Spiti) organized 5 days farmers training on “Food Processing and Value addition” at Nauni, w.e.f. 19-23 December, 2022 which was attended by 14 farmers.

Department of Biotechnology organized seven-days training programme on advancements in Horticulture and Forest crops in collaboration with the Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility, Panjab University, Chandigarh under the aegis of Synergistic Training Program Utilizing the Scientific and Technological Infrastructure (STUTI) w.e.f. 23-30 December, 2022. Thirty participants from Mizoram, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh including faculty, project fellows, Ph.D. scholars and entrepreneurs took part in the training. The participants were from different disciplines such as Forestry, Horticulture, Biochemistry, Botany, Environmental Science, Entomology, Fruit Science, Forest Genetics, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Geology, Microbiology, Plant Pathology, Vegetable Science, Silviculture and Agroforestry and Biotechnology. During the training 14 expert lectures and hands-on training on germplasm characterization, conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources were held for the trainees. The training programme focused on various recent approaches which are being used in horticultural and forest crops with expert lectures and hands-on sessions including exposure visits to farms and fields.

The College of Horticulture and Forestry (COH&F), Neri, Hamirpur organized one-day workshop under the aegis of Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Department for the stakeholders of the state under the Himachal Pradesh Sub-tropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition Project (HP SHIVA) financed by the Asian Bank. Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor was the Chief Guest on this occasion. He emphasized to adopt novel technology and make judicious use of it in agricultural activities. He also urged everyone to encourage youngsters to adopt agriculture as a profession. He said that we have to not only increase our income but also get quality production from the same piece of land using high-density plantations.

Dr. Devendra Thakur, Director HP SHIVA said that the project has been structured in seven districts of the state, in which plantations will be set up in 28 blocks on 28,000 hectares of land using scientific methods.

University organized One-day Workshop-cum-Kisan Mela on Millets

Popularly known as the 'Millet Man of India', Dr Khadar Vali on this occasion called upon the farmers, agriculture scientists and policy makers to promote millets in agriculture to save soil, water, environment as well as human health. He also said that Bring millets back to your kitchen for healthy living. Internationally acclaimed food and nutrition expert from Mysore, Dr Vali delivered a special lecture on the role of millets in preventive health-Aahar Se Arogya- at a one-day Workshop-cum-Kisan Mela. The event was organised by the State Project Implementing Unit (SPIU) of Prakritik Kheti Khushaal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y) of Himachal Pradesh government in association with the University. Over 200 farmers from Himachal Pradesh, who have adopted non-chemical, low cost and climate resilient natural farming after the launch of PK3Y in 2018. In this workshop farmers of the state, PK3Y officials from the state agriculture department and officers, scientists and students participated. Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Himachal Pradesh Sh. Rakesh Kanwar was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Vice Chancellor, Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry,



Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, State Project Director, PK3Y, Naresh Thakur, Director, Agriculture, Dr BR Takhi, Umendra Dutt and Poonam Sharma from Kheti Virasat Mission also attended the Workshop. The event set the tone for focus on millets in Himachal Pradesh ahead of 'International Year of Millets-2023' declared by the United Nations as it was followed by a meeting of the working group of agriculture experts of state to chalk out a strategy for promotion of millets in Himachal Pradesh.

International Certificate course on Sustainable, Local Food Systems begins at Nauni

In a first of its kind, the University in association with UN's Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched a four week International Certificate Course-'Sustainable and Local Food Systems'. Over 30 participants, mainly scientists and researchers from UHF and five

countries including Tanzania, Uganda, Morocco and Malawi attended the course. The course was based around the 'Enabling Sustainable Food Systems: Innovators Handbook' published by FAO and the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE). The course is developed in collaboration with the Université Gustave Eiffel. The course aimed to help current and future food systems innovators create or transform localized food systems based on farm landscape diversification through agroecology. It also aims to empower the participants to become a facilitator, capable of using this training template to work with others in their local area, leading to further innovative food systems transformations. Renowned sustainable food systems, entrepreneurship and technology expert Ashish Gupta; Dr Alison Loconto, Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Science, Innovation and Society (LISIS) and a Research Professor at INRAE, German experts from Ecoselva along with several international and Indian experts guided the participants on the various aspects of this course.

University organized One Day Visit of NABARD officials

The 4th BSM of cluster officers of the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Haryana was organised at Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni. The meeting was inaugurated by Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, UHF Vice-Chancellor and was attended by the bank's District Development Managers from Haryana. Prof. Chandel lauded the role of financial institutions like NABARD in facilitating credit flow and other interventions for the promotion and development of agriculture and other allied economic activities in rural areas. He urged the officers to explore the possibilities of upscaling technologies developed by the university. Smt. Deepa B Guha, CGM Nabard Haryana said that the meeting was part of the cross-learning exercise for the officers and the main aim will be to enable the transfer of technology to the farmers. She added that the visit will also be a chance to learn about the latest technologies especially natural farming which the bank will look to promote in Haryana. Guha said that the bank will also look to organize the visits of Farmer Producer Organisations to the university and see what models can be



replicated. CGM Himachal Dr. Sudhanshu Mishra spoke about the various rural development projects undertaken by the bank in the state. During the meeting, the interventions supported by the bank in Haryana for soil reclamation, water conservation and promotion of new IOT-based technologies were also mentioned. Exposure visits to the university's Post Harvest Laboratory, Floral Craft laboratory, Pesticide Residue lab., tissue culture and forest product labs, natural farming experimental block, Kiwi block, high-density apple plantation and Hi-tech floriculture lab were also undertaken.

Organized Course on Organic Production Systems and Natural Farming

A 10-day course cum training on 'Recent Development in Organic Production Systems and natural farming funded by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research was held at the university which was attended by 17 scientists from different universities Viz. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal. Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor said that it was wonderful to see scientists from different institutions working in unison for the good of the agrarian community. Prof. Chandel added that natural farming was a farmer-centric approach where the scientific community is learning along with the farmers. During the course, the participants were apprised about novel microbes and their potential use in organic and natural farming systems, multilayer farming, soil nutrient dynamics and analysis, effective use of biocontrol agents and new insights in diseases management. The field visits to university farms in Mashobra and Nauni and hands-on training on the field was also conducted.



Exposure tour of UHF Forestry students to Karnataka

A group of 30 students of 2nd and 3rd year B.Sc. (Forestry) along with faculty undertook an exposure tour from 11-16 November, 2022 under NAHEP IDP. The tour commenced with the students taking part in the three-day 5th Kisan Swaraj Sammelan- 2022 organized by Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture at Karnataka State Open University, Mysore. The main aim was to showcase the farmer empowering, sustainable, equitable and viable alternatives in Indian farming and the role of youth in agriculture. Several pioneers of the ecological farming movement shared their experiences and opinion on this

platform. The students got a chance to visit the Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu and participated in the Consortium of Industrial Agroforestry. Dr. KT Prathiban, Dean of the College interacted with the students at Agroforestry business incubator forum. Visits were also conducted to the clonal seeding unit, multifunction agroforestry models, seasoning and wood preservation unit and Xylarium where specimens of different wood species were displayed. Students were exposed to new techniques in nursery production of fast-growing and short-rotation commercial tree species.

Workshop on Strengthening of Alumni network at UHF Nauni

As part of the 38th Foundation Day celebrations of the university, a one-day workshop on the theme 'Strengthening of Alumni network: Awareness Campaign on Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Job availabilities in Forestry and Horticulture Sector' was organized. Five alumni of the university- Ajai Rana, CEO of Savannah Seeds; Dr. Umesh Mahajan, Founder of Amazon Seeds and Sherpa Eco Resort; Ashish Dobhal, Regional Director of UPL; Manjula Sularia, Director, Prasanchetas Foundation and Rupinder Singh, Founder of NV Trading and Consultancy took part in the workshop which was attended by the faculty and over 300 UG and PG students. The alumni addressed the queries put forward by the students on various issues like the scope of digital marketing, the preparation of



students for setting up their own businesses and important sectors for startups in today's context.

HIMSAMWAAD-mega meet on Himalayan sustainable development organized

The university hosted a three-day HIM Samwaad-Trans Himalayan Conference on Localized Solutions and Implementation Strategy from 19-21 December, 2022. This event was organized under the joint aegis of UHF, Sewa International and the Indian Ecological Society. Over 200 policymakers, social workers, and researchers from the Himalayan countries of Bhutan and Nepal, and Himalayan states participated in the discussions on sustainable development of the Himalayan region. The conference was inaugurated by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. Shri Rakesh Kanwar, Secretary (Agriculture), Himachal Pradesh; Shri Amitabh



Awasthi, Secretary (Horticulture), Dr. Kshma Metre, National Director CORD; Padma Shri Awardees Sh Kawaljit Singh Chauhan and Sh Jadhav Payeng were among the many prominent names who shared their views during this conference. The conference attempted to provide a platform for multiple stakeholders of the Trans-Himalayan region to realign integrated sustainable development approach to the transformed post-COVID reality of the region. Additionally, the focus of the conference was to chart a roadmap for implementing localised solutions to Trans-Himalayan region issues while consenting to the idea of development.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS / ACHIEVEMENTS/RECOGNITIONS

RHRTS Mashobra

- Application of GA₄₊₇ + BA @ 10ppm at pink bud stage and petal fall reduced russet formation and improved fruit size, fruit weight and fruit volume of apple cv. Red Velox
- Tall Spindle training system in High Density planting of apple cv. Red Velox on M9 rootstock gave better results in terms of fruiting and fruit quality parameters
- Bio-efficacy of two new HMOs i.e. Speco-Oso and Emmtron tested against complex of phytophagous mites on apple indicated that tested HMOs @1.0% can be recommended at walnut stage during summer season. Among new miticides i.e. Cyenopyrafen @ 0.25ml/L, NA-89@0.50 ml/L and BCS-CW 64991@0.36ml/L of water proved highly effective.
- Incidence of European red mite, *P. ulmi* was reported from pear, peach and cherry plantation other than apple. New mite pest i.e. pear rust mite, (*Epitrimeruspyri*)(Acari: Eriophyidae) emerged in some areas of Shimla district causing rusting in the fruits was identified.
- Infrastructures (polycarbonate houses- Hi Tech and Natural ventilated, nursery areas, mother blocks of commercial apple varieties etc.) with laboratory facilities (ELISA & Molecular techniques) have been

established at under RKVY- RAFTAAR programme for the establishment of clean plant stock with production of virus tested planting material.

Department of Food Science and Technology

- Sand pear herbal vinegar developed in which lime juice 5 ml/100 ml, honey 5g/100 ml, lavender 2.5 g/100 ml and rosemary 2.5 g/100 ml were standardized.
- Beetroot juice extraction process and its concentrate was developed for commercial use with high antioxidant activity that can be used for the development of various beverages as a colorant and as one of the basic ingredients.
- Process of fritters from whole wheat, semolina, barley, and rice flours was developed successfully.
- Button mushroom fortified persimmon fruit leather developed successfully with sufficient amount of proteins.

NEW INITIATIVES

Department of Environmental Science

Bi-weekly weather forecasting based agro-advisory at block level to farmers/orchardist of Dharampur, Kandaghat, Solan, Kunihar and Nalagarh blocks of Solan through SMS, Kisan portal to approximate 1000 farmers.

Impact based weather forecast on the extreme weather events through to around 5000 farmers of Solan, Shimla, Sirmour and Bilaspur districts.

KVK, Tabo

Established Model Food Processing Unit for demonstration and skill development of Tribal farm women and unemployed youths of Spiti Valley.

Department of Seed Science and Technology

Department of Seed Science and Technology introduced some of the major millets for seed production.

Department of Basic Science

Devised an environmental friendly technology for oyster mushroom cultivation utilizing apple pomace with conventional substrate resulting in higher yield and biological efficiency.

Nauni varsity researchers discover new fruit fly species in Himachal Pradesh

A new fruit fly species (*Bactrocera divenderi*, Tephritidae) which was earlier confused with *Bactrocera nigrofemorialis*, was found during survey studies conducted for fruit flies in Himachal Pradesh by Dr. Maneesh Pal Singh a Ph. D. scholar working under the guidance of Dr. Divender Gupta, Professor and Head, Department of Entomology. The discovery was made during the doctoral research after characterization and consultation

with UK-based fruit fly taxonomy expert Dr. David Lawrence Hancock. The species was characterized based on morphological characters as well molecular analysis based on cytochrome oxidase. This species is mainly prevalent in mid hills (parts of Solan, Sirmour, Mandi, Shimla and Kangra) of Himachal Pradesh, infesting peaches and nectarines.



VISITORS TO THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS/STATIONS/KVKS

- Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh Sh. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar visited the RHR&TS Mashobra on 6th July, 2022 and 8th August, 2022. Sh Rameshwar Thakur, Chairman, HPPSC, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh also visited the station on 13th July, 2022.
- Mr Shantanu Saharan Regional Manager, North at TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI, visited KVK, Solan on 21st July, 2022.
- Deputy Commissioner, Kullu visited as Chief Guest on Apple Day cum Kisan Mela organized at the RHR&TS, Bajaura on 2nd August, 2022.
- Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh Sh Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar visited COHF, Thunag on 3rd August, 2022.
- Mr. Bekzod Shamsiev, Vice-Chairman, World Bank and Dr Arvind Jham, World Bank Project Consultant visited High-Density apple orchard established under HP-HDP project on 3rd August, 2022.
- Tenry Melikle, CEO, NZ Apples & Pears Inc., Hastings, New Zealand visited Kiwi Block of the Department of Fruit Science on 21st September, 2022.
- Researchers Mr. Jurav Okhunjon and Mr Akbaralibe Istombek from Research institute of Horticulture, Viticulture and Analogy, Ujbekistan visted RHR&TS Mashobra on 26th September, 2022.
- The Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh Sh. Ram Lal Markanday alongwith TAC members of Spiti visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Lahaul and Spiti at Tabo on 6th October, 2022.
- Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh Sh Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra Lahaul and Spiti at Tabo on 6th October, 2022.
- Dr David Manktelow and Mr. Jack Hughes, Horticulture Consultant, World Bank visited HDP Block, Rootstock Block and Post Entry Quarantine site of the Department on 18th November, 2022.
- Director of Agriculture, Karnataka, Joint Directors and Deputy Directors and other officers from Sikkim and Madhya Pradesh visited RHR&TS, Mashobra on

18.10.2022.

- Dr David and Mr. Jack from Plant and Food Research Institute, New Zealand visited RHR&TS, Mashobra on 30th November, 2022.
- Dr KT Parthiban, Prof and Dean, COF, TNAU Mettupulayam visited wood workshop, herbarium of department of Forest Products on 1st December, 2022.
- Dr Inderjeet Singh (Vice Chancellor, GADVASU University, Ludhiana) visited KVK, Solan on 3rd December, 2022.
- Dr Md. Touhidul Islam, Registrar, Marukha, Bhashani Sejener and Tech. University, Bangladesh visited HDP Block of Department of Fruit Science on 28th December, 2022.
- Dr Mill John (Cherry expert) from Bosnia visited Department of Fruit Science on 24th December, 2022. He was demonstrated about training and pruning in stone fruits by the Head of the Department.
- Cvetkovic Miljan, Associate Professor, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Agriculture visited Department of Fruit Science on 29th December, 2022.
- Dr Hans Raj, Deputy Speaker HP Vidhan Sabha; D. C. Rana, Deputy Commissioner Chamba visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chamba.

EXHIBITIONS

- RHR&TS Mashobra installed an exhibition on different cultivars of apple during Apple Day cum Kisan Mela on 2nd August, 2022.
- KVK, Tabo installed an exhibition during the State Level La-Darcha fare w.e.f. 19 to 21 August 2022 in which more than 1000 dignitaries/farmers/farm women/tourists participated. During the exhibition different apple & apricot cultivars, vegetable production, and processed products were displayed.
- KVK, Tabo also installed an exhibition during the Apple Day cum Kisan Mela on 6th October, 2022. Sh Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the then Hon'ble Governor of HP visited the exhibition along with Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries of the UHF Nauni and officers of Departments of Government of Himachal Pradesh. In this exhibition 411 farmers/ farm women visited.

MOU SIGNED

MoU signed by the University with the Institute of Sustainable Development, Gujarat University.

MoU signed by the University with Govt. Pharmacy College

Bagriad for exchanging technologies in the field of Medicinal and Aromatic plants.

MOU signed between the university and Sh. Vinod Chaudhary of Meerut, UP of worth ₹ 2 Lakh for transfer of sugarcane juice preservation technology on 24th September, 2022.

Memorandum of Understanding for Implementation of Tribal Sub-Plan between IGFR, Jhansi, UP and Dr Y. S. Parmar, UHF, Nauni has been signed to implement project entitled, “Crop, Fodder, and Livestock-Based Technological Modules/Inputs for the Upliftment of Tribals of Chamba, Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh”.

Under MoU signed by the University with the Institute of Sustainable Development, Gujarat University, the Department of Business Management taught a course on Supply Chain Management to MBA Agribusiness students of Institute of Sustainable Development, Gujarat University.

Nauni, SHSS Goa signed accord for academics, technology transfer & capacity building in Natural Farming

Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (UHF), Nauni has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Goa's premier institution Sharada Higher Secondary School of Arts, Commerce and Agriculture (SHSS), Bhandale. Under the tie-up, the university will provide hand holding to SHSS for capacity building of the local youths through the promotion and adoption of low-cost climate-resilient natural farming to earn sustainable livelihood in agriculture and horticulture. The MoU was signed recently in Goa during a two-day workshop on Natural farming which was chaired by Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Chancellor of the University Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel was also present during the MoU signing ceremony. Professor Chandel and Dr. Narender Bharat, HOD Seed Science and Technology also visited the SHSS campus and other nearby areas and interacted with the faculty and staff. The team also interacted with farmers practicing organic farming to explore their smooth shift into natural farming. The objective of this partnership is to provide a framework by which the two institutions will undertake joint activities together and work towards the creation of knowledge resource centres through the development of natural farming models by students.

Nauni varsity to start yoga, meditation and happiness courses for students

The university has partnered with Heartfulness Education Trust (HET), Hyderabad to start yoga, meditation and happiness courses for its students. This collaboration will be part of the recently signed MoU on behalf of agricultural universities by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and HET. The MoU has been signed

by ICAR on behalf of agricultural universities and will help us restructure undergraduate curricula in accordance with the National Education Policy 2020 with a focus on skill development. This is a first-of-its-kind partnership between HET and ICAR. As a partner in this MoU, it will greatly benefit students by integrating sustainability and traditional knowledge with the best modern practices. Under the MoU, UHF will be starting foundation courses in Yog and Meditation for the students and staff of the university. The training will greatly benefit the students through their profession in reducing stress parameters. Under the MoU, a four-day meditation cum yog camp for the students and the staff of the university was organised at the university campus.

AWARDS/HONOURS/RECOGNITIONS

- Dr Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry received prestigious International Green University Award-2022 for its green initiatives under Green Campus Policy being implemented by the department of Environmental Science in Green School Conference-2022 organized by Meritime College, New York, USA.
- Dr Pramod Verma was awarded with certificate of excellence in reviewing by International Journal of Environment and Climate Change on 19th July, 2022.
- AICRP on PHET Solan Centre received Appreciation award (2022) on account of display and presentation of the value-added products in ICAR CIPHET Industry Interface Fair on Agri Processing (IIFA) and Kisan Mela organized on 3rd October 2022 on occasion of 34th Foundation Day of CIPHET, Ludhiana.
- Dr N.C Sharma received National Best Scientific Researcher of the year award from Avishkar Foundation, Solapur on 5th September, 2022.
- Young Scientist Award achieved by Dr Nidhish Gautam, Scientist (Vegetable Science) during 3rd National Conference on Natural Farming, Organic Farming and Chemical Farming in Indian Agriculture-Present Scenarios and way forward held w.e.f. 17 to 19 October 2023 at KVK Ujjain. He has also achieved best poster presentation award in this conference.
- Dr Arti Shukla received Best Extension Scientist Award and Dr. Anurag Sharma also received Best Paper Presentation award for presenting the paper “Winter management of *Apis cerana indica* F by feeding pollen substitutes at Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh” during 3rd National Conference of Society of Krishi Vigyan organized at Ujjain w.e.f. 17 to 19 October, 2022.
- Dr Kehar Singh Thakur, Scientist was selected as State Coordinator for the year 2023-2025 by the Society of Krishi Vigyan. He received Best Extension Scientist Award, Best Oral Presentation Award and Best Poster Presentation Award in 3rd National Conference on Natural Farming, Organic Farming and Chemical

Farming in Indian Agriculture-Present Scenario and Way Forward held at Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh by The Society of Krishi Vigyan.

- Ishita Mandla, Ph.D. research scholar of department of Social Science received Best Article Award for the article “Need and Importance of Universal Basic Income in Covid 19 Pandemic” issued by Agriculture & e-Newsletter in October, 2022.
- Received best poster presentation certificate on a paper entitled, “Variation in tree growth characters in clonal population of sand pears” authored by Akriti Chauhan, Dinesh Singh, Vishal S Rana and RK Dogra of department of Social Science for their presentation in 'VIIth International conference on Global Research Initiatives for sustainable Agriculture and Allied Sciences' organized by Astha Foundation, Meerut (U.P.) India w.e.f. 21-23, November 2022.
- Divyanshu and Arushi Mandyal, Ph.D. research scholars of department of Social Science bagged the ICSSR doctoral fellowship for their degree programme in December, 2022.
- Dr Pankaj Kumar was awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation for publishing a high-impact article in the Elsevier Journal Current Opinion in Biotechnology (IF:10.279, NAAS rating:16.28), titled "Biotechnological Interventions in Reducing Losses of Tropical Fruits and Vegetables".
- Dr N.C. Sharma, bagged International Outstanding Innovation Award for the Research and Excellence in Horticulture (Fruit Science) from *International Society for Scientific Network*(ISSN) during International Science and Technology awards and Congress on 3rd November, 2022.
- Dr Pramod Kumar, Senior Scientist conferred with Fellowship of National Academy of Biological Sciences, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Dr Pramod Kumar bagged Outstanding Young Researcher PGPR Award from Asian PGPR, Auburn University, USA.
- Dr Pramod Kumar elected as 'Member of Executive Committee of National Environmental Science Academy, New Delhi for a term of three years (2022-2025).

Nauni varsity VC nominated as member of the ICAR Governing and General Body

Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor of this university has been nominated as a member of the Governing Body and General Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Society for a term of three years. The Governing Body is the chief executive and decision-making authority of the ICAR. It is headed by the ICAR Director-General. It consists of eminent agricultural scientists, educationists, legislators and representatives of the farmers. It is assisted by the Standing Finance

Committee, National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board, Regional Committee, Policy and Planning Committee, several Scientific Panels, and Publications Committee.

Nauni varsity VC nominated as member of National Advisory Committee for Natural Farming promotion

Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor of the university has been nominated as a member of the Advisory Committee for promotion of Natural Farming (ACPNF) by the INM division of the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The committee will advise and guide in the smooth rollout and promotion of Natural farming in the country. The tenure of the ACPNF will be for a period of two years. The committee will advise and support the Steering Committee, headed by the Union Agriculture Minister for rolling out Natural Farming in the country. It will also guide for overall promotion of Natural Farming in the country.

KISAN MELA/KISAN GOSHTHIS/FARMERS MEET

KVK, Tabo organized Kisan Goshthi at village Lossar of Spiti Valley on the occasion of ICAR foundation day on 16th July, 2022.

KVK, Chamba organized training-cum-Kisan Mela on improved production technology of indigenous crops and distributed Kodo millet, vegetable seeds (French Beans, lady's finger, coriander, methi, cabbage, tomato, radish, carrot etc.) & secateurs, 15th July, 2022 at Shour, Pangti to 102 tribal farmers. Organized training-cum-Kisan Mela on improved production technology of indigenous crops at Sechu, Pangti on dated 16th July, 2022 in which 100 tribal farmers participated. Seeds and secateurs were distributed to the participants.

RHR&TS, Bajaura organized Kisan Mela on 2nd August, 2022 for 350 beneficiaries of Kullu, Mandi and Lahaul & Spiti.

Regional Horticulture Research and Training Station, Bajaura organised Apple Day cum Kisan Mela at the Station. The event was graced by DC Kullu and progressive farmers of the area. An exhibition cum competition of apple entries brought by the farmers was held. A field visit to the High-Density apple plantation of the station was also held where the queries of the farmers were addressed by the scientists of the university.

Regional Horticulture Research and Training Station, Mashobra celebrated “Apple Day cum Kisan Mela” on 08th August, 2022 at Shimla.

Department of Plant Pathology organized Kisan Mela under HPHDP at Gorli Maravag Panchy at Maravag (District Chopal) on 14th September, 2022.

Farmers apprised about high-density apple plantation during Apple Day

The Department of Fruit Science organized an Apple Day cum Kisan Mela on 18th July, 2022 at the university campus in which over 200 orchardists from different clusters of eight districts of the state formed under the World Bank-funded Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project (HP HDP) along with non-cluster farmers and officers from the state horticulture department took part. The idea behind the event was to apprise and address the queries of farmers on high-density apple plantations. Professor Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor of the University was the Chief Guest on the occasion. During the inaugural session, Dr. Ravinder Sharma, Director of Research and Nodal officer of HP HDP activities in the university welcomed the participants and informed them about the various works undertaken and completed under this project. Dr. Gobind Singh Jhopta, State Nodal officer of HP HDP explained in detail about the World Bank-funded project and listed several achievements and initiatives which have been taken. He informed that under the project around 5000 hectares of new high-density plantations and 1000 hectares of scientifically managed orchards have been targeted to be raised. Professor Chandel complimented the university for establishing world-class research laboratories and said that the joint efforts of scientists have ensured 42 MT productivity in four-year high-density plantations which is a substantial jump over the present productivity. He asked the scientists to work towards understanding and eliminating the gaps between the productivity achieved by the farmers and the university's productivity.

KVK, Tabo organized an Apple Day cum Kisan Mela on 6th October, 2022 in which 411 farmers/farmwomen participated and also conducted one day awareness camp on cherry drying problem at Bhagi on 14th October, 2022.

KVK, Kinnaur organized two Kisan Melas and 3 Kisan Ghoshti in which 700 farmers/ farm women were present.

RHR&TS, Bajaura organized four farmers meets in association with PRO Farmer Association at Brua, Simsa, Shuru and Bran of Kullu district.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Solan at Kandaghat organised an Apple Day cum Kisan Mela at the Station. The event was sponsored by the Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project. Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor of the university was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Over 300 farmers from Solan, Shimla and Sirmaur districts took part in the event. During the event, various lectures by experts on High density apple plantations were held after which the queries of the farmers were addressed by the experts. The various products of KVK Solan, farmers and 15 Women Self Help Groups were also displayed during the exhibition. The entries of farmers for the apple competition was also awarded by the chief

Guest on the occasion. The farmers also visited the high density plantations of the station.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shimla organized a one-day Kisan Mela on Natural farming in collaboration with Prakritik Krishi Khushaal Kisan Yojna. An exhibition on natural farming was inaugurated by Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor of the university. Members of Women's self-help groups and associations engaged in natural farming took part in the exhibition at KVK Shimla at Rohru. Lauding the role of women in agriculture and in the success of any new innovative government schemes, Prof. Chandel said that the new farming system can only achieve its full potential when women take the leading role in its implementation. Prof. Chandel said the cost of cultivation of apple, which was a major cash crop of the state could be drastically reduced with the adoption of natural farming. He said that natural farming not only helps to improve the quality of produce but also helps in the conservation of the environment by improving soil health and reduction in water usage for agriculture. Several farmers engaged in natural farming also shared their experiences of adopting this technique in their orchards. The farmer's groups engaged in natural farming were also honoured on the occasion.

DAYS ORGANIZED

Celebrated ICAR Foundation Day on 16th July, 2022 at all the five KVKs and RHR&T Stations.

Department of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture organized 'Parthenium Eradication Campaign' in floriculture farm on 16th July, 2022 and all staff of the department had actively participated in this Campaign.

Directorate of Extension Education Organized Van Mahotsav

The university celebrated Van Mahotsav at the university campus on 1st August, 2022. Over 500 plants of deodar were planted by the staff and students on the university campus. In addition, 150 plants of *Bauhinia variegata* (Kachnar) and *Grewia optiva* (Beul) were planted near the university dairy to enhance the fodder stock. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, said that tree plantation was a moral responsibility of every citizen. He said that activities like Van Mahotsav have gained even more importance today due to the threat of climate change. The regional stations and KVKs of the university also organized Van Mahotsav at their respective stations.

Organized Tiranga Yatra in order to celebrate Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava at **RHR&TS, Mashobra** on 13-14 August, 2022.

Organized the celebration of function and Tricolour hoisting ceremony of Independence day on 15th August, 2022 at **RHR&TS, Mashobra** and **RHR&TS Bajaura**.

Parthenium eradication campaign at UHF

The second phase of the parthenium eradication campaign was held at the University. The Department of Environmental Science organized the event under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. The campaign was sponsored by NAHEP IDP. All the university students, faculty and staff took part in the drive. To undertake the drive, the staff and students were divided into five teams with each group assigned the task of removing parthenium from different areas of the university. This drive was carried out under the watchful eyes of group facilitators and field guides. The proper disposal of the uprooted weeds was ensured by the disposal team. Addressing the gathering of staff and students, Professor Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor said it was heartening to see the students and staff recognizing their duties as responsible citizens and engaging themselves in social programmes. He said that parthenium has now become a threat to biodiversity and urged everyone to continue this exercise throughout the year and make it a part of the daily routine. He also spoke about the impact of parthenium on biodiversity and agricultural production.

Department of Environmental Science celebrated World Ozone Day-2022 on 16th September, 2022 by involving about 450 students and staff of this department.

Celebrated Teachers day in UHF Nauli

The celebrations of Teachers Day were held at the university in which eminent academician and former Vice Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh Dr. Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri was the Chief Guest. 37 members of the retired teachers association of the university also attended the event along with present faculty, staff and students. Professor Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor welcomed the Chief Guest and the retired teachers. He lauded the role of the teachers and thanked them for their contribution in raising the standards of the university and nurturing young minds to be good citizens and leaders. He said that the university is in the process of developing facilities for the retired teachers and alumni in the form of a Centre which will help to increase engagement between the present students and faculty with their alumni and former teachers. Giving the example of the Gurukul system of education, Dr. Agnihotri urged the teachers to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the country which makes us distinct from other countries. He said that the teachers need to toil to attain the status of 'guru' in the eyes of the students. He was of the view that teachers need to inculcate the habit of reasoning to promote new ideas among their pupils. Dr. Agnihotri encouraged the teachers to start teaching in their mother tongue also and lauded the New Education Policy for making several changes to improve the education setup of the country.

Celebrated 38th Foundation Day of Varsity

Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner in

the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, chaired the 38th Foundation Day of the university. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kumar said, "The number of startups in the agriculture sector is few as compared to the other areas. To promote entrepreneurship among students we need to equip them with proper financial knowledge and a three-month course should be taught to the students on this topic." He urged the faculty to think beyond classroom teaching and look to engage students with successful alumni entrepreneurs and motivate them to become job providers. Eminent scientist Dr. KT Parthiban, Dean, Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam also delivered a talk on the 'Status and Development of Value Chain in Industrial Agroforestry'. He spoke about the importance of agroforestry and the challenges faced by it and its mitigation strategies through technological, organisational and market interventions. He spoke at length about the Consortium of Industrial Agro-Forestry model which has been successfully implemented by the industry. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel presented the progress report of



the university. He informed that the university had a long history of excellence in education, research and extension and the combined efforts of its scientists, staff and students have brought great laurels to Himachal Pradesh in Horticulture and Forestry. He informed that the university is playing a leading role in the development of the curriculum on natural farming for the agricultural universities and NCERT. The students of the university gave an exhibition of their talent through various cultural performances which were thoroughly enjoyed by all the guests. Several sporting events were also organised as part of the celebrations. Eminent alumni of the university- Ashish Dobhal, Ajay Rana, Umesh Mahajan, Harinder Singh, Rupinder Saini and Manjula Sularia, retired scientists and staff, members of the Senate, Board of Management, Academic, Extension and Research Councils, progressive farmers, employees and students of the university attended the event.

World Soil Day organized

The Directorate of Extension Education and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Solan jointly organized World Soil Day on 5th December, 2022 so as to create awareness about soil health management. To give the students a practical

experience about soil sampling, Geographical Position System-based soil samples from two depths- 0 to 15 cm and 15 to 30 cm were collected from different departmental research farms, forest lands, agroforestry-based systems and grasslands of the university area. The sampling was carried out by the university's postgraduate students of different departments and Experience Learning Programme (ELP) undergraduate students in collaboration with the faculty and students of the Department of Soil Science. The samples were handed over to the Incharge Soil, Water and Plant Analysis Laboratory for determination of physical, chemical and biological characteristics. In the afternoon session, a lecture cum interaction on Soil Health Management was organized for the Faculty of Soil Science and ELP students of the College of Horticulture, College of Forestry and College of Horticulture and Forestry, Thunag,



Mandi. Professor Bijay Singh, former National Professor of Soil Science of ICAR was the chief guest and the lead speaker on the occasion. Prof Singh talked about the importance of soil health management and the use of fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures. He also spoke on nitrogen fertilization management in rice-wheat cropping and other crops and various aspects of fertilizer applications while maintaining soil health and productivity. Professor Singh also addressed the queries of the students and the faculty. An interaction session on the use of fertilizers and their effect on soil health was organized after the lecture.

RHRTS, Mashobra observed World Soil day by delivering the lecture on soil health, soil fertility and demonstrating the soil sampling techniques in fruit orchard and field crops on 5th December, 2022.

Observed Mountain Day at Dhagogi village of Shimla with farming community and visited their field of vegetables and orchards apprise them about the importance of mountain agriculture on 11th December, 2022.

KVK Kinnaur has organized/celebrated 10 important days in which 430 farmers showed their presence, further KVK Kinnaur has also organized 5 field days where 113 farmers showed their active participation.

National farmers day on 23rd December, 2022 was also celebrated at **KVK Tabo**.

KVK Solan has organized five Important days/Special days (Van Mahotsava (4th August, 2022), Poshan Diwas (17th September, 2022), ICAR 94th Foundation Day (16th July, 2022), 38th Foundation day of Dr Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan (1st December, 2022) and World soil day (5th December, 2022) having participation of 463 farmers/ farm women. During this period eight awareness camps were organized (243 participants).

Organized Orientation Programme for KVK Scientists on Natural Farming

A three-day orientation training programme of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) scientists for the development of scientific models on natural farming in different climatic zones commenced today at the Directorate of Extension Education, Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni. The programme 'Understanding Natural Farming for its Flawless Strategies to Out Scale through KVKs (Zone-I)' was organised in collaboration with the ICAR- Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Ludhiana. Speaking at the event Dr. Inder Dev, Director of Extension Education said that the Himachal Model has shown the country that natural farming can be an alternative production technique that can help to minimize input costs, conserve environment and increase farm incomes. He said that natural farming could spread to fields and to every farmer through the intervention of the KVKs. Dr. Rajesh Rana, Nodal officer of Natural Farming for Zone 1 said that the Krishi Vigyan Kendras are an excellent medium to disseminate the latest agricultural knowledge to the farmers. He lauded the efforts of Himachal Pradesh in natural farming and said that experts from the University have been sharing their knowledge with scientists and farmers from across the country and contributing to raising awareness of this farming system. Dr. Rana said that the target will be to develop 4-5 model action plans from Zone 1 in the near future. In the first session, Dr. Subhash Verma, Coordinator of the SPNF programme at UHF Nauni gave the history and heritage of natural farming while Dr. Kuldeep Thakur talked about the importance of crop geometry under this system. Dr. Upender Singh raised awareness on the different inputs of natural agriculture and their usage while Dr. Usha Sharma gave a presentation on the integration of fruit crops in this system. Programme coordinator Dr. Anil Sood informed that 82 scientists representing Zone-1 comprising KVKs of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab participated in this programme. During the three days, scientists from different KVKs were exposed to the basics of natural farming through various technical sessions and exposure visits to farmers fields will be used to showcase the results of this technique to the participants.

Patriotic fervour marks Independence Day celebration at UHF Nauni

The 76th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and gaiety at the university. The celebrations commenced with UHF Vice-Chancellor Professor Rajeshwar Singh Chandel hoisting the tricolour at the university campus. All the statutory officers, heads of all departments, faculty, staff and students of the university participated in the event. The flag hoisting was followed by an impressive march past by the NCC cadets and NSS



volunteers and security personnel of the university. In his address, Professor Chandel recalled India's glorious history and paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters for their selfless sacrifice and struggle for the independence of the country. He emphasized that the youth must understand the true meaning and importance of freedom which came our



way through years of sacrifices made by our forefathers. He urged the students and staff to be dutiful and responsible citizens to take the nation to greater heights and appealed to imbibe and carry forward the ideals of our rich cultural heritage. A colourful cultural extravaganza of soul-soothing dance performances and melodious songs by the students' university added to the patriotic feel of the day. The Chief Guest also distributed prizes to winners of the different competitions held under Aazdi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Parmar Jayanti celebrated at UHF Nauni

Rich tributes were paid today to the architect of



modern Himachal Pradesh and the first Chief Minister Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar on his 116th birth anniversary at the university. To celebrate the occasion, a special lecture was organized by the university. The main speaker was Padam Shri Awardee Vidyanand Saraik, a renowned multifaceted folk artist, and writer who has been striving to conserve and revive hill culture for over five decades. The event began with the university officials and staff paying floral tributes to the visionary leader whose strenuous efforts led to the full statehood of Himachal Pradesh. University Vice-Chancellor Professor Rajeshwar Singh Chandel said



that the naming of the university after the visionary leader of Himachal was a matter of great pride and honour for all the students and staff of the university. Professor Chandel said that Dr. Parmar set the state on the path of progress by advocating sustainable development of agriculture, horticulture and forestry activities in the state. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vidyanand Saraik said that Dr. Parmar was a true champion of the hill people and fully dedicated towards the upliftment of the state. He talked about his several interactions with Dr. Parmar and how he always appreciated the folk artists and culture. He shared several anecdotes from his life and told the gathering how he was deeply inspired and indebted to Dr. Parmar for promoting the local culture and art. Shri Saraik also planted a tree at the university campus and visited the Parmar

museum to view a collection of several photographs from Dr. Parmar life.

College of Horticulture & Forestry, Thunag

Celebrated Kargil Vijay Divas on 26th July, 2022, Parmar Jayanti on 4th August, 2022, Independence Day and organised Tiranga Yatra on 15th August, 2022, Hindi Diwas on 14th September, 2022, Sawachhta Pakhwara by NSS Volunteers from 1-15 October, 2022 and Cleanliness Drive during November, 2022.

INAUGURATIONS

Model Food Processing Unit at **Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Lahaul and Spiti- at Tabo** was inaugurated by Sh. Rajendra Vishwanath Arleker, the then Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh in the presence of Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice Chancellor Dr. YSP UHF Nauni on 6th October, 2022.

Himachal's first natural farming FPO launched

Himachal Pradesh's first 100 percent natural farming Farmers Producers Company (FPC) was launched at Nerwa during an event on natural farming. The FPC was launched by Prof. Rajeshwar Chandel, Vice-Chancellor of the university. Lauding the member for setting up the first natural farming-based FPC, Prof. Chandel said that the initiative will not only give a platform for natural farmers for selling their products but will also increase the collective bargaining power of the farmers. He said that the FPC will help the natural farming produce to reach bigger markets and attract traders from different areas. Professor Chandel assured the FPC of technical support from the university for the food processing of different fruits and vegetables. He informed that the university is helping the company to process their lower grades of natural apple produce into juices. This facility is being extended by the university till the time the FPC sets up its own processing centre. Vinod Mehta, Chairman of Chopal Naturals FPC said that the main motive of the company is to align the farmers practicing natural farming to build a sustainable market that will help them get the true value of their produce. Kripal Singh, Surender Mehta, Jagat Singh and Manoj Sharma, all the directors of the company also attended the event. The officers and staff of the Agriculture and Horticulture departments along with 300 natural farmers from Chopal, Nerwa and Kupwi blocks attended the event.

Collective marketing of Natural produce begins; first consignment of FPC's natural farming apples flagged off

The first consignment of natural farming produce of Himachal's first 100 percent Natural Farmers Producers Company(FPC) was flagged off to buyers in Delhi and for value addition at the university. The consignment of two vehicles carrying apples of Chopal Naturals FPC was flagged off by Shri Rakesh Kanwar, Secretary (Agriculture), Himachal Pradesh. Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor, UHF Nauni, and Shri Naresh Thakur, State Project Director, Prakritik



Krishi Khushal KisanYojna (PK3Y) were also present along with the member of the FPC. With this consignment, 225 boxes were shipped to buyers in Delhi while 150 crates were for value addition to UHF Nauni, the FPC has taken a step towards the collective marketing of their natural produce. An interactive session was held on the occasion. The department of Food Science and Technology is helping to process the low-grade apples brought by Chopal Naturals FPC into juices and other value-added products.

DEGREES COMPLETED

S. N.	Programme	No. of students
College of Horticulture, Nauni, Solan		
1.	B.Sc.	101
2.	M.Sc.	114
3.	Ph.D.	24
4.	MBA	24
Total		263
College of Forestry, Nauni, Solan		
1.	B.Sc.	126
2.	M.Sc.	60
3.	Ph.D.	17
Total		203
College of Horticulture & Forestry, Neri, Hamirpur		
1.	B.Sc. (Horticulture)	67
	B.Sc. (Forestry)	42
	B.Sc. (B.Tech Biotechnology)	18
2.	M.Sc. (Horticulture)	22
	M.Sc. (Forestry)	-
Total		149

NEW PROJECTS SANCTIONED

Sr. No.	Title of the Project	PI	Rs. In Lakhs
1.	Comparative analysis of natural and conventional farming practices in apple in HP	Dr SC Verma	9.28
2.	Pestomatic monkey out	Dr MK Bramhi	0.50

NEW APPOINTMENTS

University gets new Deans and Directors

The university appointed new Deans and Directors

after the selection committee recommendations. The tenurial appointments were made through selection by a panel of external experts. The posts were advertised earlier this year and a large number of scientists from UHF and other institutes had applied for the posts.

The university has appointed a new Director of Research, Director of Extension Education and Deans of the four constituent colleges- College of Horticulture and College of Forestry on the main campus at Nauni and College of Horticulture and Forestry, Neri and Thunag.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Panjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana has been appointed as Director of Research of the University.

Dr. Inder Dev, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) at ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi has been appointed as Director of Extension Education.

Dr. Manish Sharma, who was serving as the Professor and Head of the Department of Seed Science at UHF has become the new Dean of the College of Horticulture, Nauni.

Dr. Chaman Lal Thakur, who was serving as Joint Director (Training) in Directorate of Extension Education has been appointed as Dean College of Forestry, Nauni.

Dr. Som Dev Sharma, HOD, Department of Fruit Science at Neri has been appointed Dean of COH&F, Neri.

Dr. PL Sharma, who was serving as the Principal Seed Research Officer, Department of Entomology has become the new Dean of COH&F, Thunag in Mandi district.

STUDENTS ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Organized the Blood Donation Camp at UHC, Nauni, Solan in collaboration with the ABVP Unit, UHF, Nauni, Solan on 9th July, 2022.
- ❖ Organized the Dental Health Camp at UHC, Nauni, Solan in collaboration with the MRDAV Dental College, Tatul, Solan (HP) on 11th July, 2022.
- ❖ Organized the Parthenium Eradication Campaign day on 16th July, 2022 at the Main Campus by the NSS Volunteers.
- ❖ Organized the Van Mahotsava by the NSS/NCC Volunteers/Cadets in collaboration with the University on 1st August, 2022.
- ❖ Organized the 7 days Special Camp for NSS volunteers of B.Sc 3rd year both the College of Horticulture and College of Forestry w.e.f. 1-7 August, 2022 in Ward No. 1 & 2 of Gram Panchayat, Nauni within the UHF Main Campus.
- ❖ Organized the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” between

11th & 12th August, 2022 in the main campus and different events like Essay Competition, Drawing Competition, Singing Competition were also organized.

- ❖ Eight students of this University attended the celebration of Rajbhasa Pakhwara in different events like Essay writing, Speech and Poem writing organized by the Director, Department of Language and Culture, Shimla on 11th September, 2022 at Gaiety Theatre, Shimla (HP) and one student got the 3rd prize in speech.
- ❖ 4 NSS volunteers participated in the Adventure camp w.e.f. 19 to 28 September, 2022 at ABVIMA, Dharmshala (HP).
- ❖ Clean India 2.0 Campaign was undertaken on 19th October, 2022. The NSS volunteers at UHF, Nauni (350), COHF, Neri (50), COHF, Thunag (89) participated in the campaign to clean the respective panchayats to free from plastic garbage. The campaign was successful in collecting approximately 5 quintals plastic waste from Panchayat Nauni, 125 kg from Panchayat Neri and 28 kg from Panchayat Thunag. At the end, the collected garbage was handed over to the concerned Pradhans for proper disposal.
- ❖ Celebrated Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Birth Anniversary on 31st October, 2022 at the main campus.

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was celebrated on 26th August 2022. A painting competition was organized in the department of Basic Science on Patriotism. In total 20 students participated in this event.

Organization of 4 days Heartfulness Camp

In collaboration with the Heartfulness Education Trust, a collaborating partner of ICAR, New Delhi, The Students Welfare Organization and the Principal Investigator-IDP Cell of this University organized 4 days Meditation Camp in the Directorate of Extension Education Seminar Hall w.e.f. 1 to 4 November, 2022 for training of our students and the staff of the University.

Centralized Laundry System

- ❖ Started centralized laundry system for the benefit of the hostel inmates from November, 2022.

NCC Activities

- ❖ One NCC cadet Parul Saini (BSc 3rd year) was selected for Officer Training Academy Chennai attachment and she attended this camp from 3 to 12 November, 2022.

Unity Run at UHF Nauni

A Unity Run was organised at the university on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel which is celebrated throughout India as National Unity Day. The NSS volunteers of the university participated in the

unity run which was flagged off by University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel. The run commenced from the university's administrative block and progressed to the Nauni market and ended at the College of Forestry after passing through the campus. Prof. Chandel also administered the 'Unity oath' to the students. In a separate event, the Vice Chancellor also administered the oath to the employees of the university.

AIDS Day

Celebrated the World AIDS Day at UHF, Nauni, Solan on 1st December, 2022 having theme "Equalize".

38th Foundation Day

Celebrated 38th foundation day of Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan on 1st December, 2022. Various sports, recreational and cultural activities alongwith lectures from eminent personalities were organized. Cricket, Volleyball and Recreational games like Chocolate Race, Sack Race etc. were organized in which faculty members and students participated.

Inter college youth Festival

Celebrated Inter College Youth Festival of Dr. Y.S. Parmar University UHF Nauni w.e.f. 12 to 15 December, 2022 which was aimed to the overall development of students. The students of the four constituent colleges of the University- College of Horticulture(COH) and College of Forestry(COF) from the main campus at Nauni, and the Colleges of Horticulture and Forestry (COH&F) at Neri and Thunag took part in the festival. Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice-Chancellor inaugurated the four days Inter College Youth Festival at the University Auditorium, Nauni. At the outset of the festival Marchpast and oath was administered to the students. The youth festival had individual and group events in the fine arts, literary, theatre, dance and music categories. On spot painting, collage and poster making and Rangoli-making events were held in the fine arts category. In literary events, elocution, debate and

extempore competitions were held. Based on the total points gained by different colleges in various events, the overall winner was decided. Overall trophy was bagged by College of Horticulture Nauni in Cultural Activities where as overall trophy for Fine Arts was bagged by the College of Forestry Nauni. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor gave away prizes and certificate to all the participants. Students' Welfare Officer Dr A.K. Joshi congratulated the students for their performances in various activities.



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