



Striving for a greener tomorrow...

PJTSAU NEWS



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From the VC's Desk



With global energy-related CO₂ emissions reaching 37.4 billion tonnes in 2023, carbon farming is gaining worldwide attention. Agroecosystems, which cover one-third of arable land, contribute 10-14% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Capturing GHGs in natural sinks is essential for achieving climate neutrality. Agriculture, with its vast soil and biomass resources, plays a pivotal role in carbon sequestration and emission reduction. Adoption of afforestation, agroforestry, wetland and peatland restoration, biochar application, minimal or no-till farming, limiting livestock grazing, reducing chemical inputs, and using cover crops will aid in carbon restoration. The soil carbon pool, at 2,500 GT, is 3.3 times larger than the atmospheric pool (760 GT). Manipulating the soil carbon budget offers significant potential for climate mitigation.

The Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, focused on emissions reduction and introduced tradable monetary tools such as certified emission reduction units or carbon credits. The carbon cycle institute has stated that "Agriculture is the ONE sector that has the ability to transform from a net emitter of CO₂ to a net sequesterer of CO₂-there is no other human managed realm with this potential". This potential has attracted significant interest from both public and private sectors, creating new opportunities for farmers to adopt carbon farming practices and benefit from associated incentives.

The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other EU-funded programs like Life, Cohesion, Horizon, and Interreg require member states to prioritize climate needs and support effective carbon farming practices with EU and national funds. India has also taken significant steps by notifying the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The central government encourages the formation of carbon offset projects, particularly in agriculture, which can also reduce fertilizer subsidies. With the world's largest agricultural land area, India has great potential for carbon removal and storage, estimated at approximately 3 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per hectare. This potential market could be worth US\$5 billion if implemented nationwide, positioning India as a key player in the carbon farming credits market. Agricultural research should focus on identifying potential crops for carbon farming and evaluating the economics to make carbon farming a viable option for small and medium-sized farm holdings.

M. Raghunandan Rao
Vice Chancellor

Important Events

Sixth Convocation of PJTSAU - Celebration of Excellence

The 6th Convocation of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) was held on 10th June, 2024 at the University Auditorium. The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of PJTSAU, Sri C.P. Radhakrishnan, presided over the event. He emphasized the crucial role of agriculture in contemporary society, highlighting that agriculture is foundation to all cultures. He encouraged the new graduates to focus on reducing water usage, increasing productivity, and equipping themselves to tackle agricultural challenges to better serve the farming community. He further opined that India, being the most populous country in the world, cannot afford to import food grains and thus utmost priority should be given to the agriculture sector. He reiterated that agri-graduates should utilize innovations in information technology to serve better the farming community.



Sri C. P. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Governor for the State of Telangana addressing the gathering

The Chief Guest, Sri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director, State Bank of India, Mumbai, explained SBI's initiative to open exclusive startup branches to foster the growth of agri-entrepreneurs. He highlighted the environmental impact of intensive agricultural practices



Sri M. Raghunandan Rao IAS, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor presenting Progress Report

and the need to educate farmers on carbon credits. Sri Setty also urged the graduates to aspire to become job creators rather than job seekers. He further highlighted that while 45-46% of the population in India depends directly or indirectly on agriculture, the sector's contribution to the country's GDP is only 17-18%. He advocated for increased funding in agricultural research, warehouses, and food processing to address this disparity. Sri M. Raghunandan Rao, IAS, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, APC & Secretary, Government of Telangana, provided an overview of the university's progress and achievements in teaching, research, and extension from 2020 to 2021.

A total of 752 students, including Ph.D., PG, and UG received their degrees. Outstanding students, including 11 PG and Ph.D. students and 8 UG students, were awarded with 12 and 19 gold medals respectively, in various



Sri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director, SBI delivering Convocation address

categories for their academic excellence. Miss B. Divya from the Faculty of Agriculture and Miss Velchahala Sai Prathyusha from the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering received six gold medals each for their outstanding academic performance.



Miss B. Divya from the Faculty of Agriculture receiving Six Gold Medals



Hon'ble Governor awarding Six Gold Medals to Miss Sai Prathyusha



Degree awardee Students at Convocation

Promising Technologies

Seeds of Progress: Unveiling New Crop Varieties

Eight high-yielding crop varieties from PJTSAU were recently released by the State Varietal Release Committee and the Central Varietal Release Committee. Among these, two rice varieties, KNM 7037 and WGL 1289, along with a maize hybrid, DHM 206, received approval from the Central Varietal Release Committee. Additionally, the State Varietal Release Committee released two rice varieties (RNR 28361, WGL 1119) and one variety each in sorghum (SVT 55), pearl millet (PBH 1625), and ragi (PRS 38). Sri M. Raghunandan Rao, IAS, APC & Secretary, Government

of Telangana, and the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, PJTSAU, along with Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Director of Research and Registrar of PJTSAU, announced the successful release of these eight new crop varieties. They credited the diligent efforts of breeders at PJTSAU for this achievement. Sri Raghunandan Rao commended the University for its commitment to serving the farming community by developing high-yielding, resistant crop varieties and ensuring the supply of quality seeds.



Telangana Rice-7037 (KNM 7037)



Telangana Rice - 1289 (WGL 1289)



Warangal Vari - 1119 (WGL 1119)



Rajendranagar Vari - 28361 (RNR 28361)



Telangana Makka-3 (DHM 206)



Tandur Jonna-55 (SVT 55)



Palem Sajja-1625 (PBH 1625)



Palem Ragi - 38 (PRS 38)

Workshops/Conferences/Meetings/Seminars/Exhibitions

Annual Action Plan Workshop of KVKs - Planning for Prosperity

The Annual Action Plan Workshop for *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (KVKs) for the year 2024-25 was organized by PJTSAU in collaboration with ATARI Zone X, Hyderabad, on April 19th and 20th, 2024 at Extension Education Institute (EEI), Rajendranagar. In the inaugural session, the Guest of Honour, Dr. P. Chandra Sekhara, DG, MANAGE, Hyderabad, addressed the gathering on new extension initiatives and further highlighted the importance of joint efforts by various stakeholders in delivering technologies to farmers.

Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director, Zone X, ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad delivered the keynote address and emphasized the need for transition from individual technologies to blended technologies suitable for farming community.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary (DARE) & the Hon'ble Director General, ICAR, graced the workshop on the afternoon of April 19th and addressed the scientists of all KVKs regarding different initiatives sponsored by the Government of India. He also interacted with the scientists



Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary (DARE) & the Hon'ble Director General (ICAR) addressing the KVK team



Dr. Shaik N. Meera delivering key note address

about the challenges faced by KVK staff in implementing the programs and solicited their suggestions for improvement. At the end of the session, Dr. Pathak inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Torch Relay program in Zone X by handing over the Golden Jubilee torch to Dr. V. Sudha Rani, DE, PJTSAU.

The activities carried out by the Telangana KVKs were reviewed, and the action plans for the year 2024-25

were thoroughly examined by experts from the University and ICAR institutes and, necessary suggestions were provided. A total of eight concurrent sessions were conducted on various disciplines, including Crop Production, Crop Protection, Home Science, Animal Husbandry, Extension Studies, Farm Mechanization, Varietal Assessment, and Demonstration of Agricultural and Horticultural Crops.

SLTP 2024 - Prioritizing Research on Sustainable Farm Income

The State Level Annual Workshop of the Research and Extension scientists of PJTSAU for the year 2023-24 was held from April 22nd to 25th, 2024, and from May 1st to 3rd, 2024, at the University Auditorium. In his inaugural address, Dr. M. Venkata Ramana, Registrar of PJTSAU, emphasized the importance of increasing production and productivity to boost farmers' income sustainably. He stressed on encouraging farmers to adopt low or no chemical farming practices. Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy,

Director of Research, presented the research highlights for 2023-24, while Dr. V. Sudha Rani, Director of Extension, provided a detailed technical report on the extension activities of various units for the same period. During the workshop, the research and extension work conducted at various PJTSAU units in 2023-24 was presented, and the technical program for 2024-25 was discussed and finalized. Breeder seed production meeting for 2024-25 was held to set targets for seed production across different classes and crops.



Release of Research booklet by the dignitaries



Release of Extension Publication by the dignitaries

Annual Maize Workshop- Ponders on Resilient High Yielding Maize Hybrids for Challenging Climates

The Maize Research Center at PJTSAU, in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, Ludhiana, conducted the 67th Annual Maize Workshop-2024 from 8th to 10th May, 2024 at the University Auditorium, PJTSAU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. Dr. T. R. Sharma, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR attended as chief guest, and signified the necessity for exploring exotic and native germplasm using advanced technologies such as speed breeding, GWAS, Double haploid, Marker Assisted Selection to design desired maize genotypes and adapting appropriate post-harvest and value addition strategies etc., so as to achieve higher maize production and productivity. He stressed the necessity to develop multiple stress-tolerant hybrids, Nitrogen use-efficient hybrids, genotypes

with better plant architecture, short-duration hybrids, high photosynthetic efficient genotypes, etc. Dr. H. S. Jat, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana presented the Director's report and achievements of AICRP on Maize during 2023-24. Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Registrar, PJTSAU, highlighted the challenges faced by maize farmers in the state, including water scarcity, fall army worm, low soil fertility, and fluctuating market demand, and stressed the need for an integrated approach to address these issues. The workshop featured notable participants Dr. S. K. Pradhan, ADG (FFC) underscored the need to develop climate-resilient maize hybrids for increasing *Kharif* maize yield which will aid in attaining self-sufficiency in maize production for achieving the E20 (blending 20 percent ethanol in petrol) target. He



Dr. T. R. Sharma, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR addressing the participants



Delegates participated in Maize Workshop

also suggested using genomic selection to combine many traits simultaneously. A special brainstorming session on "Road map for increasing maize production to address E30" was conducted and experts from research, private sector

and distilleries participated in the discussions. About 300 delegates from 32 AICRP centres, representatives from private seed sector and allied industries, graced the event.

Seed Mela 2024 - Ensuring Quality Seed Supply for Vanakalam

The Seed Mela 2024 was organized by Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar, three Regional Agricultural Research Stations, Agricultural Research Stations and KVKs simultaneously in the state on 24th May, 2024. Dr. B. Gopi, IAS, Director, Department of Agriculture, Telangana formally inaugurated the event in the presence of Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Director of Research & Registrar, Dr. V. Sudha Rani, Director of Extension and Dr. P. Jagan Mohan Rao, Director, Seeds, PJTSAU, scientists and farmers. Dr. B. Gopi, in his inaugural address appreciated the scientists in making efforts for providing quality seed of high yielding, pest and disease resistant varieties/ hybrids to the farming community. He further congratulated the University for organizing the seed mela and appreciated the efforts made by the University at the beginning of the season for the seed which is a good sign for the upcoming *vanakalam*. He advised the farmers to follow the *Raithunestam* programme which is being organised in coordination with University scientists and other departments for the benefit of the farmers. Dr. K. Keshavulu, Managing Director, TSSOCA informed that Telangana has succeeded to supply paddy seeds to the other states of India and also stated that the climatic conditions of Telangana are suitable and highly congenial for seed production, hence farmers should make efforts in production of quality seed rather than grain.

Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Director of Research & Registrar in his address informed the availability of seeds of



The Dignitaries distributing seed to farmers at Seed mela

67 varieties of different crops in the seed *mela* for sale to the farming community. He further enlightened the farmers on the usage of their own seed for another next 2 to 3 years by multiplying after purchase of seed from the reputed institutes, however it is not permissible in case of cross-pollinated crops like Maize, Cotton and Chilli, hence need to purchase every year. Quality seeds of paddy, maize, sorghum, redgram, greengram, blackgram, groundnut, castor, sunhemp and dhaincha were distributed to 2700 farmers. The total seed sales during the mela was 1675.60 q accounting to Rs. 88,90,294/- at the main campus. The University as a whole distributed a total seed worth of Rs.1,58,16,171 /-of paddy, redgram, greengram, blackgram, safflower, soybean and maize to around 7027 farmers through seed *mela*. Further seed of vegetable crops, mango and guava saplings, fodder slips, medicinal and aromatic plants, and biofertilizers were also sold through an exhibition organized on the occasion.

Stalls were arranged for sale of seed and value added products along with demonstrations on various modern agro technologies. Besides PJTSAU, Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University (SKLTSHU), P.V.Narsimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University (PVNTVU), ICAR institutes, Dept. of Agriculture, National Seeds Corporation (NSC), Telangana State Seed Development Corporation (TSSDC) and Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Agency (TSSOCA) participated in the event.



Seed distribution at Seed mela at RARS, Jagtial

Faculty Board Meetings

The 15th Faculty Board of Agriculture, 8th Faculty Board of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, 15th Faculty Board of PG and 10th Faculty Board of Community Science were held on 16th May, 2024 at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Registrar and Director of Research, PJTSAU.



Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Registrar interacting with the faculty

Collaborations

PJTSAU and ICAR- NBPGR Partner for Research on Plant Genetic Resources Management

On May 29th, 2024 ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi, and Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), Hyderabad, Telangana, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the ICAR-NBPGR Regional Station in Hyderabad. The MoU aims to enhance collaborative research and educational programs focused on Plant Genetic Resources management and their utilization in crop improvement programs, with support from ICAR-NBPGR. It also facilitates guidance, training, and research activities for PJTSAU students and strengthens collaborative research between ICAR-NBPGR scientists and PJTSAU faculty. The MoU was signed by Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Director, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi and Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Registrar, PJTSAU. Other dignitaries attended the event include Dr. V. Anitha, Dean of

PG Studies, Dr. B. Jamuna Rani, Director of International Programmes, PJTSAU; Dr. V. Celia Chalam, Principal Scientist & Head, Plant Quarantine Division; Dr. Anitha Kodaru, Principal Scientist; and other scientific staff from ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, and Hyderabad.



NBPGR and PJTSAU in MoU on Mutual Research and Education

Expanding Horizons: PJTSAU and KAU on Collaborative Learning

Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), Hyderabad, Telangana, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Kerala on 29th July, 2024 to collaborate on PhD programs in the faculties of Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering. The MoU facilitates the

exchange of in-service PhD students in a sandwich mode, allowing them to complete coursework at KAU and conduct research at PJTSAU. This initiative aims to provide in-service PhD students with broader exposure and expertise in emerging areas within their respective disciplines.

Strengthening Ties for Youth Retention in Agriculture

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Cornell Sathguru Foundation and PJTSAU was renewed on June 12th, 2024, extending their collaboration for another five years (2024 to 2029). The MoU was signed by Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Registrar, and Mrs. Hemalatha Raghavan, Director of the Cornell Sathguru Foundation. During the previous MoU period from 2019 to 2024, both institutions provided invaluable technical expertise and in-

depth knowledge to support projects aimed at retaining youth in agriculture and extending scientific and technical support for CSFD initiatives. These efforts have benefitted over 50,000 farmers, both directly and indirectly. Additionally, 50% of the farmers trained in modern agriculture and agribusiness management adopted best agricultural practices, and 10% started their own agribusiness enterprises.

Capacity Building

Strengthening Women's Expertise in Eco-Friendly Cane and Bamboo Crafting

A two-day training program on "Capacity Building for Setting Up an Enterprise Based on Eco-Friendly Cane and Bamboo Products" was conducted for 60 SC farm women and youth at Agraharam Potlapalli (V), Rajapur (M), Mahabubnagar district, Telangana under ICAR SC-SP 2023-24 on May 31st, 2024, and June 1st, 2024. The program aimed to develop skills for creating eco-friendly cane and bamboo products such as laundry baskets, lamp shades, and mirror frames. The training was organized by Mrs. Ch. Sneha Latha, Assistant Professor (RMCS) and Principal Investigator, College of Community Science. The program was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Seema, Dean of Agriculture and ICAR Nodal Officer and faculty of College of Community Science, PJTSAU, Hyderabad. Sixty training kits and manuals were distributed to the participants. This

training program helped the participants to acquire skills in making cane and bamboo products, enabling them to generate income by establishing their own enterprises.



Faculty of Community Science imparting technical know-how to the trainees

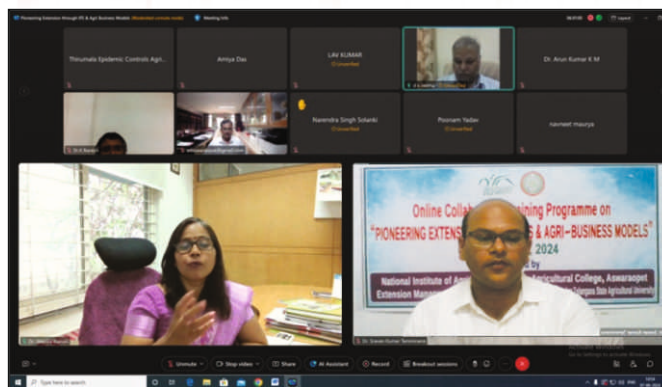
Future-Ready Extension: Pioneering Capacity Building in IFS and Agri-Business Models

A training program on 'Pioneering Extension through IFS & Agri Business Models' was organized by Agricultural College, Aswaraopet, PJTSAU, in association with MANAGE, Hyderabad, in an online mode from 5th to 7th June, 2024. Dr. Seema, Dean of Agriculture, PJTSAU and Dr. B. Jirli, Director, Center for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research (CMDR), ICSSR, Dharwad,

Karnataka and Guest of Honour graced the inaugural session. Twelve eminent experts in IFS and agripreneurship shared their knowledge and experiences on transforming the agricultural sector into an agri-business mode during the training program under the topics creating an agri-startup environment for future generations, integrated farming systems for sustainable agriculture,

commercialization of horticultural crops, small-scale enterprises in rural areas, sericulture business models, business laws for startups, millet business opportunities, value addition to agricultural produce, techno-economic parameters of model bankable agricultural projects, and the role of extension in uplifting the agri-business sector.

Dr. Vineetha Kumari, Deputy Director, Center for Gender Studies, MANAGE, graced in the valedictory session. Around 200 participants, including scientists, faculty members, KVK scientists, extension functionaries from state departments, research scholars, M.Sc. & B.Sc. students, project leaders, NGO executives, and private sector representatives attended the training program.



Dr. Vineetha Kumari, Deputy Director, MANAGE addressing in Valedictory Session

Distinguished Visitors

Insightful Visit: IAS Probationers Learn About Varsity

Five probationary IAS officers of the 2023 batch (Telangana Cadre) visited PJTSAU, on June 13th, 2024. Dr. P. Raghu Rami Reddy, Registrar, explained the University's mandate and the various initiatives undertaken by the scientific staff to benefit the farming

community. The visiting officers toured the Institute of Soil Health Management and the Rice Research and also observed the use of drone and IoT technologies in agriculture.

Strategic Dialogue: Mae Fah Luang University Team Discusses on Future Collaboration with Varsity

A three-member faculty team comprising of Wirongrong, Assistant Dean, along with Thamarth Pranamornkith and Chutamat Niwat, Assistant Professors from the School of Agro-Industry, Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand, visited PJTSAU on 25th June, 2024. The purpose of the visit was to discuss mutual areas of interest for future collaboration. The team from Mae Fah Luang University explained their academic programs, focusing on agro-industry with an emphasis on post-harvest technology and food science technology of fruits and vegetables. They discussed opportunities for short courses, visiting professorships, and student exchange programs as potential areas of collaboration. University Officers, and Head of Innovation Hub & Digital Agriculture of ICRISAT, Dr. R. Srikanth participated in the dialogue.



PJTSAU University officers with the team from Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand

Policy Dialogue by Dr. A.V. Satheesh

Plant Protection Association of India (PPAI), Hyderabad in collaboration with PJTSAU has organized a guest lecture by Dr. A.V. Satheesh, IOWA State University, US, the alumni of the University on "Farm Support through Policies: The US and Indian Perspectives" on 25th June, 2024 at Academic Block, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The lecture was attended by PG students, Faculty, Scientists of the University, ICAR institutes, ICRISAT and the University Officers.



Dr. Satheesh delivering lecture at PJTSAU

Awards & Honours

AICRP Best Centre Award



Centre on AICRP-Weed Management receiving the Best Centre award

AICRP on Weed Management, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad has been awarded with the 1st Rank (for the year 2023 -24) among the AICRP on Weed Management Centers across the country. Faculty of PJTSAU, Dr. T. Ram Prakash and Dr. T. Padmaja received the award from Dr. Pravat Kumar Roul, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Dr. J. S. Mishra, Director, Directorate of Weed Research and Dr. A. K. Naik, Director, CRRRI at Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 19th June, 2024.

PJTSAU KVKs Received Awards for their Excellence

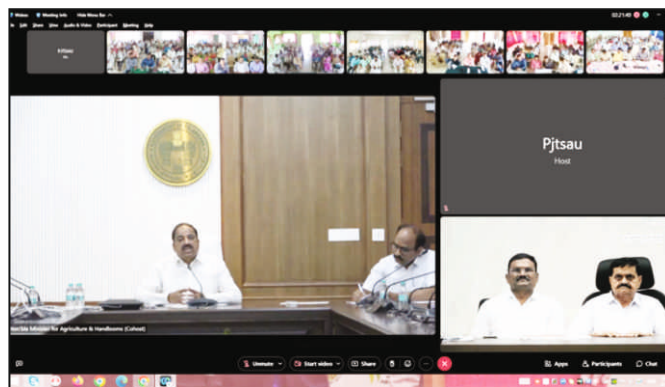
KVK, Palem received appreciation awards for CFLD Oil seeds, Distribution of Soil Health Cards, Comprehensive Annual Report, Seed Distribution and Photography; KVK, Adilabad for NICRA Project, comprehensive annual report and raised bed technology in cotton for higher productivity; KVK, Wyra for revolving fund revenue, number of Farmers in data base, number of Farmers rendered mobile advisory services and promotion of direct seeding in rice; KVK,

Kampasagar for number of farmers in database and promotion of direct seeded rice; KVK, Mancherial for promotion of high yielding Jowar varieties in tribal area of aspirational districts, KVK, Bhadradri Kothagudem for No. of extension workers trained at Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs organized by ICAR-ATARI, Zone-X, Hyderabad at CTRI, Rajahmundry during 25th to 27th June, 2024.

Rythunestham Programs during April to June, 2024

The *Rythunestham* program aimed at empowering the farmers on best farm practices has a significant positive impact on farmers by providing them with essential knowledge and skills and the program is moving ahead in good pace. The various topics covered during April to June, 2024 on weekly basis are Integrated nutrient management, Methods to increase organic carbon in agricultural fields, Direct cultivation in rice, Prevention of fruit fly in mango, Reclamation of problematic soils, Package of practices for summer vegetables, Importance of summer ploughing, Importance of seed mela, Rice varieties suitable for *vanakalam*, Crop residue management, The price forecast for 2024 *Vanakalam* crops, HDPS cotton cultivation, The critical interventions to be followed in Millets and Maize crop, Rice varieties suitable for *kharif* season and their management practices and Management practices for

current *kharif* crops in Telangana. The participants ranging from 3000 to 11000 actively involved in various sessions depicting the success of the program and keen interest of farmers.



Sri Tummala Nageshwara Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, interacting with the farmers of Telangana

Celebrations



Dr. M. Venkata Ramana, Registrar paying tributes to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



Babu Jagjeevan Ram Birthday Celebrations at Administrative Office



International Yoga Day Celebrations at College of Agricultural Engineering, Sangareddy



Telangana State Formation day Celebrations at Agricultural College, Sircilla and Administrative Office, PJTSAU



Paying tributes to Professor Jayashankar on his death anniversary at Administrative Office



Golden Jubilee Celebrations of KVKs at KVK, Kothagudem and KVK, Malyal

College Day Celebrations



College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar



Agricultural College, AswaraoPET



College of Community Science, Saifabad



Agricultural College, Warangal

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