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# PJTU NEWS



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## From the VC's Desk




Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTUA), founded in 1964, has completed a remarkable 60 years of transformative impact in the fields of agricultural education, research, and extension. Over the decades, the University has become a cornerstone of agricultural innovation in Telangana and beyond, playing a pivotal role in shaping farming practices, advancing rural development, and driving growth across the agricultural sector. From its modest beginnings, PJTUA has evolved into one of India's leading agricultural Universities, offering high-quality education, cutting-edge research, and practical expertise to address the challenges faced by farmers.

PJTUA's academic programs have continuously evolved to meet the dynamic needs of the agricultural sector. The University has introduced innovative initiatives such as the *Rural Agricultural Work Experience Program (RAWEP)*, *Agricultural Experiential Learning Programme (AELP)*, digital learning platforms, design thinking modules, and farmer-focused activities which reflect commitment to academic excellence. The campus is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including field labs, cultural clubs, auditoriums, an amphitheater, gymnasium, and sports facilities, ensuring a vibrant and holistic campus life for students. The research wing of PJTUA has been a driving force in agricultural innovation, with the University releasing 508 crop varieties, including nationally acclaimed rice varieties that now occupy nearly a quarter of the rice cultivation area in the country. PJTUA's *Seed Mela* is a testament to its dedication in providing high-quality agricultural inputs to farmers. PJTUA's establishment of a *Drone Academy* demonstrates its forward-thinking approach in integrating the latest technological advancements in agriculture. PJTUA has always placed a strong emphasis on bridging the gap between research and practical application. Through its network of *Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)*, *District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centres (DAATTCs)*, Electronic wing, AICC & PJTUA Press and Extension Education Institute, the University provides farmers with comprehensive, one-stop solutions. The University organizes a variety of training programs, awareness campaigns, and farmer-scientist interactions to empower rural communities.

PJTUA has forged numerous collaborations with national and international agricultural institutions, ensuring its place at the forefront of technology-driven farming solutions. The University is deeply engaged in promoting sustainable agricultural practices, addressing climate change challenges, and fostering rural development. PJTUA's contributions in improving soil health, seed quality, crop management, mechanization and post-harvest processing had a significant impact on enhancing farmers' income and minimizing losses. These activities are further strengthened by establishing a Directorate for seeds, Centre for Natural Resources and Environment (C-NARE), Centre for Digital Agriculture (CDA) and Centre for Human Resource Development (C-HRD) at the University.

PJTUA celebrated its Diamond Jubilee festivities which served as a reflection of its successful journey in agricultural education, research, and extension. These celebrations highlight the University's enduring legacy of excellence and its commitment to shape the future of agriculture. With a forward-thinking approach, PJTUA is poised to lead the agricultural sector into the future, building on the strong foundation of the past six decades ensuring a sustainable future for farmers in Telangana and beyond.

  
**Aldas Janaiah**  
 Vice-Chancellor

## New Initiatives

### Appointment of Vice-Chancellor - A New Era in Agricultural Education and Research

Prof. Aldas Janaiah was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTAU) as per orders issued vide G.O. Ms. No. 40 of Agriculture and assumed the office of Vice-Chancellor, on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 afternoon at the Administrative Building, Rajendranagar.



*Prof. Aldas Janaiah taking charge as new Vice-Chancellor, PJTAU*

## Important Events

### DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF PJTAU

#### Grand Inaugural Session: A Celebratory Kickoff to the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTAU) were organized with grandeur and enthusiasm at the University auditorium during 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December, 2024. The inaugural session was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including former Agriculture Ministers, past Vice Chancellors, and the Chief Guest, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member of NITI Aayog, Government of India. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Aldas Janaiah, warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and delegates. The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Sri Tummala Nageswara Rao, commended the University for achieving this remarkable milestone and emphasized the need to restore its past glory. He assured full government support in elevating the University's ranking and reputation.

As part of the celebrations, Prof. Janaiah released a commemorative video depicting the University's journey from 1964 to 2024. The event featured insightful addresses from notable speakers, including Sri M. Kodanda Reddy, Chairman, Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission; Sri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, former Minister and Chairman; Sri Nadendla Bhaskar Rao, former Minister; and Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Vice Chairman, Telangana Planning Board.

In his keynote address, Chief Guest Prof. Ramesh Chand applauded on Telangana's advancement in agricultural research and highlighted the state's impressive

field crop growth rate of 6.92%, the highest in the country. He also emphasized on its leadership in rice production growth and its significant contribution to Indian agriculture.

Distinguished alumni, including Dr. G. Chinna Reddy and Sri Samarasimha Reddy, shared their insights and congratulatory messages, adding to the celebratory spirit. The event concluded with the release of publications on advanced agricultural technologies, including AI and drone applications for crops such as red gram and maize.

Dr. P. Gopi, IAS, Director of Agriculture, Telangana, delivered the vote of thanks, bringing the grand inaugural session to a memorable close.



*Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member of NITI Aayog, GoI delivering the key note address*

## His Excellency Governor Highlights University's Impact on Farmer Livelihoods through Innovation and Tradition

The inaugural program continued with the arrival of His Excellency Sri Jishnu Dev Varma, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of PJTAU. The Governor was warmly received by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the Vice Chancellor of PJTAU, Prof. Aldas Janaiah. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Telangana delivered the opening remarks.

His Excellency Sri Jishnu Dev Varma unveiled the Diamond Jubilee Miniature Pylon during the event. In his address, he highlighted the University's instrumental role in advancing agricultural research and education in India, noting that PJTAU has become a beacon of excellence in the field. The Governor commended the development of key

rice varieties such as *Samba Mahsuri* and *Telangana Sona*, which are widely cultivated by farmers. He also emphasized the University's efforts to address the challenges of climate change in agriculture by blending traditional wisdom with modern innovations, ultimately improving the livelihoods of farmers in Telangana. He called for collaborative efforts from all stakeholders to further these initiatives.

A presentation of a "Plaque of Recognition" to Kansas State University, USA, the mentor institution for APAU (now PJTAU) along with the release of the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir were important events in the session. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, marking the successful conclusion of the inaugural program.



Opening of Miniature pylon of Diamond Jubilee celebrations by the dignitaries



Sri Jishnu Dev Varma, the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and the Chancellor addressing the gathering

## Fostering Collaboration: Student-Academia-Industry Interaction at PJTAU's Diamond Jubilee

The session featured participation from dignitaries viz., former Vice Chancellor Dr. S. Raghuvardhan Reddy, Vice Chancellor Prof. Aldas Janaiah, Vice Chancellor of SKL Horticultural University Dr. D. Raji Reddy, and Sri A. Murali, IAS (Retired), Chairperson of the Telangana Education Commission. The teaching, non-teaching staff, students, alumni, directors and staff from ICAR centers in Hyderabad, and representatives from the agricultural industry also participated in the session.

Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Director of Research and Dean of PG Studies PJTAU, welcomed the participants and introduced the session. He highlighted the critical role educational institutions play as hubs for academic, research, and development activities. He stressed the importance of fostering interaction between higher education institutions and industry to enhance the

implementation of innovative technologies and encouraged students to actively engage with the speakers and industry professionals.

A video depicting the University's journey from its inception to the present was presented, showcasing its achievements, developed technologies, and notable contributions to agriculture.

Dr. Ancha Srinivasan, Principal Climate Change Specialist at the Asian Development Bank, delivered a keynote address on **"Transforming Agri-Food Systems in a Changing Climate."** He provided a comprehensive overview of agri-food systems, covering research, technology, production, processing, distribution and consumption. Emphasizing their critical role, he highlighted the need for agri-food systems to drive progress in food security, nutrition and climate resilience.

Dr. Srinivasan highlighted that despite their significance, agri-food systems receive only 4% of global climate finance. He stressed the urgency of addressing global food insecurity, noting that 2.8 billion people struggle to afford a healthy diet. He also emphasized the vital role of academic institutions like PJTAU in advancing climate-smart agriculture and reshaping the nature-water-energy-climate nexus within agri-food systems.

Discussing potential solutions, Dr. Srinivasan stressed for strategies such as rainwater harvesting, microbial fertilizers, reducing livestock methane emissions, and leveraging modern technologies like AI and digital tools to enhance agricultural sustainability.

The session also featured an Ideation Camp, moderated by Mr. N. Vijay, CEO, Ag. Hub, PJTAU. Six student teams from various colleges presented innovative business plans focused on agriculture-based activities, including field operations, value addition, and crop waste management. The first prize was awarded to the Agricultural Multipurpose Robot, developed by students from the College of Agricultural Engineering, Sangareddy.

The session concluded with closing remarks by Dr. D. Raji Reddy, Vice Chancellor of SKL Horticultural University and Dr. S. Raghuvardhan Reddy. Dr. D. Raji Reddy emphasized the importance of crop diversification in Telangana. He noted that while 1.92 lakh hectares are under

cultivation, rice and cotton dominate the landscape, and he advocated for the expansion of other crop varieties to enhance sustainability. Dr. Raghuvardhan Reddy commended the speakers for addressing climate change challenges and their impact on agriculture. He urged students to consider the cost-effectiveness of their innovations and encouraged them to develop startups without relying on government subsidies.

Sri A. Murali, IAS (Retired) and the chief guest of the session underscored the importance of collaboration between students, academia and industry in driving agricultural advancements. He highlighted agriculture's critical role in society and stressed the need to balance the interests of small, marginal and large farmers while ensuring higher productivity and sustainability.



*Sri A. Murali, IAS addressing the gathering*

## **Diamond Jubilee Lecture - Innovations for Addressing Food, Nutrition, Climate, and Food Security**

Dr. P.V. Vara Prasad, Director of the Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab at Kansas State University, USA, delivered the Diamond Jubilee Lecture on "Innovations for Addressing Food, Nutrition, Climate, and Food Security." Calling agriculture the noblest profession, he highlighted its pivotal role in tackling global challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate change. Dr. Vara Prasad

discussed groundbreaking innovations, including speed breeding, biofortification, climate-resilient crops, agroforestry systems, perennial grains and conservation practices using renewable energy. He emphasized that these advancements are essential for ensuring a sustainable and resilient agricultural future.

He also reiterated importance of public-private partnerships, participatory research, and farmer-driven technology adoption, stressing that innovation must be practical, adaptable, and beneficial to end-users. Concluding his lecture, he advocated for a transdisciplinary approach and skill development for students, urging agricultural research to be closely aligned with farmers' needs.

The event featured an engaging interactive segment, where participants had the opportunity to pose questions to the speakers, leading to insightful discussions on key agricultural challenges and solutions.



*Dr. P. V. Vara Prasad, Director, Kansas State University delivering diamond jubilee lecture*

## Reminiscence and Roadmap for the Future: Reflecting on Progress and Charting the Path Ahead

The program commenced with a felicitation ceremony, honoring the teaching and non-teaching staff of PJTAU for their dedication and commitment to the University. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. J. Satyanarayana, Dean of Agriculture and DSA, PJTAU, introducing the theme, "Road Map for the Next 15 Years." He

emphasized the University's commitment to envisioning a brighter future and charting transformative paths guided by leaders from diverse fields. He reflected on how the University fosters knowledge, encourages the exchange of ideas, and provides a foundation for future innovation.

### Alumni Celebrating Legacy and Shaping the Future of Agriculture

The alumni of PJTAU in key sectors shared valuable insights on shaping the future of agriculture. Sri V. Nagireddy (Retd. IAS) introduced the concept of *Grusthi Ashramam*, emphasizing the need for youth to learn from the wisdom of experienced elders and the role of *Vanaprastha* in guiding the University's vision. Political leader Dr. R. S. Praveen Kumar proposed a roadmap for students and faculty, including mentorship programs and field immersion, along with research aligned with societal needs. Senior alumni, including Former Justice Vaman Rao and Sri B. Rajender, IAS shared their experiences and emphasized the importance of shifting crop patterns, promoting research, and strengthening alumni involvement in infrastructure development.

Sri Rajeswara Rao, Chairman of Karimnagar Dairy, highlighted the entrepreneurial potential in agriculture, urging graduates to become job providers. Entrepreneur Sri Hansh Raghu suggested revising the curriculum to include agricultural banking and creating an Agri Hub for entrepreneurial training. Other speakers, such as Sri S. Rajasekar Reddy focused on sustainable practices,

AgriTech, and AI integration into education. Several alumni, including Mr. Shiva Kumar Konduru and Dr. Tara Satyavathi, advocated for incorporating IT, digital tools, and global research in agriculture.

The session concluded with calls to align research, education, and industry collaboration with the evolving needs of agriculture, stressing innovation, sustainability, and hands-on learning to prepare graduates for future challenges.



PJTAU alumni delivering their valuable insights

### Celebrating 60 years of Excellence - The Grand Finale

The closing session of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations took place on the afternoon of 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 bringing together a distinguished panel of dignitaries viz. Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Vice-Chairman, Telangana State Planning Board, Sri Siricilla Rajaiah, Chairman, State Finance Commission, Sri Madan Mohan Rao, MLA, Yellareddy Constituency, Sri Marri Shashidhar Reddy, Alumnus, APAU, Dr. R.C. Agarwal, Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR, New Delhi, Sri V. Nagireddy (IAS, Retd.), Former Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM, Dr. V. Praveen Rao, Former Vice-Chancellor, PJTAU, Dr. Govinda Rajulu Chintala, Former Chairman, NABARD and Sri Rajesh Kumar, Chief General Manager, SBI.



Sri Siricilla Rajaiah, Chairman, State Finance Commission addressing the gathering at the closing session



*Dr. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM addressing the gathering*

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM addressed several critical issues shaping the future of agriculture. He emphasized the role of agricultural institutions, urging agricultural colleges to address regional challenges and foster farmer-centric research, with a focus on hands-on, practical education for young scientists to drive innovation in agriculture.



*A view of audience at Diamond Jubilee*

Sri Rajesh Kumar, Chief General Manager of SBI, congratulated PJTAU on its Diamond Jubilee and stressed the importance of continued collaboration between banks, agricultural institutions, and farmers, expressing optimism for PJTAU's future milestones, including its Platinum Jubilee and Centenary celebrations, while reaffirming SBI's ongoing commitment to supporting agriculture.

Dr. R.C. Agarwal, Deputy Director General (Education) ICAR, congratulated PJTAU's leadership, faculty, and alumni for their significant contributions to the field of agriculture. He emphasized the importance of pursuing international recognition, urging the University to aim for global rankings, such as QS rankings, and recommending the development of an international research network while publishing in high-impact journals. He suggested outreach programs to attract rural youth to agricultural education, ensuring a steady pipeline of talent for the future.

Sri Siricilla Rajaiah, Chairman of the State Finance Commission, Telangana, began his address by



*Award winners receiving prize for their innovative business idea*

acknowledging PJTAU's crucial role in advancing agricultural research and development in the state, particularly in rice and maize cultivation. He highlighted the University's significant contribution to Telangana's agricultural productivity, noting that 25% of the rice and 12% of the maize grown in the state are from varieties developed by PJTAU. Emphasizing the importance of nutritional security. Advocating for a revamp of the education system, he called for skill-based Universities that provide practical training across various sectors, including agriculture. He concluded by reaffirming his commitment in supporting PJTAU's research and development efforts, expressing optimism about future collaborations, and emphasizing the need for continued innovation to tackle agricultural challenges and drive economic growth.

In the closing session the top three student ideas were recognized with first, second, and third place awards, along with appreciation certificates for other outstanding contributions. The first idea was awarded to Bandaru Satvik Yadav and Chitikella Mohan Babu for their project, "Robo: Empowering Farmers with Tomorrow's Technology", while Second Place to R. Vyshnavi, K. Chaitra Shivani, J. Arthika, and V. Sailahari for their idea, "Efficient Waste Repurposing: Converting Cotton Stubbles into Eco-Friendly Plates" and third place was secured by Umeshwar Reddy, Salim Pasha, Sathvik Sasvanth Panda, and Venkata Lithin for their project on sustainable agriculture practices.



*Cultural program at Diamond Jubilee Celebrations*

## Empowering Farmers: *Kisan Mela* at Diamond Jubilee

A *Kisan Mela* was organized as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 at the Sports Complex, PJTAU. The event featured 70 exhibition stalls showcasing agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and farm machinery, with participation from ICRISAT, ICAR institutes, allied Universities and private firms. The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana Sri Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurated the exhibition and interacted with the scientists at PJTAU stall on the innovative technologies displayed. The exhibition showcased the 60 years legacy of the University along the promising varieties and technologies developed at the University which occupied a comprehensive area in the state and across the country. Further the key achievements, New innovations and alumni who brought laurels to the University were showcased at the exhibition.



*The Hon'ble Governor interacting with scientists at University stall*

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms, and Textiles, Govt. of Telangana, Sri Tummala Nageswara Rao, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. During the *Kisan Mela*, Progressive Farmer Awards were presented to ten outstanding farmers: Sri P. Bhaskar (Khammam), Sri E. Malla Reddy (Peddapally), Sri M. Srinath (Adilabad), Smt. S. Pushpa (Nizamabad), Sri Kavalala Sedyam (Badradi Kothagudem), Sri M. Yadagiri (Janagon), Smt. N. Laxmi (Medak), Sri L. Padma Reddy (Nalgonda), Smt. J. Nagamma (Vikarabad), and Smt. S. Laxmi (Nagarkurnool).

The principal scientists from PJTAU presented various crop production and protection technologies, highlighting innovations aimed at improving crop management and promoting sustainable agriculture. In his address, Chief Guest Sri Tummala Nageswara Rao emphasized the importance of aligning crop cultivation with market demand by adopting modern and cost-effective technologies. He also highlighted the potential of growing oil palm through innovative methods to maximize profits.

The *Kisan Mela* saw a footfall of 5,000 farmers from districts including Nalgonda, Medak, Mahaboobnagar, Wanaparthy, Jangon, Khammam, Ranga Reddy, Vikarabad, Nagarkurnool, Sanga Reddy, Warangal, Mahabubabad, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri and Suryapet with the support of the Department of Agriculture, Telangana.



*Sri Tummala Nageswara Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture addressing the farmers at kisan mela*



*PJTAU team explaining the school students on innovative technologies*

## Six Decades of Agricultural Excellence Celebrated Across Zonal Level

The Agricultural College, Aswaraopet, celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of PJTAU on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, marking 60 years of the institution's contributions to agriculture. The event was graced by Sri Tummala Nageswara Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, and Handlooms & Textiles, Government of Telangana, as the

Chief Guest. The celebration began with the lighting of the lamp and a traditional welcome dance. Sri Tummala Nageswara Rao inaugurated the *Kisan Mela*. Dr. J. Hemantha Kumar, Associate Dean, Agricultural College, Aswaraopet, extended a warm welcome to the attendees. Sri Jare Adinarayana, MLA, Aswaraopet praised the college in



*Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at Agricultural College, Aswaraopet*

advancing sustainable agriculture and promoting innovative farming techniques. Awards were presented to winners of various competitions organized as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The diamond jubilee celebrations at zonal level were organized at Regional Agricultural Research Stations

(RARS), Jagtial, Warangal and Palem on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. These events were marked by enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, staff, farmers and agricultural professionals. Sri T. Jeevan Reddy, Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Council, was the chief guest at RARS, Jagtial, while Sri A. Lakshman Kumar, MLA, and Dr. M. Sanjay Kumar, MLA also graced the occasion and Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Vice-Chairman of the Telangana State Planning Board was the guest of honour at RARS, Palem.

The regional events featured exhibitions showcasing PJTAU's contributions to agriculture, including innovative crop varieties, sustainable agricultural technologies, and success stories of progressive farmers. The celebrations highlighted PJTAU's achievements in agricultural research, education and extension services, underscoring its commitment to equipping farmers and students with cutting-edge knowledge.

## Workshops/Conferences/Meetings/Seminars/Exhibitions

### Vice Chancellor's Interactive Dialogue with Staff and Students

Prof. Aldas Janaiah, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of PJTAU, conducted an interactive meeting with the staff and students at the University Auditorium, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. In his address he stressed the importance of collective efforts to elevate PJTAU into one of the top ten Universities in the country. While the University is currently ranked 37, he expressed his determination to secure a spot in the top 10 within the next three years. Additionally, he assured that all vacant positions for University Officers would be filled by the end of December 2024. In a move to make agricultural education more accessible, Prof. Janaiah announced several reforms, including a significant increase in special quota seats and a 50% reduction in fees. He also emphasized that steps would be taken to address faculty and staff vacancies in accordance with existing regulations, alongside efforts to resolve the concerns of teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as students. The University Officers, teaching and non-

teaching staff, student representatives, alumni representatives, and a large number of students participated in the event. All attendees expressed their support and congratulated the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for his visionary leadership.



*Prof. Aldas Janaiah, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor addressing the PJTAU team*

### PJTAU Hosts Annual Rabi Oilseeds Group Meet 2024 on Safflower & Linseed

The Annual Rabi Oilseeds Group Meet for Safflower and Linseed 2024 was jointly organized by Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University and the Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR) at Water Technology Center on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The event

brought together over 150 scientists from various states, marking a significant milestone in advancing oilseed research and cultivation strategies.

The meeting commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Jella Satyanarayana, Dean of Agriculture, PJTAU, who





*Lightening of the lamp by the dignitaries at the inaugural session of Annual Rabi Oilseeds Group Meet*

highlighted the University's efforts in developing pest- and disease-resistant varieties of safflower and linseed. He stressed the importance of establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for drone spraying in crop protection, a crucial step towards precision agriculture in oilseed farming. Dr. Satyanarayana reaffirmed PJTAU's commitment to innovation, aiming to boost productivity and sustainability in oilseed production.

The session was chaired by Dr. T. R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR, New Delhi, who provided insights into the current status of oilseed exports and imports. He emphasized the necessity of a stronger national mission to support the oilseed sector, underlining the importance of safflower and linseed in both domestic and international markets. Dr. Sharma called for collaborative efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in oilseed production, reducing India's dependence on imports while strengthening rural economies.

Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Assistant Director General (Oilseeds & Pulses), ICAR, New Delhi, discussed about the expansion of oilseed cultivation, particularly for safflower and linseed. He emphasized the role of these crops in diversifying *rabi* cropping systems, especially in semi-arid regions. His presentation outlined various strategies, including improved agronomic techniques and enhanced cultivation practices, to maximize yields and support farmers in transitioning to these high-value crops.

## Two-Day National Conference on Plant Pathology: Innovative Approaches for Plant Disease Management

The Indian Phytopathological Society (Central Zone) and the Deccan Society of Plant Pathologists (DSPP), in collaboration with the Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, PJTAU, organized a two-day national conference entitled "Recent Advances in Plant Pathology and Innovative Approaches in

Dr. R.K. Mathur, Director, IIOR, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the research initiatives of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) Centers on safflower and linseed. He provided data on varietal development, pest and disease management, and agronomic trials conducted across different regions. His presentation showcased the centers performance in addressing regional challenges to improve oilseed productivity and quality, with a strong emphasis on sustainability and climate resilience.

Recognizing the crucial role of farmers in promoting oilseed cultivation, the event included a felicitation ceremony honoring innovative safflower and linseed farmers who have demonstrated leadership in adopting and advocating improved agricultural practices. These farmers were commended for their contributions to advancing the national mission on oilseeds and inspiring their communities.

The meet concluded with valedictory remarks from Dr. C. Sudhakar, Principal Scientist and Organizing Secretary, who underscored the importance of translating research into practical applications. The Annual *Rabi* Oilseeds Group Meet served as a crucial platform for knowledge exchange, fostering advancements in safflower and linseed research. The discussions and outcomes from the event are expected to shape future research, policies, and practical applications, supporting the growth and sustainability of these essential crops in India.



*Felicitating of progressive farmers at the Annual group meet*

Plant Disease Management" (RAPPID) on December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the University Auditorium. The event was inaugurated by Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Vice Chairman of the Telangana State Planning Board, alongside distinguished guests including Dr. R. Sharada Jayalaxmi (Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU), Dr. D. Raji Reddy (Vice Chancellor, SKLHU), Dr.

Gopal, Vice Chancellor, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Dr. J. Satyanarayana, Dean of Agriculture, Dr. B. Vidya Sagar (President, IPS Central Zone), and Dr. Rajesha, Councillor, IPS Central Zone.



**Dr. G. Chinna Reddy, Vice-Chairman, Telangana State Planning Board addressing the gathering**

In his address, Dr. G. Chinna Reddy emphasized the importance of embracing advanced technologies such as CRISPR-Cas, resistant genotypes, biocontrol agents, and organic formulations to address challenges arising from climate change. Dr. Sharada Jayalaxmi discussed the crucial role of molecular tools for pathogen detection and management, while Dr. Raji Reddy highlighted the need for integrating weather monitoring systems for proactive disease management. Dr. Gopal stressed the development of effective plant protection strategies for quality horticultural production.

The DSPP honored several distinguished individuals with awards during the conference, including the Lifetime Achievement Award for Dr. R. Sharada Jayalaxmi and Dr. Gopal, the Outstanding Research Award for Dr. M. Srinivas Prasad and Dr. K. Vemana, the Best Women Scientist Award

for Dr. B.K.M. Lakshmi and Dr. B. Parameshwari, the Best Scientist Award for Dr. V. Ramya and Dr. M. Madhavi, the Best Young Scientist Award for Dr. V. Suresh and Dr. G. Padmaja, the Best Ph.D. Thesis Award for Dr. V. Sowmya, and the Best M.Sc. Thesis Award for K. Rajesh.

Around 230 delegates from various states, including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and others participated in the conference and delivered oral presentations, and presented posters. Key discussions centered on advanced disease management technologies, host-pathogen interactions, microbiome studies, and the impact of climate change on plant diseases.

The valedictory session featured remarks from Dr. Sharath Babu (President, PPAI; Retd. Director, NBPGR), Dr. R. Rajaram Reddy (Retd. Professor, Plant Pathology), Dr. B. Vidya Sagar, Dr. Rajesha and Dr. T. Kiran Babu, who delivered the vote of thanks. Awards for the best oral and poster presentations were presented by Dr. Sharath Babu, who commended the organizing team for the event's success. The conference concluded on a high note, advancing discussions on innovative approaches to plant disease management and furthering the field of plant pathology.



**Release of books by the dignitaries at the workshop**



**The delegates of the conference with the dignitaries**

## PJTAU Board Meeting Approves Key Resolutions, Including Special Seeds Division

The PJTAU Board meeting, chaired by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, took place on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, during which several important resolutions were passed. Among the key decisions, the University resolved to establish a special seeds division aimed at supplying quality seeds to farmers across Telangana. The board also approved the regularization of University officer positions, a reduction in payment fees for B.Sc (Agriculture) admissions, and the implementation of a rotation system for Heads of Departments for every three years based on seniority.

Additionally, the meeting approved the appointment of Associate Directors of Research at the zonal level and Associate Deans at the college level, with a tenure of two years, based on seniority. The provision to appoint renowned national and international scientists as Professors of Practice for a one-year term, extendable up to three years, was also approved. The meeting concluded with the announcement of plans to organize Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in December, marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University's establishment.

### Faculty Board meeting

The faculty Board Meeting of UG & PG studies were held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar which was attended by the Deans of Faculty,

Associate Deans of constituent Colleges and Heads of Departments and discussed various UG & PG academic matters.

### Academic Council Meeting

The 115<sup>th</sup> Academic Council Meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar pertaining to P.G studies, filling up of the University Officer

posts, admission into various PG, UG and Diploma courses in the University.

## Capacity Building

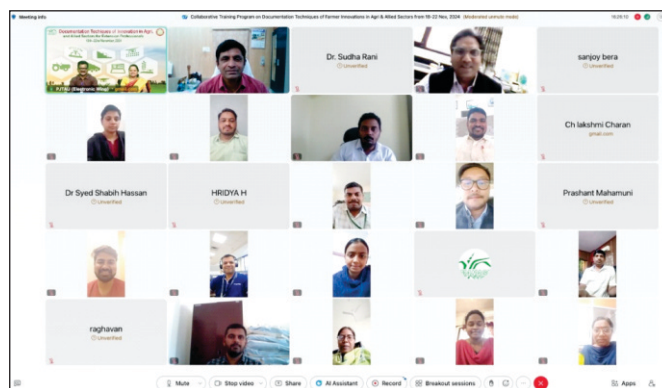
### Extension Professionals Trained on Documentation Techniques for Farmer Innovations

The Electronic Wing of PJTAU, in collaboration with MANAGE, Hyderabad, organized an online training program on "Documentation Techniques of Farmer Innovations in Agriculture and Allied Sectors" for Extension Professionals from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024 via the WebEx platform. Dr. K. Madhu Babu, Professor, Extension Education Institute (EEI), Rajendranagar, PJTAU, Hyderabad and the Guest of the inaugural session emphasized the critical role of Extension workers in technology transfer and highlighted the importance of using mobile devices to communicate agricultural advisories in real-time to farmers. Dr. Babu also led the first session, providing an overview of documentation techniques for farmer innovations.

The other speakers Dr. S. Chandra Sekhar, Professor, EEI, Rajendranagar discussed mobile-based documentation techniques and shared relevant links, while Dr. V. Sudha Rani, Former Director of Extension, presented on writing

skills and essential tips for documenting farmer innovations.

Dr. Jaya Raghavendra Rao V. K., Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Karnataka, introduced the case study approach for documenting success or feature stories. Dr. Madhavi Ravi Kumar, Head of the Department of Communication,



*The Online training program to extension professionals*

Hyderabad Central University, presented on digital documentation techniques. Dr. Kamma K. Babu, Assistant Professor and Regional Industry Coordinator, NIFT, Hyderabad focused on visual documentation techniques, including photography and videography. Dr. R. Vasantha, Professor, Dept. of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar presented on the documentation of traditional knowledge.

The final day featured a session on Extension strategies for promoting farmer innovations by Dr. M. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Director, EEI, Rajendranagar. In his

vaedictory address, Dr. Reddy emphasized the importance of identifying and documenting farmer innovations and urged participants to apply the skills gained during the training to document these innovations thoughtfully. The program was coordinated by Dr. M. Sreenivasulu, Principal Scientist (Extension), Dr. J. S. Sudha Rani, Scientist (Agronomy), Dr. J. Ravinder, Scientist (Soil Science), the Electronic Wing and Dr. Srinivasa Acharyulu from MANAGE, Hyderabad. The training saw participation from around 30 professionals across India, including those from SAUs, ICAR, and the Department of Agriculture and allied sectors.

## Distinguished Visitors

### Karnataka Minister Commends the University's Initiatives for Farmers

Sri N. Chaluvaryaswamy, the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, along with his team, including Prof. Patil, OSD to the Agriculture Minister, and senior officials from the Ministry, visited Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTU) on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. They interacted with the University officers during the visit. Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Registrar and Director of Research, along with other University officials, welcomed the Hon'ble Minister and his team. They provided a presentation on the University's achievements and reforms in teaching, research, and extension.

During the visit, the Minister and his team also toured the Agri Info Hub in the Administrative Building at PJTAU. They further visited the Drone Academy located at Agricultural Research Institute, Rajendranagar, where they inquired about the training programs and services offered

by the academy. The Minister expressed his appreciation for PJTAU's forward-thinking initiatives aimed at benefiting the farming community.



*Sri N. Chaluvaryaswamy, the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka visits the Agri Info hub*

### Air Force Academy Delegation Explores Collaborative Bird Strike Mitigation Strategies with PJTAU

Flight Lieutenant Komal Rani and Warrant Officer Manish Kumar from the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, visited the All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management at Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. During their visit, they engaged with VPM scientists to discuss strategies for minimizing bird strikes at the academy. Dr. P. Rajanikanth, Principal Scientist & Head, offered an insightful overview of the technologies developed by VPM, their impact, and ongoing research initiatives. Dr. I. Aruna Sri, Scientist, provided a demonstration of these



*VPM team of PJTAU with the Officers from IAF, Dundigal*

technologies, with Dr. V. Sunitha and Dr. S. Srinivasa Reddy, both scientists, contributing to the discussion.

The delegation later met Dr. P. Raghu Ram Reddy, Director of Research, PJTAU, to explore a potential

collaboration focused on developing effective bird mitigation measures tailored for the Air Force Academy in Dundigal.

## Senior Scientist from U.S. Department of Agriculture Visits PJTAU

Dr. Santhosh Kumar Singh, Senior Scientist at the American Embassy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited PJTAU on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. During his visit, he engaged in discussions with University officials regarding the

institution's research, education, and extension activities. The talks focused on developing innovative solutions and adopting advanced technologies aimed at addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

## Telangana Education Commission Chairman and Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Discuss Key Education Issues

Telangana Education Commission Chairman Sri Akunoori Murali, IAS met Professor Aldas Janaiah, Vice-Chancellor of Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The meeting, which took place in the Vice-Chancellor's office at the University's administrative building in Rajendranagar, centered on important matters related to the state's education sector.



Telangana Education Commission Chairman Sri Akunoori Murali visits PJTAU

## Awards and Honours



Dignitaries honouring Dr. C. V. Sameer Kumar with Life Time Achievement Award

- Dr C V Sameer Kumar, Senior Professor & University Head (Genetics and Plant Breeding) received Life Time Achievement Award for contributions in crop improvement from Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Hyderabad chapter on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.
- Dr. E. Shirin Hima Bindu, Scientist (FRM), AICRP on WIA was awarded third place for oral presentation entitled



Patents received by College of Community Science, PJTAU

“Enhancing Gender Equity through Drudgery-Reducing Farm Technologies” at 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on “Climate-Smart Nutri-Sensitive Integrated Farming System for Gender-equitable Sustainable Agriculture: Prospects and Challenges (ICNSFS-2024)” held during November 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 at ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

- Dr. Lakshmi Pooja Sanku, Assistant Professor, Department of Apparel and Textiles, College of Community Science had received her second patent for research on “Methods of printing on substrate” using natural dye textile paints (patented technology) as in-service Ph.D. candidate, PJTAU.
- Dr. S. Sirisha Deepthi, Assistant Professor, APTX department was granted a patent for her Ph.D. research work on 'A Method for Preparing Copper nano particles Using Sericin and Plant Leaf Extracts'.
- Mrs V. Kavitha Kiran, Asst. Professor, Dept. of HDFS received copy right for the original work on Laboratory Assessment of Temperament in Young Children (L-144882/2024)
- Dr V. Usha Rani, Dr. V. Vijaya Lakshmi and Dr. E. Shirin Hima Bindu received copyright on “Development of an educational folder on preparation of bio enzymes for environmental awareness” (L-151276/2024)

## Other Events

### Health Camp at College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar: Focus on Audiometry and Knee Joint Care

The College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, in collaboration with RC KRISHI, Sunshine Hospital, and Maa ENT Hospital, organized a free health camp at the PJTAU Health Centre on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The event, which focused on audiometry tests and knee joint issues, saw strong participation from the local community, eager to take advantage of specialized medical consultations and screenings. The inaugural session was presided over by Dr. G. Jayashree, Dean of Agriculture; Dr. Jella Satyanarayana, Dean of Student Affairs; Dr. C. Narendra Reddy, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture; and Dr. C. Padma Veni, In-charge of the health centre. Dr. Sagar Zeiti (Orthopaedics), Dr. Lakshmi Prasad (Orthopaedics), and Dr. Sidra Siddique (ENT), along with their medical teams from Sunshine and Maa ENT Hospitals in Hyderabad, played a key role in providing expert services throughout the day.

The camp focused on two critical healthcare areas: hearing assessments and knee joint concerns. Audiometry tests were conducted by skilled ENT surgeons from Maa ENT Hospital, offering essential consultations and early diagnosis for elderly participants and others with potential hearing impairments. In parallel, orthopedic surgeons from Sunshine Hospital addressed knee joint problems, a prevalent issue among the elderly and individuals with sedentary lifestyles. These consultations included diagnostic screenings, exercise recommendations, and advice on medications and treatment options, including possible physiotherapy or surgery. Around 130 patients benefited from services like digital X-rays and audiometry tests. The camp was made possible by the partnership between Sunshine Hospital, Maa ENT Hospital, PJTAU, Rotary Club, and Sarvejena Trust, ensuring a well-organized and impactful event for the local population.



*Examining the staff at the health camp*



*Kick start of the health camp by the dignitaries*

## PJTAU Launches IX Inter-Collegiate Sports , Games and Cultural Meet 2024-25

The IX Inter-Collegiate Sports and Games Meet 2024-25 at PJTAU officially kicked off at the College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, at the University Sports Complex. The four-day event was inaugurated by Dr. Jella Satyanarayana, Dean of Student Affairs and Dean of Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering, who served as the chief guest. In his inaugural address, Dr. Satyanarayana emphasized the importance of sports in fostering a spirit of sportsmanship and building valuable networks among students, which would benefit them in their future careers. He highlighted that the meet also provided an opportunity to identify top athletes to represent the University at the upcoming ICAR Inter-University Sports Meet. He encouraged students to actively engage in the event and praised the ADs, OISAs, and PDs from the respective colleges for their efforts in mentoring the participants.

Sri D. Shivaji, Registrar, PJTAU, underscored the significance of sports in promoting physical and mental well-being and enhancing leadership qualities in students. Dr. C. Narendra Reddy, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, and Board of Management member at PJTAU, welcomed the attendees and emphasized that such events contribute to the holistic development of students. The meet featured 10 events for boys and 9 for girls, involving 415 students.

Professor Aldas Janaiah, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, PJTAU was the Chief Guest at the valedictory event. In his address he highlighted the crucial role of sports in cultivating team spirit, a positive attitude, and leadership skills among students. He also expressed his approval of the

state government's decision to establish a new sports University in Telangana, recognizing it as a significant step for promoting athletic excellence in the region. The College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, triumphed as the overall champion in both the boys' and girls' categories. K. Anil Kumar from Aswaraopeta claimed the Athletics Individual Championship in the boys' category, while M. Rachana from Aswaraopeta won the title in the girls' category.

The 9<sup>th</sup> PJTAU Inter-Collegiate Cultural & Literary Meet for 2024-25 took place from November 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2024, at Babu Jagjivan Ram Agricultural College, Sircilla. The event saw vibrant participation from 11 colleges, including the host college. Prof. Aldas Janaiah, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of PJTAU, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. J. Satyanarayana, Dean of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, and Student Affairs, attended as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Satyanarayana officially declared the event open on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.



*The dignitaries along with participants at the inaugural session*



*The Overall championship winners in girls category with the trophy*

# Celebrations



*Agricultural Education day celebrations at Agricultural college, Sircilla*



*Agricultural Education day celebrations at College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar*



*World Soil Day celebrations at KVK, Palem*



*The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor paying tributes to Dr. B R Ambedkar on occasion of Mahaparinivaran Divas*



*Taking oath on occasion of National Vigilance week at Administrative office, PJTAU*



*Taking oath on occasion of constitution day at College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar*

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