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*From the Vice Chancellor's Desk*

*Natural Farming: A Sustainable Solution for India's Agricultural Challenges*

The degradation of natural resources like land and water, biodiversity and environment, climate change are some of the key challenges against Indian agriculture. Under such situation, we need a new direction which is more sustainable and reverse the degradation processes. Moreover, People across the globe making a switch to buy produce that is cultivated through chemical free farming methods. The efforts are being done to convert all the challenges in agriculture into opportunities and this process is the future of agriculture. There are different methods of farming without chemicals are being adopted in different parts of India like, Organic Farming, Rishi Krishi, Homa farming, Panchagavya Krishi, Natural Farming, Biodynamic Farming, ZBNF, Permaculture, Bio- intensive Farming, Veganics, LEISA, etc.



Natural farming is a method of agriculture that relies on natural processes rather than synthetic inputs. It involves the application of Jeevamrut, Beejamrut, Ghan Jeevamrut, mixed cropping system, homemade preparations for plant protection and seed/planting materials and mulching. The golden rule is to enrich the level of organic matter in the soil, which supports microbial life, and therefore the soil's fertility for Sustainable Soil Health. Overall, the significance of natural farming is to create a self-sustaining and regenerative agricultural system that improve soil health, soil organic carbon, conserve resources, reduce pollution, preserve biodiversity, increase microbial activity, livestock sustainability, provides healthy and nutritious food for people while maintaining ecological balance. Natural farming practices will also support in achieving the UN- Sustainable Development Goals. India can double acreage of chemical-free farming to 15% immediately and 30% by 2030 without hurting national food security as any resultant loss in output and exports could be compensated by reduction in fertilizer subsidies.

Scientific evidences need to be generated for scaling out natural farming in different agro-climatic regions for its long-term sustainability. Junagadh Agricultural University is doing lot of activities for the promotion natural farming through various initiatives such as strengthening of research work on crop production aspects, plant protection measures, soil health management, cropping systems, microbial and meta-omics study on bio stimulants etc. University is providing education and training to farmers on natural farming techniques through different extension programmes of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, SSK and in collaboration with department of agriculture. The natural farming plots are developed at research stations and KVKs. The courses on natural farming are introduced in UG syllabus. A new plan scheme on "Establishment of Natural Farming Research Cell" is also sanctioned in the department of Agronomy to strengthen research, education and extension on natural farming. Natural farming practices should be viewed as a viable alternative for farmers and consumers seeking chemical-free agricultural produce. These practices contribute to sustainability by improving soil health, conserving water, and reducing the reliance on synthetic inputs, which helps maintain ecological balance. Additionally, natural farming can increase farmers' income by reducing input costs, enhancing crop resilience, and tapping into the growing market demand for organic and chemical-free products. Now is the time to advance along the path of natural farming and fully capitalize on the emerging opportunities both locally and globally.

**(V. P. Chovatia)**

## National Conference

The National Conference on the 'Paradigm and Dynamics of Digital Horticulture for Food, Nutrition, and Entrepreneurship' was organized by the Lt. Amit Singh Memorial Foundation, New Delhi, in collaboration with Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, from May 28-31, 2024. The event was a grand success dotted with extensive knowledge exchange with the participation of scientists, academics, policymakers, and farmers from across the country.



The inaugural session of the conference was chaired by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, whereas Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB, DARE, New Delhi; Dr. U. S. Gautam, DDG (Agri. Ext.), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS (Retd.) and CEO, NRAA, New Delhi; Dr. A. R. Pathak, former VC, JAU and NAU; Dr. S. K. Malhotra, VC, MPHU, Karnal; Dr. Neeraja Prabhakar, VC, SKLTSHU, Telangana; Dr. D. R. Singh, VC, BAU, Sabour; Dr. P. S. Pandey, VC, DRPCA, Pusa Samastipur; Dr. H. P. Singh, former DDG & Chairman CHAI, New Delhi; and Shri R. G. Agrawal, Founder Chairman, Dhanuka Agritech Ltd., Gurgaon graced the occasion as special guests.

The conference featured 11 technical sessions and three workshops, focusing on horticultural extension, coconut and mango cultivation. Nine plenary lectures on digital horticulture and nine technical sessions on topics like climate change management and digital applications in horticulture were the major highlights. Overall, the event saw 55 keynote addresses and 78 presentations. As a part of the conference, the 'International Day of Potato' was observed on May 20, 2024. The birthday of the Kesar mango was also celebrated with the arrangement of a mango-eating competition. Dr. D. K. Varu, Principal & Dean, CoH,

JAU, Junagadh, served as the organizing secretary of the event.



## Two Patents in Crop Protection

As yet another proud moment in the annals of JAU's history, JAU was granted two patents during this quarter (April-June 2024) in the arena of crop protection by the Patent Office, GoI, reaffirming the varsity's vision to recommit itself to the welfare of the farming community. The first patent was granted for the university's invention, "Device for Insects Trapping for Managing Insects" (Patent no. 478250), and the second one was for the invention, "A Composition for Male Confusing Technique of Shoot and Fruit Borer in Brinjal Crop" (Patent no. 536789) of Department of Entomology, JAU, Junagadh. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, and Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR, and Dean (PG Studies) congratulated the scientists led by Dr. D. M. Jethva on their stupendous achievements.



## Five new crop varieties and 22 Technologies released by JAU

The 20<sup>th</sup> Combined Meeting of Agricultural Research Council (AGRESO-2024) of SAUs was held from May 10-17, 2024. JAU released five new crop varieties viz., Groundnut (GG 101, GG 24, and GG 42), Pigeon pea (GT 111), and Pearl millet Hybrid (GHB 1294) in the state.

### 1. Groundnut: Gujarat Groundnut 101 (GG 101: Sorath Keshav)

This high yielding Spanish bunch groundnut variety is recommended for kharif season. It recorded a mean pod yield of 2860 kg/ha, which was 33.96 and 24.26 per cent higher than the check varieties,

GJG 9 (2135 kg/ha) and TG 37A (2301 kg/ha), respectively. This variety also recorded higher kernel yield than the check varieties. This variety was found comparable to the checks against late leaf spot, rust, stem rot, collar rot incidence and damage due to leaf defoliator.



### 2. Groundnut: Gujarat Groundnut 24 (GG 24: Sorath Urja)

This Virginia bunch groundnut variety is recommended for *Kharif* season. It recorded mean pod yield of 2555 kg/ha, which was 20.37, 21.97 and 56.42 per cent higher over the check varieties, GJG 22 (2122 kg/ha), GG 20 (2095 kg/ha) and Kaushal (1633 kg/ha), respectively. It also recorded higher kernel yield, oil yield, number of pods per plant and oil content over the check varieties. This variety was found comparable to the check varieties against late leaf spot, rust, stem rot, collar rot diseases and damage due to leaf defoliator.



### 3. Groundnut: Gujarat Groundnut 42 (GG 42: Sorath Shaan)

This Virginia runner groundnut variety is recommended for *Kharif* season. It recorded mean pod yield of 2393 kg/ha, which was 12.51, 27.14 and 50.98 per cent higher over the check varieties, GG 41 (2127 kg/ha), GJG 17 (1883 kg/ha) and Somnath (1585 kg/ha), respectively.

This variety also recorded higher kernel yield, oil yield, number of pods per plant and shelling per cent over the check varieties. This variety was found comparable to the check varieties against late leaf spot, rust, stem rot, collar rot diseases and damage due to leaf defoliator.



### 4. Pigeon Pea: Gujarat Tur 111 (GT 111: Sorath Ratan)

This medium maturing (177 days) variety is recommended for *Kharif* season. It recorded 2197 kg/ha average seed yield, which was 6.6, 18.3, 14.5 and 15.9 per cent higher over check varieties GJP 1, AGT 2, BDN 2 and GT 104, respectively. Seeds of this variety are of cream colour and large in size (12.88 g/100 seeds). This variety is moderately resistant against wilt, resistant against SMD and phytophthora blight diseases, low pod borer and seed damage due to pod fly.



### 5. Pearl Millet Hybrid: Gujarat Hybrid Bajra 1294 (GHB 1294: Maru Moti) (Endorsement)

This early maturing hybrid is recommended for *Kharif* season. It recorded average 2717 kg/ha grain yield which was 20.0% higher than check hybrid GHB-538. It also recorded average 7306 kg/ha dry fodder yield which was 46.8% higher than check hybrid GHB-538. The proposed hybrid is resistant against diseases like downy mildew, blast and rust and tolerant against pest like shoot fly, stem borer and *heliopsis* larvae.



Besides, 22 technologies/recommendations were approved for the use of farmers, while 30 recommendations were suggested for the necessary action of the scientific community/policymakers.

In addition, as many as 74 new technical programs (NTPs) were approved to initiate and guide the future course of departmental research projects, focussing mainly on the region-specific issues in agriculture and allied fields for the benefit of all stakeholders, from farmers to institutional agencies.

Summary of 20<sup>th</sup> Combined AGRESCO Meeting of SAUs

Sub Committee	No. of Recommendations		New Technical Programs
	Farmers	Scientific	
Crop Improvement	05*	01	-
Crop Production	06	08	13
Plant Protection	03	10	11
Horticulture & Forestry	03	-	08
Agricultural Engineering	10	03	18
Basic Science	-	01	05
Social Science	-	07	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>05*+22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>74</b>

Note: \*No. of crop varieties released

## Dual Degree Initiative with WSU, Sydney

Adding further momentum to JAU's longstanding commitment to academic and research excellence, the university has partnered with Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia, to establish dual degree programs for UG, Master's and Doctoral studies. The initial discussions with WSU representatives were held in multiple virtual sessions from April to June 2024. A large number of students from the faculties of agriculture, horticulture, and agricultural engineering participated. Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Registrar, and Dr. K. C. Patel, Director, IT were involved in the discussions, addressing questions and concerns in real-time.

## JAU: Excellence in Education and Timely Graduation Support

JAU is renowned for its comprehensive and holistic educational offerings in agriculture and allied sciences. The university provides a range of undergraduate programs in Agriculture, Horticulture, and Agricultural Engineering & Technology. Additionally, the university offers diploma programs in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, and Agro Processing, catering to the diverse educational needs of students. By June 2024, the students recorded the on-time completion of their studies at JAU, with 173 students graduating from diploma programs and 395 students earning their undergraduate degrees. Upon graduation, the students received their academic records promptly. The Office of the Registrar issues crucial documents such as mark sheets, transcripts, and provisional passing certificates swiftly and seamlessly, enabling the students to focus on their decision-making without delay to pursue further studies or embark on their professional careers. The timely provision of these documents reflects JAU's dedication to maintaining high standards of state-of-the-art administrative efficiency.

## Training-cum-Demonstration Program under AICRP on PEASEM

AICRP on PEASEM, REE, CAET, JAU, Junagadh organized two farmers' training-cum-demonstration programs at Jambala (Taluka: Visavadar) and Khambhaliya (Taluka: Bhesan) villages on June 7 and 8, 2024, respectively. Dr. S. P. Cholera, Post-Harvest Engineer; Dr. Maulik Ramani, SRF; Dr. Manoj Sojitra and Er. Bipin Jadav delivered lectures



on solar tunnel drying, use of mulching and agro-voltaic technologies. In addition, the hands-on demonstration of JAU-patented foldable plastic transportation box was also organized, benefitting 60 progressive farmers altogether.

## Demonstration under 'Agri Drone Project'

Under the 'Agri Drone Project', the drone-based pesticide application was demonstrated on farmers' fields by the Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, in collaboration with the KVKs of the university. Overall, 66 demonstrations were carried out over 82.30 acres of the farmers' fields in 47 villages from the districts of Porbandar, Targhadia, Nana Kandhasar, Morbi, Pipaliya, Amreli and Jamnagar, benefitting 3079 farmers in this quarter.



## Varsha Vigyan Parisamvad-2024

JAU in collaboration with Varsha Vigyan Mandal organized "Varsha Vigyan Parisamvad" on May 24, 2024. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, Junagadh.



He highlighted the importance of efficient rainfall forecasting for farmers, trades and government. Dr. N. B. Jadav, president of Varsha Vigyan Mandal briefed about history and contribution of Mandal. On this occasion, Director of Research Dr. R. B. Madariya, Vice President, Dr. J. D. Gundalia, Dr. P. R. Kanani, Mr. Jerambhai Timbadiya, Mr. Mohanbhai Dalsania presented their views. A total of 55 forecasters presented their views on Monsoon 2024 based on bird gestures, satellite signs, winter-summer temperatures, etc.

## Kharif Pre-seasonal Training under T&V

The Office of DEE, JAU, organized the *Kharif* Pre-seasonal training under the ambit of the Training and Visit scheme from June 7-8, 2024. Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, JAU, provided valuable perspectives on the workshop's significance. The participants included Shri Gauravbhai Dave, JDA for Rajkot and Junagadh, along with officers of line departments -

of Horticulture and Agriculture from various districts of Saurashtra. The training program also featured discussions mediated by JAU scientists on new technologies and the specific cultivation practices relevant to different crops.



### GHRDC-CSR Ranking of CAET, JAU, Junagadh

The College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology (CAET), JAU, Junagadh, was ranked first among the top-performing engineering colleges of outstanding excellence in India in the latest Competition Success Review (CSR)-Global Human Resource Development Centre (GHRDC) Ranking of Top Engineering Colleges-2024, published in June 2024 issue of CSR. With a total score of 995.27 out of 1700, the college performed better than the next-ranked institution in terms of all criteria. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, and Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Principal & Dean, congratulated the faculty, staff, and students for recording such a feat.

### Visits of Dignitaries

#### Dr. T. Janakiram, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr.Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Andra Pradesh

Dr. T. Janakiram visited Agrisnet Studio and Junagadh Janvani FM Station of Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh on May 30, 2024. On this occasion, Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE and Dr. H.C. Chhodavadia, ADEE discussed various extension activities of JAU along with activities of Agrisnet studio. He showed keen interest and appreciated activities of Agrisnet Studio and Junagadh Janvani FM Station.



#### Dr. T. B. S. Rajput, Former Director, WTC, IARI, New Delhi

Dr. T. B. S. Rajput paid an official visit to the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, on June 11, 2024. Dr. Rajput was given an overview of the research activities, specifically the low-cost micro-irrigation system controller. Dr. Rajput emphasized the importance of field-based, real-world innovations immensely benefitting the farming community. Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Principal and Dean, and Dr. H. D. Rank, HoD, apprised the guest about the research initiatives.



He also visited AICRP on PEASEM, Dept. of REE, CAET, JAU, Junagadh. He monitored the progress of on-going projects and interacted with the scientists working under the scheme and appreciated the efforts made by scientists. Dr. Rajput expressed his admiration for the advancements being made at JAU and encouraged continued efforts to develop AI and IoT-driven technologies that enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability.

#### Dr. K. Narsaiah, ADG, ICAR, New Delhi

Dr. K. Narsaiah, visited AICRP on PHET and PEASEM, Junagadh Centre during May 29-30, 2024. Dr. Narsaiah monitored the progress of ongoing projects of both the schemes and appreciated the practical applications of technologies developed at the centre. He interacted with Dr. M. N. Dabhi, Prof. & Head, Dept. of PFE. and other scientists and provided his valuable suggestions.



## MoU between JAU and Pidilite Industries Ltd.

The MoU was signed between JAU and Pidilite Industries Ltd. on June 24, 2024 in the presence of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU. The MoU is for signifying a commitment to organize collaborative extension activities and training programmes. Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE; Shri Ajitbhai J. Jadav from Pidilite industries and Dr. H. C. Chhodavadia, ADEE remained present.



## Education Fair and Motivational Lecture



The Rotary Club of Junagadh and JAU jointly organized the Education Fair during April 27-28, 2024, at the Sardar Patel Sabhagruh, JAU, Junagadh. JAU participated alongside many other universities from Gujarat. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, inaugurated the fair and underlined the importance of conducting such fairs to bridge the knowledge gap. JAU displayed the latest information on educational activities, including polytechnic and undergraduate courses as well as various employment opportunities.



Many students and their parents visited the exhibition. The event was also marked with a special lecture by

the famous motivational speaker of Gujarat, Shri Shailesh Bhai Sagapariya, to motivate the students to develop self-confidence, cultivate skills, and stay inclined toward learning forever in life.

## Hackathon/Ideation on “Waste to Wealth - Compost/Biogas Production”

A university-level Ideation Hackathon for UG/PG students on “Waste to Wealth – Compost / Biogas Production” was organized on May 3, 2024, at JAU, Junagadh. The purpose of this Hackathon/Ideation was to encourage the best young minds to present original ideas on agricultural bio-waste utilization, process modifications/up gradations, engineering solutions, technical advancements, and more for waste-to-wealth transformation. Two expert lectures on the theme were featured in this event by Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal and Dean, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh and Dr. M. S. Dulawat, Assistant Professor, REE, CAET, JAU, Junagadh. Dr. V.P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, and Dr. P.M. Chauhan, Registrar, graced the event with their presence.



Out of the 13 entries registered from various colleges of JAU, Tejas H. Borkhatariya and Chirag A. Gorasiya from the College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh, were awarded the first prize with a certificate and cash prize. Parmar Ruchitaraj G. from ASPEE College of Agriculture, JAU, Khapat (Porbandar) secured the second position, while the team comprising Hirenkumar A. Shekhda and Chirag M. Godhani from the College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh, were adjudged as the winners of the third prize.

## Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) Activity at PGIABM, JAU, Junagadh

PGIABM, JAU, Junagadh, observed the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) day on May 4, 2024. LiFE is a public movement initiated by the Government of India to mobilize individuals to become 'Pro-Planet People.' The concept was introduced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at COP26 in Glasgow on November 1, 2021. With a motto to inculcate environmental consciousness among the students, the college organized a series of activities with the inherent

messages to save water, save energy, avoid single-use plastic, reduce e-waste and practice the safe disposal of the used electronic items. Dr. C. D. Lakhani, Principal of the college, and Dr. Jagruti D. Bhatt, Assistant Professor, interacted with the students about the need to shape their lifestyles around environment safeguard and its conservation.



## Annual Day Celebrations

### College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh

Krushi Vatsalam-2024, the Annual Day Celebration of CoA, JAU, Junagadh, was organized from May 9–10, 2024, by the UG students of the outgoing batch. Shri Janak Dhameliya, Chairman, Redox Group of Companies, Ahmedabad, and Shri Jayesh Hirpara, MD, Litmus Agri-Tech, Ahmedabad, served as the chief guests. The event saw many cultural activities and fun games organized by the students under the coordination of Dr. B. S. Gohil, SRC Chairman of the college, guided by Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Dean of the College.



### College of Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh

AVSAR-2024, the Annual Day Function of CoH, JAU, Junagadh, was organized by the outgoing batch of B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture on June 8, 2024. During the inaugural, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, served as the president, while Shri Amit Khunt, Co-Founder, Akshar Farmtech, Ahmedabad, and Shri Janak Dhameliya, Chairman, Redox Group of Companies, Ahmedabad, graced the celebration as the guests of honor. The students celebrated the day with folk dances, skits, mimes, and other cultural events organized with active guidance from Dr. J. S. Parsana, SRC Chairman of the college, guided by Dr. D. K. Varu, Dean of the College.

### CAET, JAU, Junagadh

The Annual Function of was organized by the SRC, CAET, Junagadh during April 19-20, 2024. The activities included Hostel Cleanliness Competition,

Sports and Fun events, Freshers' welcome, Farewell programme of outgoing students and cultural programme. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU graced the function as the President. Dr. A. R. Pathak remained present as the chief guest. The platinum sponsors of the programme Shri Ashokbhai Baldha, Chairman & MD, Bhumi Polymers Pvt. Ltd., Rajkot and Shri Narendrabhai Dudhatra, Director, Paragon Irrigation Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad also remained present as Guest of Honours. Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR, Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, Dr. P. M. Chauhan, Principal & Dean, Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW & other dignitaries also remain present and motivated the students.



## Educational Excursion of Students of College of Agriculture, Mota Bhandariya

CoA, JAU, Mota Bhandariya, organized educational excursion to the National Innovation Foundation (NIF)-India, DST, GoI, Ahmedabad on April 19, 2024 and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad on April 18, 2024. As many as 65 undergrads pursuing agriculture benefitted from this visit with interactive lectures, hands-on-trainings, free-wheeling discussions, and campus tours.



Dr. Hardev Chaudhari and Dr. Parth Dave, the faculty members at the NIF outlined the importance of farm innovation. EDII, conducted a one-hour brainstorming session for the students on the start-up ideas in agriculture. Dr. Minaxi K. Bariya, Pushpa Yadav, and S. S. Sapre served as the team managers.



## Student Placements – AY 2023-24

The placement drives for AY 2023-24 were organized by the all colleges of the university during March to June 2024.

JAU students performed excellent in the placement drive and selected in various companies/organizations. Mahindra & Mahindra, Mumbai; VST Tractor, Bangalore; New Holland Ltd.; Jain Irrigation System, Jalgaon; Shaktiman Agro, Rajkot; Agro Star Pvt. Ltd., Gandhinagar and Lancer Laser Tech. Ltd., Mehsana visited CAET, JAU, Junagadh.

In a similar vein, the prominent recruiters including IDBI Bank, Mumbai; Virbac India Ltd., Mumbai; Verde Agrotech, Mumbai; Agrostar, Gandhinagar; Agro-Vikas, Gandhinagar; Gharda Pesticides Ltd., Mumbai; PI Industries, Gurgaon; Coromandel International, Secunderabad; Axis bank, Mumbai; Aga Khan Foundation; GSFC Agrotech Pvt. Ltd., Vadodara visited College of Agriculture at Junagadh, Mota Bhandariya, Khapat and CoH, JAU, Junagadh and Polytechnics.



## JAU Embraces Digitalization with Digi-Locker

JAU has made significant strides in digital transformation by uploading 9,834 student documents to Digi-Locker, including 3,933 degrees, 4,842 mark sheets, 989 diploma certificates, and 70 migration certificates. Additionally, the university has created 2,321 Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) IDs.

This initiative ensures the safety and accessibility of vital academic documents and aligns with the broader goal of enhancing digital infrastructure in education. By leveraging Digi-Locker, the university facilitates easier document retrieval and verification, streamlines administrative processes, and contributes to a more efficient, transparent, and cohesive educational ecosystem.



## NSS Activities

### CoA, JAU, Junagadh

The NSS unit of CoA, JAU, Junagadh, under the coordination of Dr. J. R. Talaviya, NSS Officer,

conducted the week-long campaign in June 2024 on the theme: Shresth Bharat ke Panch Prakalp (Five projects of Shresth Bharat) for creating awareness among the students about the crucial sustainable development goals (SDGs) identified by the country to be achieved by 2030. As part of this event, a tree plantation drive was also carried out by the students on the college premises, coinciding with the week-long activities of the college to commemorate World Environment Day.



### Polytechnic in Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh

The NSS unit of Polytechnic in Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh, organized the Voters' Awareness Programme on April 25, 2024, to inculcate among first-time voters and young voters the importance of voting for a vibrant democracy. Dr. N. V. Savaliya, NSS Programme Officer of the institute, educated the students to exercise their voting rights. Dr. K. D. Patel, Principal, administered the voter's pledge with the participation of 40 polytechnic students.



### Polytechnic of Agro Processing, JAU, Junagadh

All NSS volunteers and faculty members of the Polytechnic of Agro Processing, JAU, Junagadh, actively participated in the e-pledge initiative entitled "Say Yes to Life; No to Drugs" organized virtually by the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB), GoI on June 13, 2024. Dr. N. K. Dhamsaniya, Principal, highlighted the relevance of the initiative and its alignment with the Government's sustained efforts to combat rampant drug abuse.

## Celebrations of Days

### International Yoga Day

The 10<sup>th</sup> "International Day of Yoga" was celebrated on June 21, 2024, at the Indoor Sports Complex, JAU, Junagadh. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC;



Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE; Dr. P.M. Chauhan, Registrar; Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW; Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal & Dean, CoA, JAU, Junagadh; Dr. D. K. Varu, CoH, JAU, Junagadh, and Dr. K. C. Patel, Director, IT Cell, remained present with other staff, students, and their family members. Dr. Jayatiben A. Vachchhani served as the Yoga Trainer. She guided the participants with yoga steps and poses, adhering to the standard protocol. She also discussed the importance of these poses in daily life.



Further, the special address of Shri Bhupendra Bhai Patel, the Hon'ble CM of Gujarat, was also live-streamed on YouTube. The university staff and students embraced the value of yoga in their daily lives and committed to continuing with yoga in the future.

#### **World Milk Day**

KVK, JAU, Nana Kandhasar, celebrated 'World Milk Day' on June 1, 2024. Dr. R. P. Kalma, SMS (Veterinary), welcomed the participants and elaborated on the significance of the celebration. The event featured interactive sessions between scientists and farmers, during which the participants posed questions about feeding management strategies to boost milk production, ensuring clean milk production, handling disease issues, vaccination protocols, managing internal and external livestock parasites, challenges related to artificial insemination, and other dairy farming concerns. The program was successful with the participation of 20 women farmers/entrepreneurs.

#### **World Environment Day**

##### **KVK, JAU, Jamnagar**

KVK, JAU, Jamnagar, in collaboration with Science Centre, Dhrol, and the Forest Department, celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, 2024, at Falla



village in Jamnagar district. With the motto of encouraging farmers to plant more trees. The saplings of various forestry and medicinal plants were distributed among the participants. A total of 62 farmers and 11 officers participated in the event.

##### **KVK, JAU, Nana Kandhasar**

KVK, JAU, Nana Kandhasar also celebrated the day with a discussion centered around the importance of trees in reducing greenhouse gases. KVK scientists, staff, and farmers from the nearby villages attended the program and eagerly participated in the discussion.

#### **“Run for Vote” Campaign**

A “Run for Vote” event was organized on May 6, 2024, in JAU, Junagadh campus, in the presence of Shri Anil Ranavasiya, IAS, District Magistrate (DM), and other important officials from the DM office, Junagadh. An oath was taken to create awareness, especially among the youth, to vote on Election Day, i.e., May 7, 2024, in Gujarat. Several JAU students and officers, including Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW remained present and motivated the students to fulfill their constitutional responsibility.

#### **Certificate Course on Integrated Nutrient Management for Fertilizer Dealers**

The office of the DEE successfully completed a 15-day training program entitled 'Certificate Course on Integrated Nutrient Management for Fertilizer Dealers' from April 15 to 29, 2024. This course aimed to assist fertilizer dealers in enhancing soil fertility, maintaining crop productivity, reducing crop production costs, and promoting judicious fertilizer use among farmers. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, presided over the event and emphasized the effective use of fertilizers in his address to the participants.



Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, encouraged dealers' use of JAU iKrushi Sanhita mobile application to access updated and authentic agricultural knowledge. A total of 103 dealers received the certificates of course completion and recorded their commendation.

## Residential Training on Greenhouse/Net-house Farming

The Office of DEE, JAU, Junagadh, organized a residential training program on Green/Net House Farming from June 10-19, 2024. Dr. R. B. Madariya, DR, JAU, Junagadh, inaugurated the program and emphasized the need for advancing agricultural practices in tune with the existing farming scenario. Dr. H. C. Chhodavadia, Associate Director of Extension Education, welcomed the participants. Dr. D. K. Varu, Principal & Dean, CoH, JAU, Junagadh, highlighted the course's significance and the benefits of protected cultivation.



The trainees received extensive theoretical orientation and hands-on training sessions on greenhouse and net-house farming through interactive lectures, practical sessions, and field visits organized by JAU scientists. During the valedictory session, all 35 participants received the program completion certificates.

## Training Programs on Natural Farming

### KVK, JAU, Amreli

KVK, JAU, Amreli organized several programs during the quarter to encourage farmers to adopt natural farming. The programs focused on natural farming practices that aim to restore soil health, maintain biodiversity, ensure animal welfare, leverage the use of local resources, and promote ecological balance. Altogether, KVK conducted four awareness programs with 60 participants and two training programs covering 98 farmers.



### KVK, JAU, Porbandar

KVK, JAU, Porbandar, in collaboration with ATMA,

organized a two-day training program from June 12-13, 2024. The training delved into various facets of natural farming, highlighting its significance and techniques. Several hands-on training sessions were conducted to demonstrate crop production and protection techniques under natural farming, benefitting 30 progressive farmers.



### KVK, JAU, Morbi

KVK, JAU, Morbi conducted a one-day training program on "Pest-Disease Management through Seed Treatment and Natural Farming" in collaboration with ATMA-Morbi on June 10, 2024. Shri M.F. Bhoraniya, Senior Scientist and Head; Dr. K. N. Vadaria, SMS, and Shri K. G. Parsania, Director, ATMA-Morbi, graced the event with their valuable and insightful addresses. The program drew active participation from 44 extension workers from the district, who, in turn, were equipped with advanced knowledge and practical skills in effectively managing pests and diseases through seed treatment methods and by embracing natural farming practices. The event underscored the importance of sustainable agricultural practices for enhancing productivity while minimizing environmental hazards.

## Bakery Training Courses

The School of Baking, JAU, Junagadh, organized two training programs for women of fifteen weeks and one-week duration each during the April-June quarter of the year. Altogether, 234 women participated actively in different durations of the bakery training programs and gained knowledge of modern technologies and scientific practices utilized in bakery product preparation.



## Khedut Shibir under CoC

The Directorate of Extension Education (DEE) JAU, Junagadh, organized a Khedut Shibir at Arena and Rahij villages in the Mangarol taluka of Junagadh district under Centre of Communication (CoC) Scheme on June 19, 2024. Dr. M. V. Pokar, Agriculture Officer and Dr. Sarika Donga, SRF, SSK, JAU, discussed on judicious use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, importance of soil sample analysis and soil health cards, and preparation of bakery items. A total of 62 farmers and farm women from both villages participated in the Shibir.



## Activities of Sardar Smruti Kendra (SSK)

The SSK, JAU, Junagadh organized several training programs during April-June quarter, including a one-day on-campus session, conducted in collaboration with Cotton-Connect from Ahmedabad, benefitting 60 participants. Additionally, three off-campus training programs on bakery products were also organized for the benefit of 105 women participants. Further, in this quarter, 228 participants comprising farmers, farm women, and students visited the SSK and Krushi Darshnalay from various districts of the state.



## Awards and Accolades

### Honorary Fellow of CHAI

Dr. D. K. Varu, Principal and Dean, College of Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh received Honorary Fellow award of Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India (CHAI), New Delhi in National Conference on “Paradigm and Dynamics of Digital Horticulture for Food, Nutrition, and

Entrepreneurship” organized jointly by the Lt. Amit Singh Memorial Foundation (ASM), New Delhi, and JAU during May 28-31, 2024.



### Best Oral/Poster Presentation Awards

During the above mentioned national conference following faculty members of JAU received Best Oral/Poster Presentation Awards in various themes.



Name of the faculty	Title of Presentaion
<b>Best Oral Presentation Award</b>	
Dr. D. K. Varu, Principal and Dean, College of Horticulture, Junagadh	Evaluation of Tomato varieties under poly house and net house condition
Dr. V. K. Chandegara, Prof. and Head, Dept. of Agrl. Engg. Extension Education, CAET, Junagadh	Ultra sanitation process for shelf life extension of tender Coconut water

Dr. P. A. Pandya, Asstt. Prof. Research, Testing and Training Centre (RTTC), Junagadh	Exploring the relationship between temperature increase and water requirement for Banana
Prof. G. D. Gohil, Asstt. Prof. Processing and Food Engineering, CAET, Junagadh	Development of Lemon grading protocol through image processing technique

### Best Poster Presentation Award

Dr. J. B. Patel, Professor and Head, Department of Seed Science and Technology, CoA, Junagadh	Seed production and its distribution at subsidized rate to the farmers by JAU, Junagadh – A success story
Dr. J. S. Parsana, Assistant Professor, College of Horticulture, Junagadh	Effect of integrated nutrient management on growth, yield and quality of rejuvenated guava ( <i>Psidium guajava</i> ) cv. Bhavnagar Red
Dr. S. V. Kelaiya, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Renewable Energy Engineering, CAET, Junagadh	Design and development of open core down draft gasifier for biochar production and gaseous fuel

### Best Research Work Award

Dr. C. M. Bhaliya, Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, JAU, Junagadh, received the prestigious Late Dr. R. C. Patel Best Research Work Award-2023 for his Ph.D. research on “Pathological Aspects of Wilt and Root Rot Complex in Chickpea and their Management” from Plant Protection Association of Gujarat (PPAG) at the state level seminar organized by PPAG and SDAU held at Dantiwada on June 25, 2024.



## Superannuated Faculty/Staff JAU Parivar Wishes All for a Hale and Healthy Second-Innings Ahead

Sr	Employee Name	Designation
<b>January-2024</b>		
1	Dr. P. V. Patel	Professor(P)
2	Shri B. J. Rathod	Agri. Asstt.
3	Shri N. D. Bharda	Agri. Asstt.
4	Shri N. B. Zala	Auto Driver
<b>May - 2024</b>		
5	Dr. J. M. Modhvadiya	Asst. Prof.
6	Shri A. D. Vadher	Agri. Asstt.
7	Shri M. M. Parmar	Sweeper
8	Shri M. L. Vadiyater	Farm Labor
<b>June - 2024</b>		
9	Dr. P. M. Chauhan	Professor
10	Dr. R. K. Kathiriya	Asso. Prof.
11	Dr. S. B. Vekariya	Asso. Prof.
12	Shri N. H. Patel	Agri. Officer
13	Shri O. C. Sheta	Agri. Sup.
14	Shri F. S. Vasava	Agri. Sup.
15	Shri K. M. Pithya	Agri. Asstt.
16	Shri A. K. Tarkhala	Agri. Asstt.
17	Shri N. N. Kathad	Agri. Asstt.
18	Shri K. V. Sureja	Agri. Asstt.
19	Shri P. P. Virani	Agri. Asstt.
20	Shri P. H. Timba	Office Sup.
21	Smt. B. K. Solanki	Head Clerk
22	Shri N. K. Dangar	Junior Clerk
23	Shri R. N. Parmar	Peon
24	Shri B. G. Dodiya	Suthar
25	Shri N. V. Kodiyatar	Farm Labor



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