

Agriculture Future Forward : Start-up Conclave

THE AGRICULTURE FUTURE FORWARD: START-UP CONCLAVE was organized on 3rd December, 2024 by the BioNEST Agri Innovation Centre, UAS-B, which is a significant milestone in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship within the agricultural sector. The event was inaugurated by Shri N. Chaluvaryaswamy, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, GoK, in the presence of Dr. S.V. Suresha, esteemed Vice-Chancellor of UAS-B and Dr. T.K. Prabhakar Setty & Dr. M. Chandre Gowda, Hon'ble Members of BoM, UAS-B. The conclave convened a diverse group of stakeholders, including policymakers, academicians, industry leaders, start-ups and students, to investigate transformative prospects in agricultural technology. Keynote addresses by Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director, BIRAC and Shri H.V. Darshan, IAS, Managing Director, Department of IT & BT, Government of Karnataka underscored the significance of innovation in Bio-Agritech and the necessity for collaboration between Academia and Government. The event also marked the introduction of a quarterly Newsletter, a coffee table book that highlights Start-up innovations, and the launch of the Knowledge Centre and Biological Material Repository website. Panel discussions focused on addressing technological gaps in agriculture and identifying entrepreneurial opportunities, featuring insights from leading experts. The exhibition showcased over 35 agricultural Start-ups and 10 technologies developed by UAS-B, drawing more than 1,500 participants, including entrepreneurs, investors, and students, thereby reinforcing the increasing interest in agricultural innovation. Dr. Veena S. Anil, Professor of Plant Biotechnology, CoA, GKVK and Coordinator of the AIC oversaw the programme.



Hon'ble Minister inaugurating the Conclave

World Soil Day - 2024

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOIL SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY, College of Agriculture, GKVK celebrated World Soil Day on 5th December, 2024 under the theme 'Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage.' In his inaugural address, Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor articulated concerns regarding soil degradation attributed to improper management practices and excessive fertilizer usage, which have resulted in the reduction of organic matter content that is essential for soil vitality. He underscored the necessity of incorporating organic materials to bolster organic carbon levels, thereby promoting soil health. The event featured Shri Suresh Heblikar, a prominent actor, director and environmentalist, as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the significance of ecosystem services and the pivotal role of students in fostering a sustainable ecosystem. Various activities, like exhibitions and competitions such as essay writing, poster creation and painting were organized for schoolchildren of Bengaluru. A video presentation aligned with the theme was showcased to enhance awareness regarding the critical importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems for human well-being. Dr. N.B. Prakash, Dean, CoA, GKVK presided over the event and highlighted the essential practices of measuring, monitoring, and managing soil health to enhance both soil and crop productivity. The celebrations witnessed participation from over 1,700 individuals including schoolchildren, teachers, undergraduate & postgraduate students, faculty and staff from UAS-B. The event was organised at all the constituent Colleges, KVKs and Units of the University also.



Inauguration of World Soil Day

BOOK EXHIBITION

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, GKVK hosted a Book Exhibition on 13th & 14th December, 2024, which was inaugurated by Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor in the presence of University Officials. A total of 21 suppliers, dealers and vendors showcased a diverse array of books. This event provided valuable opportunities for both students and faculty members.

Inter Collegiate Youth Festival

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HASSAN hosted the Inter Collegiate Youth Festival : *Hoysalothsava*-2024 from 4th to 6th December, 2024. The event commenced on 4th December, 2024 with an inauguration led by film actor Shri Master Anand. The programme featured distinguished guests, including Dr. Mohan Ishwar Naik, Director of Student Welfare, UAS-B along with the Deans of the various constituent Colleges of UAS, Bangalore. The valedictory ceremony on 6th December, 2024 was inaugurated by Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor with notable guests including Dr. K.C. Narayanaswamy, Registrar and Dean (PGS). The overall championship of *Hoysalothsava*-2024 was awarded to CoS, Chintamani, while CoA, Hassan secured the runner-up position.



Inauguration of Youth Festival



Vice-Chancellor & Officers with the winning teams

The CoA, Hassan also hosted the Inter-Collegiate *Kho-Kho* and Table Tennis tournament for both men and women from 10th to 12th December, 2024. The College of Agriculture, Hassan, triumphed in both the *Kho-Kho* (men's and women's) and women's Table Tennis categories, while the Post Graduate team from GVKV claimed victory in the men's Table Tennis competition. Dr. K.N. Muniswamy Gowda, Dean (Agri.), CoA, Hassan presented the trophies to the victorious teams.

Awards

- Dr. H.C. Lohithaswa, Principal Scientist and Head, AICRP on Pigeonpea, was honoured with the AB Joshi Memorial Award by the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, New Delhi. This accolade, which acknowledges his significant contributions to crop improvement in India, was presented to him during the 2nd National Genetic Congress, held at IARI, New Delhi from 11th to 13th December, 2024.
- Dr. M.H. Manjunatha, Junior Agronomist, AICRP on Agrometeorology bagged second best oral presentation award during the 5th International Conference on 'Climate Change and Natural Resource Management' held from 26th to 30th November, 2024 at Dubai, UAE.

NTP on Agri Start-ups and Agribusiness

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, CoA, GVKV conducted a National Training Programme entitled 'Agri Start-ups and Agribusiness Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs' from 2nd to 6th December, 2024. This initiative



Participants of the NTP

was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi. The concluding ceremony took place on 6th December, 2024 and was honored by the presence of Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor of UAS-B. During the event, he addressed the attendees and presented certificates to 25 participants, comprising Scientists, Extension Personnel and Technologists from various Agricultural Institutions across different states. The programme also featured the presence of Dr. Y.N. Shivalingaiah, Director of Extension. Dr. H.K. Pankaja, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Extension was the Course Director of the programme.

Field Day and *Krishi Sakhi's* Training

THE EXTENSION EDUCATION UNIT, Naganahalli, Mysuru, conducted a field day focused on KMR 630 variety of Ragi and observed World Soil Day at Banagavadi of T. Narasipura taluk on 6th December, 2024. During the event, Mrs. Vishalu,



Participants at Field Day

Agriculture Officer, highlighted the significance of soil testing and INM. Dr. C. Ramachandra, Extension Leader underscored the purpose of organizing such field days, which is to raise awareness among farmers regarding the adoption of technologies. The EEU organised a 6-days module-2 training programme on 'Agro Ecological Practices' for Community Resource Persons (*Krishi Sakhi*) from 9th to 14th December, 2024 in collaboration with *SANJEEVINI-KSRLPS*, Dept. of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, GoK.

National Farmers Day (*Kisan Diwas*)

FARMERS DAY-2024 themed 'Empowering 'Annadatas' for a Prosperous Nation' highlighting the critical need to equip farmers with the necessary resources and opportunities to foster sustainable agricultural development and enhance



Awarding Farmers at KVK, Bengaluru Rural during Kisan Day

national prosperity was organised across all KVKs and units of the University to honour Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth and former Prime Minister of India. ICAR-KVK, Bengaluru Rural district organised Kisan Diwas at Doddarayappanahalli of Doddaballapura taluk, the adopted village by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra on 23rd December, 2024.

THE INSTITUTE OF BAKING TECHNOLOGY AND VALUE ADDITION, Directorate of Extension, GKVK hosted the National Farmers Day (also called as Kisan Diwas) on 23rd December, 2024. The day's activities included various guest lectures, debates and experience-sharing sessions related to secondary agriculture aimed at benefitting the participants.

BIOFUEL PARK, MADENUR organised Farmers Day at College of Agriculture, Hassan on 23rd December, 2024 in collaboration with ARS Madenur, College of Agriculture, MCF and Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board. The proceedings were presided over by Dr. K.N. Muniswamy Gowda, Dean of CoA, while the inauguration featured the participation of progressive farmers Praveen, Latha Yoganna and Lakshmi, who were honoured during the ceremony. Dr. T.C. Yogish, Farm Superintendent, ARS, Madenur; Mr. I.G. Ramesh, President, Lions Club; Dr. A.C. Girish, Head, Biofuel Park and 45 farmers from *Krushu Kadu* FPO of Arasikere participated.

Awareness Programme to Students

THE COA, GKVK organised an enlightening Awareness Programme and Guest Lecture in collaboration with The Hindu Civil Services Aspirants Club and Shankar IAS Academy on 19th December, 2024, which focused on the vital importance of cultivating a consistent reading habit and exploring the myriad career opportunities available to students who are preparing for the UPSC Exams. Mr. Saidulu Adavath, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North Division, Bengaluru graced the occasion with a compelling lecture titled 'A Student's Journey is about Consistency and Resilience'.

Training on Precision Farming

THE PRECISION FARMING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, Department of Horticulture, CoA, GKVK organized a tailor made seven-day training programme for farmers focused on 'Micro Irrigation' as a part of the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* from 17th to 23rd December, 2024. The inaugural session occurred at the Department of Horticulture, GKVK on 17th December, while the subsequent sessions were held at the ICAR-KVK, Hadonahalli. The event was inaugurated by Dr. H.G. Ashoka, Special Officer, CoAE, GKVK. Smt. Sowjanya, Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Lalbagh, Bengaluru discussed about the Central and State Governments micro irrigation initiatives. During the training session, farmers participated in a field visit, where



Trainees during field visit

they observed a variety of crops cultivated through automated irrigation and fertigation systems within a protected environment. The farmers engaged in conversation with various experts on multiple facets of micro irrigation, which included the upkeep of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, the application of soil moisture sensors, and the operation of automated fertigation and irrigation systems. A total of 30 farmers from Chikkaballapura, Bengaluru Rural and Urban districts participated in the programme coordinated by Dr. K.N. Srinivasappa, Professor of Horticulture.



KANNADA RAJYOTHSAVA celebrated at GKVK, Bengaluru on 18th December, 2024 organised by *Kannada Sangha* of UAS-B. Nadoja Dr. Hampanagarajiah, Senior Scholar was the Chief Guest

Memorandum of Understanding

UAS-B SIGNED A MoU with the Foundation for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship (Social Alpha) to drive innovation in the Agri & Allied sectors. This partnership will empower AIC, UAS-B incubated Start-ups through co-incubation, mentorship, and funding opportunities, enabling them to scale and succeed. The MoU was signed by Dr. K.C. Narayanaswamy, Registrar, UAS-B in the presence of Dr. S.V. Suresha, Vice-Chancellor and Mr. Jacob Poulose, Director, FISE. The



Exchange of Memorandum of Understanding

event was also graced by the Dean (Agri.), CoA, GKVK; Special Officer, CoAE; Estate Officer, Coordinator of Agri Innovation Centre and Shri T.H. Naveen, Manager, Social Alpha.

Students of UAS-B Excel in ARS Examination

STUDENTS OF UAS, BANGALORE namely, Harish Kumar & Aranab Ray (Agril. Economics, CoA, GKVK); Gurunath Reddy (Agronomy, CoA, GKVK); Priyanka, Sunil Jadhav (Seed Science and Technology, CoA, GKVK); Shriniketan Puranik (Agril. Microbiology, CoA, GKVK); H.V. Ranjith (Agril. Entomology, CoA, Mandya); Laxminarayanan (Soil Science & Agril. Chemistry, CoA, GKVK); Basanagouda Gonal, Kalpana Pundalika Mogali, Chandana, B.S., Ashvinkumar Katral & Prashant Vasist (GPB, CoA, GKVK); Dr. A. Madhushree, Dr. J. Chaithrashree & Dr. Guntukogula Pattabhi Sandeep (Agril. Extension, CoA, GKVK); Chandan Kumar, Dileep Kumar (Agril. Entomology, CoA, GKVK); C. Abhishek & G.A. Nandini (Plant Biotechnology, CoA, Hassan & GKVK, respectively) and Channakeshava (Plant Pathology, CoA, Mandya) have successfully cleared the ARS-2023 examination and have been appointed to various scientific positions within ICAR Institutes. The Vice-Chancellor, Members of the Board of Management and Officers of the University extend their congratulations to the students.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Chief Editor	: Dr. S.V. Suresha Director of Education
Editor	: Dr. K.H. Nagaraj Professor of Agricultural Extension
Associate Editor	: Dr. H.B. Raghu Assoc. Professor of Forestry & Environmental Sciences

Mevu Meluku - Radio Series Programme

AICRP ON FORAGE CROPS AND UTILIZATION, ZARS, V.C. Farm, Mandya hosted the inaugural event of the 'Mevu Meluku' Radio Series Programme on 17th December, 2024 in collaboration with All India Radio, Mysuru. The programme was officially launched by Dr. P.S. Fathima, Dean, CoA, Mandya, who underscored the critical role of fodder crops in enhancing the profitability of dairy farming during her inaugural address. The event was presided over by Dr. K.V. Keshavaiah, In-charge Associate Director of Research, who urged participants to allocate at least 10% of their total land for fodder cultivation to address the current shortfall. Shri S.S. Umesh, Deputy Director (Programme), AIR, Mysuru, unveiled the schedule for the *Mevu Meluku Banuli Sarani* programme and emphasized its significance. The series is scheduled to air every Wednesday from 6:50 to 7:30 P.M. on *Krishiranga*, AIR, Mysuru, from 18th December, 2024 to 14th May, 2025 covering various topics related to fodder cultivation and the management of animal health & nutrition. Dr. B.G. Shekara, Professor and Head, AICRP on Forage Crops & Utilization coordinated the programme.

Distribution of Soil Health Cards

AICRPDA, GKVK on the occasion of World Soil Day distributed Soil Health Cards to 20 farmers of Kempalinganahalli of Nelamangala taluk under NICRA project on 28th December, 2024 in collaboration with Shivaganga Farmer Producer Company Limited. Dr. Mudalagiriappa, Chief Scientist, emphasized the importance of soil health and management strategies under dryland situation. Dr. Vasanthi, B.G., Senior Scientist (Soil Science) highlighted the methods of soil sampling, and role of nutrients for enhancing crop productivity.

Gender-Friendly Equipment Training

ICAR-AICRP (FIM), ZARS, V.C. FARM, MANDYA, in partnership with the Skill Development Centre, GKVK, conducted a two-day training and capacity-building initiative entitled 'Gender-Friendly Equipment' on 30th & 31st December, 2024 as part of the ICAR, SC-SP Scheme. The training focused on demonstrating the use of gender-friendly equipment, reducing the physical strain of agricultural operations, empowering women and promoting entrepreneurship.

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