Welcome Dr. Trilochn Shanmugam
The Director and Chief of ICAR-VPKAS, Almora congratulates and welcomes Dr. Trilochn Shanmugam on being appointed as the new Secretary of DARE and Director General (ICAR). We strongly believe that under his dynamic leadership and guidance, the ICAR will reach new heights of success and the institute will grow further to become a reputed research institution.

Thanks to Dr. S. Ayappan
The family of ICAR-VPKAS, Almora express its sincere gratitude and thanks to Dr. S. Ayappan, former Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) for his visionary leadership and unparalleled contributions to the agricultural system of India, including livestock, poultry, and fisheries. His whole hearted support to ICAR-VPKAS is gratefully acknowledged.

Director's Desk
In its quest for improving productivity and natural resource utilization efficiency in a judicious manner, ICAR-VPKAS carries out research and extension activities in diverse fields of agriculture.

During the period, five genotypes namely, Central Maize VL 55, Central Maize VL 55, Central Rice VL 158, Central finger millet VL Mandua 376 were identified and notified under the process of notification. Besides, finger millet genotype VL 367 was also identified in SVT (Kharif) meeting. During the period, more than 25 trainings and 2 kisan melas were held at institute and more than 50 trainings and two kisan melas were conducted at institutes KVKs (Uttar Pradesh and Bageshwar) for farmers, tribal farmers, state officials of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. The institute celebrated Swachhata Pakhwada during May 16-31, 2016. Shri Chhabilendra Roul, Addl. Secretary (DARE) and Secretary (ICAR) visited the institute during the period. This publication is a brief of achievements of institute in the field of research, extension and development during January to June 2016. The comments of the readers will be appreciated.

(Anunava Pattnandyak)

Research Highlights

- **Central Maize VL 55 (FH 3605)**
  - It is an early duration (90-95 days in hills, 85-90 days in plains), high yielding single cross maize hybrid. It registered an average yield of 7.071 kg/ha and 8.024 kg/ha in all India Coordinated trials in Zone 1 (Northern Hill Zone) and Zone 4 (Peninsular Zone), exhibiting yield

- **Central Maize VL 55** (An early duration 90-95 days in hills, 85-90 days in plains), high yielding single cross maize hybrid. It registered an average yield of 7.071 kg/ha and 8.024 kg/ha in all India Coordinated trials in Zone 1 (Northern Hill Zone) and Zone 4 (Peninsular Zone), exhibiting yield
Central Maize VL Babycorn 2 (VMH 27)

Central Maize VL Babycorn 2 is an early duration high yielding single cross babycorn hybrid. It registered an average babycorn yield of 1,725, 2,492, 1,064, 2,163 and 2,216 kg/ha in all India Coordinated trials in Zone 1 (Northern Hill Zone), Zone 2 (North Western Plain Zone), Zone 3 (North Eastern Plain Zone), Zone 4 (Peninsular Zone) and Zone 5 (Central Western Zone), exhibiting yield superiority of 14.0, 46.7, 8.7, 19.9 and 34.0% over the check HM 4, respectively. It attains harvestable maturity (babycorn) in 52-54 days in hills and in 48-52 days in plains. It is moderately resistant to turmeric leaf blight, majdis leaf blight, common rust and post-flowering stalk rot. The hybrid has been identified for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi NCR, western Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana State, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Vinay Mahajan, R Bah, HS Gupta, PK Agrawal, SK Jha, RK Khuthe, SK Pant, Chandrasekhara C, D Mahanta, KS Koranga, GS Bish, MC Pant, NC Belwal and GS Bankoti

Central Rice VL Dhan 158 (VL 8657, IET 22982)

This variety has been developed from a cross between RCPL I-45/VL 3861. VL Dhan 158 is an early duration (110-120 days) and high yielding genotype with mean grain yield of 2,728 kg/ha in lower and 1,757 kg/ha in medium Northern hills regions. It has light yellow, short bold, awnless
ICAR-VPKAS

News Letter

穀類 in 39.94, 10.76 एवं 23.67 प्रतिशत कमान्य विवेक ग्राम (लड़ाकू तुलनात्मक प्रजाति)

Sukhadhyan 1 (कृषि सरकारी प्रजाति) तथा धनुकारी प्रजाति से अधिक उत्पन्न ज्या गई
जबकि यह अन्य पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में 34.86, 19.01 एवं 30.04 प्रतिशत उत्पादन ही गई
। यह अध्ययन तथा अन्य दिशा के दृष्टि से प्रश्नोत्तरीक समान स्थानीय है जो कि उसकी पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों
की उपशुद्धि धारा में सस्ते महायुग की दृष्टि है
| जन, गंगा अतिरिक्त, को. म. अग्रामणि, बी. एच. आग्नेय, को. को. निकाय, जी. स्टैटीस, देवधर लाल, धी. कृषि मणि, शंकर नमक गार्ड, को. एस. पंडित, कंसर सिंह
| राजा, आनंद सिंह |

Bhojpur Madhya Vikash Mandal 376: यह अन्यत्र परिसर में (103-109 हेक्टेयर), ग्रामीण दोहरी वा
उच्च परिसर में 2.994 बियार / हेक्टेयर दर सबसे उच्च रेट में आया
| जिनमें अधिकांश राजस्थान के विशेष विभाग में
Bhojpur Vikash Mandal 376 ने अन्यत्र परिसर में प्रजाति
| विशेष 352 से 15.73 प्रतिशत उद्योग उत्पादन की। इन
| प्रजातियों की विवरण में विवरण, जिनमें से उद्योग की
| तकनीय उद्योग रेट के दृष्टि से अधिक उद्योगी हुई, जिने
| हेक्टेयर में आया

Central Finger millet VL Mandua 376: This is an early duration (103-109 days),
blast resistant high yielding genotype with mean grain yield of 2.994 kg/ha. It
has been developed from a cross between
GE 4172/ VL Ragi 149. It has shown
yield superiority of 15.73% over the early
duration national check VL
Mandua 352. It has semi-compact ear
heads with light brown grains.
Arun Gupta, Sajal Sood, RK Khatlur,
BM Pandey, Chandrashekara C,
Rajashekar B, GS Bishu, DS Panchpat
and Ramesh Singh Kunwal

VL 367: This finger millet genotype was identified for the State
Uttarakhand. This genotype gave 2.000 kg/ha, which showed superiority
of 8.90 per cent over best check variety VL Mandua 324 in SVT trials and
18.4 per cent over farmer’s variety in field trials. It has compact ear heads
and is resistant to blast.

Research Achievements

Registration of Maize Variety Vivek Sankul Makka 37 with
PPV&FRA (Registration No. 92 of 2015)
Vivek Sankul Makka 37 is an early maturing maize composite variety
released in 2009 for Peninsular zone (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra
Pradesh and Tamil Nadu). The variety matures in 85-90 days and yields an
average of 40-45 q/ha. The grain colour is yellow and it is tolerant to
turcicum and mustard leaf blight.

Parbatiy Krishna Darpan
Central Finger millet VL, Mandua 376: This is an early duration (103-109 days), blast resistant high yielding genotype with mean grain yield of 2.994 kg/ha. It has been developed from a cross between GE 4172/ VL Ragi 149. It has shown yield superiority of 15.73% over the early duration national check VL Mandua 352. It has semi-compact ear heads with light brown grains.

Arun Gupta, Salej Sood, RK Khatul, BM Pandey, Chandrashekara C, Rajashekara H, GS Bish, DS Panchpal and Ramesh Singh Kumbal

VL 367: This finger millet genotype was identified for the State of Uttarakhand. This genotype gave 2000 kg/ha, which showed superiority of 8.90 per cent over best check variety VL Mandua 324 in SVT trials and 18.4 per cent over farmer’s variety in field trials. It has compact ear heads and is resistant to blast.

VL 367

Registration of Maize Variety Vivek Sankul Makka 37 with PPV & FRA (Registration No. 92 of 2015)

Vivek Sankul Makka 37 is an early maturing maize composite variety released in 2009 for Peninsular zone (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu). The variety matures in 85-90 days and yields an average of 40-45 q/ha. The grain colour is yellow and it is tolerant to turcicum and maydis leaf blight.
Performance of VI. Donor Screening Nursery (DSN) rice lines under coordinated multilocation trial

Nineteen rice lines (both June sown rainfed and irrigated conditions) developed at ICAR-VPKAS, Allahara were screened under DSN coordinated trial for donor identification of blast disease. These lines were screened at 23 different hot-spot locations in India under natural and artificial epiphytic conditions. The lines VL-8915, VL-8657 and VL-8553 from June sown rainfed condition showed maximum level of field resistance at many locations with susceptibility index (SI) of 3.6, 3.6 and 3.9, respectively, and for irrigated conditions, VL-31916, VL-31802 and VL-31716 showed maximum field resistance with susceptibility index of 3.8, 3.7 and 3.7, respectively. The identified lines can be used as donor in blast resistance breeding program in future.

Rajeshkara H., KK Mishra and JP Aditya

Analytical study of occupational health hazards of hill farm women

A study was conducted on 60 farm women in Raun-Dal village cluster of Almora district and Dhanpaur village of Dehradun to assess the occupational health hazards of hill farm women in wheat production. On the basis of scores obtained, harvesting of wheat (Hazard score: 63.78) was found to be the most hazard-prone activity followed by threshing (63.72) and manure application (57.0). Subsequently, winnowing was ranked as fourth hazard-prone activity followed by transporting, land preparation and sowing, ranked as fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively. Drying and storing were ranked as least hazard prone activities. Intervention of ergonomically designed farm tools/equipment, use of personal protective equipments (PPE) and promoting knowledge on agricultural health and safety can be a viable option to reduce the occurrence of hazards in the selected agricultural activities.

Kushagra Joshi, Renu Jethi, Nirmal Chandra and ML Roy

Other Activities

• The Institute contingent participated in the ICAR Inter-Zonal sports meet held at ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur (Feb. 8-12), in which one bronze medal was bagged in 4 x 100 m relay race by the team of Dr. Rajeshkara H., Sh. Tilak Mondal, Sh. Anirban Mukherjee and Sh. Ramesh Singh Kanwal. Apart from this participation in the ICAR North Zone Sports Tournament 2016 at ICAR-NDRI, Karnal from April 16-19 resulted 5 medals (2 Silver and 3 Bronze) in different events.

• An On-Farm Demonstration on ‘F1 Hybrid Maize Seed Production’ was organized at village Sangaiith on KVK Thoubal (Khangabok) in district Imphal West and Thoubal, respectively, on 16 jointly with ICAR RC NEH, Imphal under AICRP-NSP (Crops). At both sites, approx. 500 sqm area was planted with seed production demonstration of Vivek Maize Hybrid 45. A ‘Trainer’ Training was also organized at KVK Thoubal for the scientific and technical personnel of the Centre.

• A one-day ‘Technology and Machinery Demonstration Mela’ for showcasing of salient a chievemnts/technologies developed under AICRP on PHEI was organized at Experimental Farm, Haliwag on March 18. More than 250 farmers from different blocks of Uttarakhand participated in this event.
• A Kisan Mela and awareness programme on Pradhan Mantri Phasal Beema Yojana was organized at Experimental Farm, Hailwharg on April 9, 2016. Honourable Member of Parliament, Almora- Phitoragarh parliament constituency, Shri Ajay Tantra graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. J C Bhatt, Ex-Director ICAR-VPKAS, Almora was the special guest of the occasion. On the occasion, Institute publications “Krishi Darpan”, “Krishi Kalender” and four leaflets namely “Parvatiya Kshetron Mein Mandua ki Vaigyanik Kheti”, “Uttarakhand ke parvatiya Kshetron mein Chatari Dhuhan ki Vaigyanik Kheti”, “Parvatiya Kshetron Mein Chaane ke liye Bhimal Ugyain”, “Krishi Praudhugiki Hastantarun mein Sahayak Kisan Club” were released by the chief guest. More than 30 exhibition-cum-sale stalls were put-up by various departments like ICAR institutes, line departments, NGOs and farmers groups.

• Swachhta Pakhwada was organized at ICAR-VPKAS, Almora from May 16-31. Activities like, competitions on cleanliness among different laboratories and departments/sections, were carried out. Seventy two students of class XII from GIC, Hailwharg were taken to the Museum, laboratories, protected cultivation, waste composting units etc. As a part of the ongoing ‘National Sanitation Fortnight’, a mass cleanliness drive including removal of Parthenium was conducted at ICAR-VPKAS Almora campus and Line Estate premises at Hailwharg. A seminar on “Swachhta Abhiyan” was organised on June 1. Chief Guest of the occasion, Dr J C Bhatt praised
राजदील नन्द महत्त्व ने कहा कि सरकार के लिए जीवित होने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है। अपने समय में विशिष्ट अवसर प्राप्त होना सरकार के लिए स्वाभाविक है। 

- यह विज्ञानकार्य, आगर संचालित कराने (कृषि अनुसंधान एवं वित्तिय प्रभाव भारत सरकार) एवं लाभ (बीजोपपादन) से इस अवसर के संबंध में स्वामी रामदास राजनीतिक विषय पर परिचय करते हुए, विज्ञानीय एवं अन्य कार्यों के संबंध में विशेष निर्देश दिए गए।

**प्रशिक्षण/अभ्यास कार्यक्रम**

जनवरी 1 से जून 30, 2016 के मध्य विश्वविद्यालय अभ्यास कार्यक्रम प्रायोजित किये गये -

- बीजोपपादन भाग की विषय पर 60 कृषकों हेतु प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम।
- विज्ञान विस्मय के लिए उन्मुक्त उपाधिक तत्कालीन विषय पर 180 कृषकों हेतु अभ्यास कार्यक्रम।
- जैविक जैविक विषय पर 227 कृषकों हेतु प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम।
- 116 कृषिका, जैविक व विस्मय कार्यक्रम भाग।
- एक अत्याधुनिक उत्पादन प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में, कृषि उद्योगकर्ता बनने हेतु विभाग, नियंत्रण और भूमि प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम को आयोजित किया गया।

**प्रशिक्षण/अभ्यास कार्यक्रम (नववर्षीय उपयोगी)**

- बीजोपपादन की विज्ञानकार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत “रामराज्य का बीजोपपादन” - विषय पर एक विशेष कार्यक्रम का आयोजन 1 से 6 कृषकों के संबंध में उपभोक्ताओं ने की निर्देशीकरण बिजली के बायलॉन के चलते कहा गया। 

**Trainings/Exposure visits**

During January 1 to June 30, 2016, following trainings/exposure visits were conducted:

- Two trainings on Seed production techniques for 60 farmers.
- Seven trainings on Improved production technologies for hill crops for 180 farmers.
- Five trainings on Organic farming for 227 farmers.
- Six exposure visits for 116 farmers, school teachers, students, official staff.
- An Interstate Farmer’s Training Programme entitled “Krishi Vipadaksha Bajane jitee Himachal Pradesh ke kisan ke liye Sant Divasiya Prashikshan Karyakram” was organized during May 16-22, in which 20 participants including 19 farmers and one Agriculture Officer from Kulu district of Himachal Pradesh participated.

**Trainings/Exposure Visit (Tribal Sub Plan)**

- Under ICAR Seed Project, a five days training programme on “Rahi Kaslon ka Beejotpadan” was organized at ICAR-VPKAS from Feb. 1-5 for the tribal farmers of Jhankat village in Sitarganj block in district Udham Singh Nagar. A total of 35 farmers including 22 women farmers participated in the programme.

- On-Farm training on Sankar Makka Beejotpadan was organized for farmers of Jaunsar area on Feb. 12 and Apr. 30 to impart training on the activities required to be carried out in maize hybrid seed production.
News Letter

• जनमतीतिय प्रयोजना के अन्तर्गत उद्योजक सिद्धांत के सिद्धांतगत विकासक्रम के अनुसार गांव में 24 फरवरी को एक-दिवसीय कृषि बैठक़ी कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें 77 महिला कृषि कर्मी ने अपने खूबसूरत उद्योग ने माननीय की। इस अवसर पर राजनीतिक कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन किया गया।

• उत्तराखंड गवर्नर डिप्लोमा विद्यालय पूर्वान्तरण (प्राकृतिक-2), बिहार, उत्तराखंड द्वारा प्रायोजित प्रतिमूलक क्षेत्रों में "उत्तराखंड उत्तराखंड" क्रिया पर एक दिन-दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन 22 इस दिन कर दिया गया। इसमें विद्वानों के समर्पण मुरादलाह, बिहार कांग्रेस, डीलिहाई, गोवर्डनल, बांका व बैंकियर विकासक्रम के विचारों गांव के 19 महिला कृषि कर्मी कर दिल्ली में भाग लिया।

Prashikshan (मा.स्र.)

• "अधिन कृषि अनुसूचणा में प्रामाणिकता तथा आमकर्षण विकास कर्मकार की ताकत," क्रिया पर प्रविधियाँ-दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन 1 से 21 दिन करते दिया गया।

• "पृष्ठलगततक क्षेत्रों के प्रमुख कार्यकारी" क्रिया पर प्रविधियाँ-दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन 1 से 21 दिन करते दिया गया।

• "संस्थान, डॉ. रुपकांड और प्रशिक्षण क्रिया पर संयम दिखाएँ।" क्रिया पर प्रविधियाँ-दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन 1 से 21 दिन करते दिया गया।

Prekshaar aur Samman

• जनता प्रकल्प राज्य को बिजली बचाव पुरस्कार कृषि एवं ग्रामीणसेवा विश्वविद्यालय पंतपुर, 26-28 जुलाई में माननीय कृषि प्रशिक्षकों पर आयोजित प्रकल्पी विषयों में स्वरूप अनुसूचित प्रतिभा के लिए जुटा किया गया।

• जनता प्रकल्प राज्य को बिजली बचाव पुरस्कार कृषि एवं ग्रामीणसेवा विश्वविद्यालय पंतपुर, बीसीया 2016 में माननीय नैरायण प्रशिक्षण का पुरस्कार एवं प्रशिक्षण का पुरस्कार दिया गया।

• जनता प्रकल्प राज्य को बिजली बचाव पुरस्कार कृषि एवं ग्रामीणसेवा विश्वविद्यालय पंतपुर, बीसीया 2017 में माननीय नैरायण प्रशिक्षण का पुरस्कार एवं प्रशिक्षण का पुरस्कार दिया गया।

Awards & Recognition

• Dr. Manik Lal Roy received Best Poster Presentation Award in the National conference on Hill Agriculture in Perspective (HAP-2016) at GBPWA&T, Ponnagunta under the theme "Marketing and Trade" held during Feb. 26-28. Dr. Renu Jethi, received runner up award in the same conference.

• Best Oral Presentation Award & a certificate of appreciation was received by Dr. ML Roy in IEEC-2016 at BHU, Varanasi during Jan. 27-30.

• Institute’s Tableau prepared by Drs. Nirmal Chandra, ML Roy and HL Kharbikar won First Prize in Republic Day Celebration at Police Ground, Almora.

• Institute Exhibition Stall managed by Dr. ML Roy, Mr. Shiv Singh and Mr. Chaudhary Ganesh Vasudev was adjudged "Special Exhibition" among Government Group in All India Farmers’ Fair and Agro-Industrial Exhibition held at GBPWA&T, Ponnagunta from Mar. 10-13.

Activities of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

Training programmes on different aspects of hill agriculture were organized at KVK Uttarkashi and Bageshwar for the farmers of hills. Apart from this, different improved technologies as front line demonstrations were also done at farmers field by KVKs.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Chintyalinsur, Uttarkashi and KVK, Kahlagar, Bageshwar organized Raib Sammelan eum Krishi Mela and Farmers Conference & Agriculture Exhibition on Apr. 5 under Prime Minister crop insurance scheme, respectively. More than 300 and 550 farmers and officials, respectively participated in these programmes.
**New Colleagues**
- Shri Shyam Nath, Scientist (Farm Machinery & Power) on Apr. 11
- Shri Y.S. Dhanik, Sr. Administrative Officer on Jun. 29

**Promotions**
- **Senior Technical Assistant to Technical Officer**

**Senior Technician to Technical Assistant**
- Mr. Neeraj Kumar Pandey (Jun. 29, 2013)

**Technical (Vehicle Driver) to Sr. Technician (Vehicle Driver)**
- Mr. Vikram Singh (Jan. 28, 2015), Haseen Jamal Ahmed (Feb. 16, 2015)

**Retirement**
- Shri Santosh Kumar Darvasti, Asstt. Admin. Officer on Feb. 2 (Voluntary)
- Shri Gopal Singh Bankoti, Technical Officer on Jun. 30

**Transfer**
- Smt Geetanjali Joshi, Programme Assistant (Computer) to IARI, New Delhi on May 6

**Regularization**
- Shri Naveen Ram, Skilled Supporting Staff on May 30

**Obituary**
- Shri. Haseen Jamal Ahmed, Sr. Technician (Vehicle Driver) on Mar. 13

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**Hindi Translation**: Shri T.B. Pal