



K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
THE COMPLETE WORLD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

NEWS LETTER JAN TO MARCH-2025



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FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM



Over the past three months, our faculty, students, and staff have continued to demonstrate dedication, innovation, and excellence in various domains of agricultural sciences. This issue captures some of the key highlights from research advancements and field visits to workshops, seminars, and student achievements that are contributing meaningfully to the agricultural sector.

Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the latest edition of our School of Agricultural Sciences Newsletter for the January to March 2025 session. This quarterly publication is a reflection of the vibrant academic, research, and outreach activities that shape our school's dynamic learning environment.

Over the past three months, our faculty, students, and staff have continued to demonstrate dedication, innovation, and excellence in various domains of agricultural sciences. This issue captures some of the key highlights from research advancements and field visits to workshops, seminars, and student achievements that are contributing meaningfully to the agricultural sector.

In this issue, you'll find a range of articles that explore cutting-edge research in areas like Use of Drones in agriculture, precision farming innovative pest control strategies, soil conservation, and advancements in agri-tech. Our talented faculty and enthusiastic students have engaged in several projects, field experiences, and workshops, all contributing to meaningful agricultural advancements. We also share inspiring narratives from our alumni, highlighting their efforts in the field.

As we embrace the new academic and cropping season, let this newsletter serve not only as a record of our progress but also as a source of inspiration and connection within our academic community. I hope you find the contents informative and insightful.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited to bring you more enriching and thought-provoking content in the future!

Warm regards,

Dr. Anjali Tomar

Editor-in-chief & Assistant Professor

School of Agricultural Sciences

K. R. Mangalam University

FROM THE DESK OF IQAC COORDINATOR



At the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), we are deeply committed to nurturing a culture of excellence, accountability, and continuous quality enhancement across the university. Our role extends beyond compliance; we aim to create an ecosystem where innovation, academic rigor, student engagement, and societal contribution are seamlessly integrated into institutional functioning.

It is with great pleasure that I share a message for this edition of the School of Agricultural Sciences Newsletter for January to March 2025. The newsletter stands as a reflection of the tireless efforts, academic vibrancy, and progressive outlook of the school, and I commend the entire team for capturing the diverse initiatives and achievements of the past quarter.

At the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), we are deeply committed to nurturing a culture of excellence, accountability, and continuous quality enhancement across the university. Our role extends beyond compliance; we aim to create an ecosystem where innovation, academic rigor, student engagement, and societal contribution are seamlessly integrated into institutional functioning. It is heartening to see that the School of Agricultural Sciences continues to align with this vision in all its endeavours.

The active participation of students and faculty in capacity-building activities, knowledge exchange forums, and field-based learning is helping shape future-ready agricultural professionals who are equipped to respond to contemporary global challenges. This newsletter is not just a compilation of events, but a narrative of growth, collaboration, and innovation. It demonstrates how academic units can work in harmony with IQAC's broader goals by integrating quality benchmarks, promoting best practices, and contributing to the holistic development of students and the institution alike.

I encourage all readers to view this document not only as a report, but as an inspiration to contribute meaningfully to our collective mission of academic and societal transformation.

Let us continue to move forward with purpose, passion, and a commitment to quality.

Warm regards,

Dr Shikha Dutt Sharma

Editor

IQAC Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM VICE CHANCELLOR



This newsletter is a testament to the tireless efforts of our faculty, researchers, and students who are constantly striving to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. The events, achievements, and initiatives featured in this issue reflect the school's unwavering commitment to producing well-rounded agri-professionals equipped with skills, vision, and a strong sense of responsibility toward society and the environment.

Dear Readers,

I am happy to extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all the readers of the School of Agricultural Sciences Newsletter for the January to March 2025 quarter.

Agriculture has always been the cornerstone of our nation's economy and cultural heritage. In today's rapidly evolving world, the field of agricultural sciences has taken on even greater significance intertwining traditional practices with modern technologies to address the global challenges of food security, climate change, and sustainable development. I am proud to witness how the School of Agricultural Sciences at K.R. Mangalam University continues to foster academic excellence, research innovation, and practical learning in this vital domain.

This newsletter is a testament to the tireless efforts of our faculty, researchers, and students who are constantly striving to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. The events, achievements, and initiatives featured in this issue reflect the school's unwavering commitment to producing well-rounded agri-professionals equipped with skills, vision, and a strong sense of responsibility toward society and the environment.

I would like to commend the editorial team for their dedication in compiling and presenting this newsletter with such clarity and enthusiasm. It not only showcases the vibrant academic atmosphere of the school but also serves as a platform to share knowledge, celebrate milestones, and inspire continued growth.

As we look ahead, I urge all students and faculty members to remain curious, collaborative, and committed to the cause of agricultural development. Let us work together to build a future where innovation in agriculture leads to inclusive prosperity, ecological sustainability, and national progress.

Wishing you all continued success in your academic and professional journeys. I wish you all an enlightening and enjoyable reading experience.

With best regards,

Prof. Raghuvir Singh

Vice Chancellor

K. R. Mangalam University

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



The last quarter has been particularly eventful, marked by academic initiatives, hands-on training sessions, workshops, student-led activities, and collaborations that continue to strengthen the foundation of our agricultural education. At the School of Agricultural Sciences, we are deeply committed to nurture a new generation of agri-leaders - individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also socially responsible and solution-driven.

Dear Readers,

It gives me great pride and pleasure to share with you the latest edition of our newsletter for the January to March 2025 quarter. This publication reflects the vibrant spirit, continuous efforts, and diverse accomplishments of our school. It is not just a chronicle of events but a narrative of our collective journey toward academic excellence, sustainable innovation, and community engagement.

The last quarter has been particularly eventful, marked by academic initiatives, hands-on training sessions, workshops, student-led activities, and collaborations that continue to strengthen the foundation of our agricultural education. At the School of Agricultural Sciences, we are deeply committed to nurture a new generation of agri-leaders - individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also socially responsible and solution-driven.

This newsletter captures some of the significant milestones we have achieved and highlights the dedication of our faculty, staff, and students in shaping a resilient and forward-looking agricultural sector. I extend my sincere thanks to the editorial team for creating this wonderful edition and to all contributors who have shared their work and experiences.

As you turn the pages, I hope you feel as inspired as we do in our mission to learn, lead, and serve. We look forward to continued collaboration and success in the months to come.

Happy reading.

Warm wishes,

Dr. Joginder Singh Yadav

Dean, School of Agricultural Sciences

K. R. Mangalam University

SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION

About the School of Agricultural Sciences

School of Agricultural Sciences at K. R. Mangalam University is fully equipped with the facilities of laboratories agriculture farms to carry out the Teaching, Practical and Research work. All the faculty members are well qualified (Ph.D. in their respective fields) and well experienced. The faculty remains in constant touch with various experts in the relevant fields and is willing to experiment with latest ideas in teaching and research.

School of Agricultural Sciences imparts students technical knowledge, enhances their practical skill and ability, motivating them to think creatively, helping them to act independently and take decisions accordingly in all their technical pursuits and other endeavors. It strives to empower its students and faculty members to contribute to the development of society and Nation.

School Vision

To be an internationally recognized Agri-institute for

agriculture education, research and innovation, and Agri-entrepreneurship.

School Mission

- Interdisciplinary approach, innovative pedagogy, stimulating research to foster Agri-based employability and entrepreneurship.
- Integrate global needs and expectations through collaborative programs with premier universities, research centers, industries, and professional bodies within India and abroad for global exposure & real-life work experience.
- Practicing cutting-edge-technologies, tools, techniques, practices, and processes in the field of agriculture
- Developing leadership, ethical values, and sensitivity to the environment.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing

Dr. Deepak Kumar, Assistant Professor, SOAS has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing by the Asian Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition on 25 March 2025, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to maintaining the academic and scientific quality of the journal. This prestigious recognition highlights Dr. Kumar's dedication to the peer-review process, which plays a vital role in upholding the integrity and quality of scholarly publishing.



Guest Speaker

Dr. Deepak Kumar, Assistant Professor, SOAS was invited as an expert in the Kisan Mela on 27.03.2025 organized by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Gurugram. Dr. Deepak addressed the farmers about the importance of diversifying farming practices to enhance productivity and resilience. He elaborated on the benefits of IFS, which integrates various agricultural enterprises such as crop cultivation, livestock rearing, and aquaculture to optimize resource utilization and income. Dr. Kumar highlighted how adopting IFS can lead to improved soil health, efficient water use, and increased profitability for small and marginal farmers. The lecture also shed light on the significance of crop rotation in maintaining soil fertility and controlling pests and diseases.



Participated in National Webinar on Millets-Based Enterprise Creation

Dr. Anjali Tomar, Assistant Professor, SOAS, actively participated in a national-level webinar titled "Millets-Based Enterprise Creation", organized by the Patanjali Research Foundation on February 25, 2025.

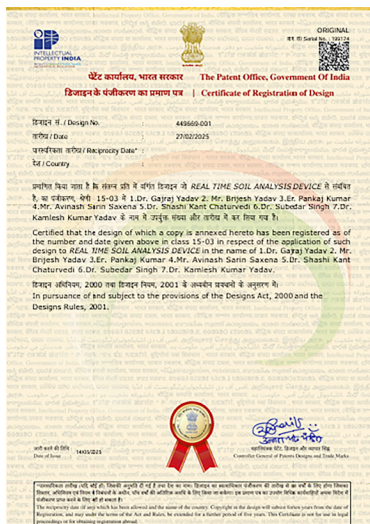
The webinar focused on the promotion of millets as sustainable, climate-resilient, and nutritionally rich crops. The event aimed to encourage innovation and enterprise development in the millet sector, aligning with the Government of India's initiatives during the International Year of Millets.



Awarded Design Patent for Real-Time Soil Analysis Device

Dr. Gajraj Yadav, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, KRMU has been granted a design patent for his invention titled "Real Time Soil Analysis Device" on February 27, 2025.

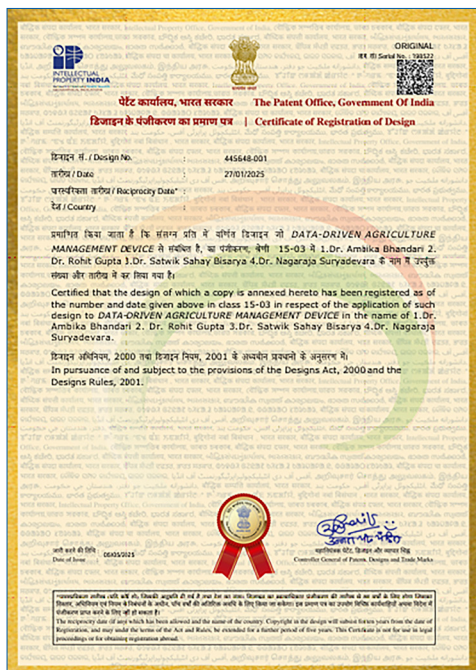
The newly patented device is designed to offer real-time monitoring and analysis of soil parameters, enabling farmers and researchers to make quick, data-driven decisions for optimizing crop yield and soil health. The innovative design enhances usability and portability, making it suitable for both field and laboratory applications.



Awarded Design Patent for Data-Driven Agriculture Management Device

Dr. Ambika Bhandari, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, KRMU has been awarded a design patent for her innovative invention titled "Data-Driven Agriculture Management Device" on January 27, 2025.

This patented device is a groundbreaking step towards smart and sustainable agriculture, designed to assist farmers and agri-professionals in managing agricultural operations through real-time data analysis and decision-making tools. The sleek, user-centric design makes it convenient to use in diverse farming environments, offering features such as data collection on crop conditions, environmental parameters, and resource utilization.



Life Membership in Society for Community Mobilization for Sustainable Development

The School of Agricultural Sciences is proud to announce that Dr. Ambika Bhandari, Assistant Professor, has been conferred Life Membership in the Society for Community Mobilization for Sustainable Development



STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Students from School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, on 11/03/25, participated in multiple competitions held during the Krishikalpa: Agri Skill Hackathon 2025, organized by the Agriculture Skill Council of India, Gurugram showcasing their talent and passion for agriculture and allied sectors. The participants not only exhibited their creativity but also gained valuable exposure to the real-world challenges of the agricultural industry.

Among the notable winners & participants were



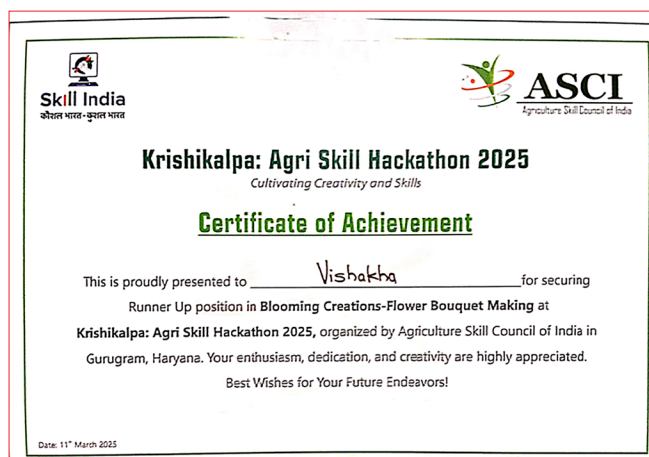
Mr. Albert, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture II Year, received First prize for winning Poster Making Competition



Ms. Riddhi, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture III Year, received prize money for securing Second position in Rangoli Competition



Ms. Vishakha, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture II Year, got prize money for securing second position in Bouquet Making Competition.



Mr. Ansar Khan, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture III Year, receiving prize money for securing second position Agri. Quiz Competition.





Mr. Shiv Rattan, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture II Year, participated in Agri. Quiz Competition.



Ms. Prachi Baghel, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture II Year, participated in Agri. Quiz Competition.



Ms. Harshita, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture II Year, participated in Agri. Quiz Competition.



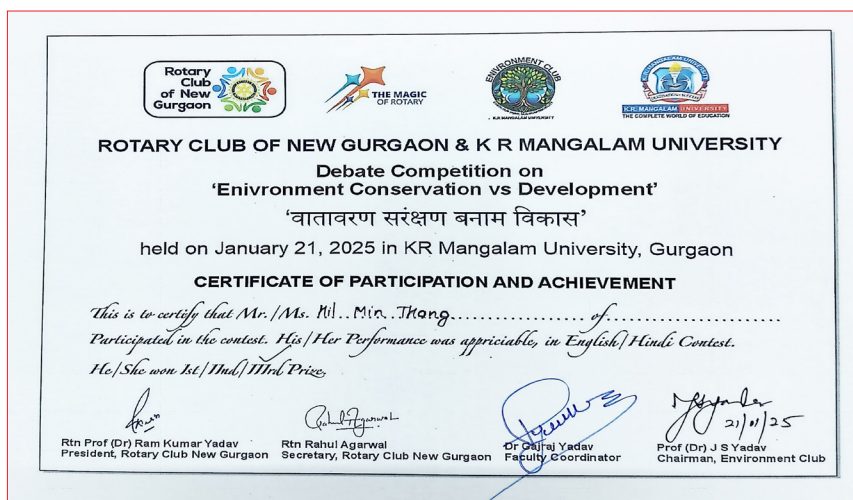
Ms. Surabhi Dubey, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture II Year, participated in Agri. Quiz Competition.



Mr. Gourav Saini, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture II Year, participated in Agri. Quiz Competition.



Ms. Shrishti Jha, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture II Year, participated in Agri. Quiz Competition.



Mr. Hilminthang Haokip B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture I Year

Mr. Hilminthang Haokip, a dedicated and articulate student, recently secured the III Prize in the Debate Competition on Environment Conservation vs Development held on 21 January 2025. The event was jointly organized by the Rotary Club of New Gurgaon and K.R. Mangalam University, bringing together participants from various institutions to deliberate on

the pressing issues related to environmental sustainability and development. Mr. Haokip impressed the judges and audience alike with his well-reasoned arguments, clarity of thought, and confident presentation. His achievement reflects both his academic potential and his commitment to addressing critical global challenges through informed dialogue.



Aryan Khan, a bright and talented student pursuing B.Sc. Agriculture, made his school and university proud by winning the second prize in the inter-college cricket tournament

held at DPG College, Gurgaon. His remarkable performance showcased not only his passion for the sport but also his dedication to excellence.

INITIATIVES BY SCHOOL

Commercial Cultivation of Mushroom Unit by School of Agricultural Sciences in collaboration with the KEIC Foundation

The production of edible mushrooms or other mushrooms has increased by 30 times during the last 35 years. The reason for this growth is improved farming techniques, increasing exposure to generally improved varieties of mushroom production, health promotion, and processing. In the early 20th century, success was achieved in making pure cultures from the issues and microscopic spores of button mushrooms. This was the first step in the scientifically commercial cultivation of mushrooms. This gave a boost to the cultivation of button mushrooms. Commercial mushroom cultivation of button mushrooms 'a startup' initiated by students of the School of Agricultural Sciences, K. R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana.

The establishment of commercial cultivation of mushroom unit began in December 2023 by the final-year students (batch 2020–24) of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture. Prof. Ankush Mittal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, K R Mangalam University, inaugurated the mushroom unit established at the agriculture

farm. It was the first venture of the School of Agricultural Sciences in collaboration with the KEIC Foundation. This venture was started by Mr. Aamir Khan, Ms. Poonam, and Ms. Sheetal, and other students of BSc (Hons) Agriculture, under the mentorship of Dr. Deepak Kumar, Assistant Professor, and the overall guidance and mentorship of Prof. J. S. Yadav, Dean, School of Agricultural Sciences. The commercial cultivation of button mushroom operated in the AY 2024-25 by the students of 2021-25 batch in collaboration with the KEIC Foundation. In future students are aiming to grow dhingri mushrooms at the K. R. Mangalam University campus as well from the next session. There are mainly five commercial varieties of mushrooms grown in India.

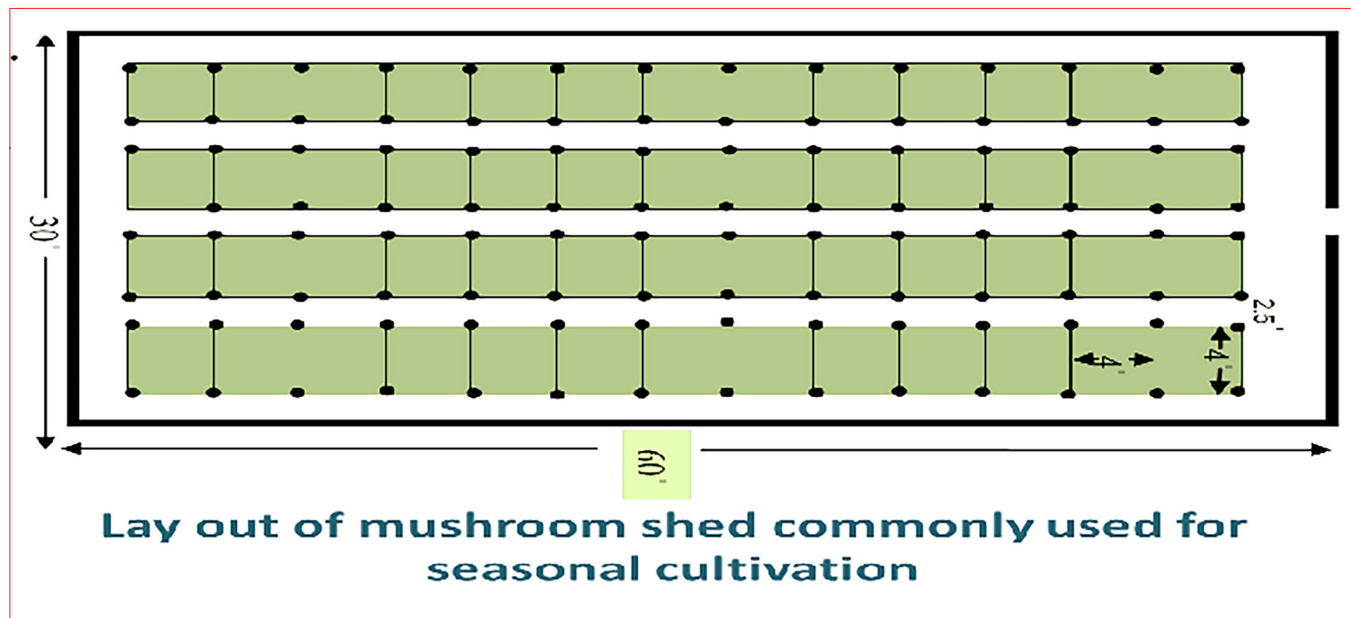
1. Button mushroom
2. Dhingri mushroom
3. Straw mushroom
4. Milky mushroom
5. Shiitake mushroom



a. Permanent structure



b. Temporary structure



Harvesting and Marketing

Harvesting will start after 10-11 days; 30-35 mm size mushroom is harvested (selective picking).



Harvesting of mushroom



Packaging and Marketing

Value added products



cookies



nuggets



pickle



soup powder



ketchup



candy

Value added mushroom products

Conclusion

Mushrooms are the future main crop of the country, and the scope of their growth in production is tremendous. The growth of mushrooms will depend on their domestic consumption and exports. Presently, North India is facing a major problem with the burning of agricultural residues. Mushrooms are the best solution to this problem.

There is a good combination of technical and non-technical manpower required to conduct mushroom-growing activities in India. Nano-particle growth from mushrooms is another area of interest to be worked

on. Conservation of genetic resources and their quality spawn development; low-cost cultivation technology; bio-fortification of mushrooms into food products; disease pest management; and farm design research are the major research activities of mushrooms. The School of Agricultural Sciences at K R Mangalam University has a long-term vision to extend the production of mushrooms on a large scale in the upcoming years, enhance the skills of students in mushroom cultivation as well as the value addition in mushroom products, and guided students to become successful entrepreneurs.

KRISHI VIKAS

Rice Ratooning: A Sustainable Practice in Crop Production

Introduction

An ancient agricultural technique known as "roasting" is harvesting a crop and letting the stubble grow back to yield another crop from the same root system. This method is frequently applied to rice, sorghum, and sugarcane. Ratooning is a rapid and economical method of producing a second harvest of rice without having to replant. Ratooning rice has been done for millennia, especially in parts of Asia where it is a staple grain. Farmers noticed that the harvested rice plant's stubble may grow new tillers and yield more under specific circumstances. Rice ratooning was eventually acknowledged as a method to boost output while lowering input costs, particularly those related to labor, seed, and land preparation. Rice ratooning was common in the past.

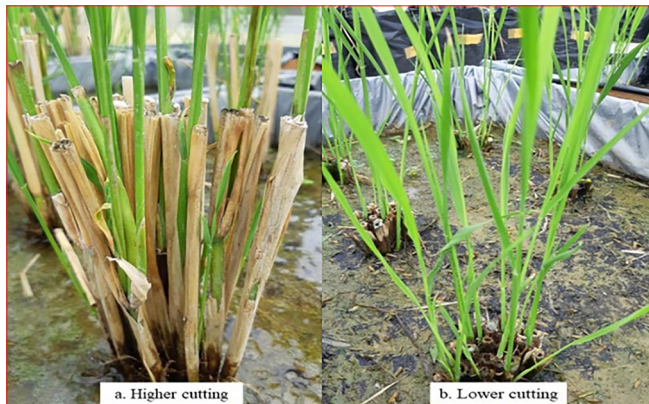


Fig. Pot experiment

Suitable Climate for Rice Ratooning

Favourable weather conditions are ideal for rice ratooning, especially warm temperatures between 25°C and 35°C, which encourage rapid regrowth. It is crucial to have enough moisture from irrigation or rainfall, particularly in locations that are irrigated or rainfed and receive post-monsoon showers. Since ratoon crops are extremely sensitive to cold, frost-free environments are essential, while good sunlight promotes tiller development. This method works best in areas where it is possible to grow more than one crop in a single year, where labour and input costs are low, making ratooning an economical choice, and where there is enough water available following the primary crop harvest. In many important parts of the world, rice ratooning is either performed or has great potential. It is widespread in eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and portions of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in India, where a variety of farming patterns and a hospitable environment contribute to its sustainability. Ratooning is common in China's central and southern rice-growing regions. Ratooning is also used



Dr. Gajraj Yadav

Assistant Professor (Soil Science)



b. Field experiment

in Vietnam and the Philippines, especially in regions with double or triple cropping systems. It is used under controlled environmental settings in southern states like Louisiana and Texas in the United States, proving its adaptability to a variety of agroclimatic zones.

Benefits of Rice Ratooning

By removing the need for replanting, rice ratooning has various benefits, including time, seed, and land preparation savings. Faster turnover is made possible by the ratoon crop's shorter maturation period, which usually lasts 60 to 80 days. It reduces the need for extra fertilizing by effectively using the soil nutrients that the primary crop has left behind. Ratooning is an inexpensive and resource-efficient technique that, under the right agroclimatic circumstances, can increase overall productivity per unit area.

Challenges in Rice Ratooning

Rice ratooning has a few drawbacks despite its advantages, such as uneven growth and typically lower yields when compared to the primary crop. Ratoon crops are

more susceptible to illnesses and pests, which can further lower yields. Not all rice varieties are suited for ratooning; ratoon-specific or tolerant varieties often perform better. Successful regrowth depends on effective post-harvest stubble management. Realizing the potential benefits of this technique requires careful management of these obstacles.

Other Crops with Ratooning Practices

Sugarcane is the most ratooned crop, with first and second ratoon cycles being common and greatly lowering planting costs. Ratooning is also used in a few other crops than rice. Sorghum and pearl millet are also ratooned in

tropical locations, enabling two or more harvests, especially in rainfed areas that get rainfall after harvest. Ratoon crops in bananas are suckers that need to be carefully managed.

Conclusion

A promising method for sustainable agriculture is rice ratooning, especially in areas with climates and agricultural methods that work well. It can greatly increase output while reducing input costs provided variety selection, management, and agronomic procedures are done correctly. The use of ratooning in rice and other crops can be increased with more study and farmer awareness.

EVENTS

Mr. Hilminthang Haokip Represents School of Agricultural Sciences at Mr. Fresher Contest

The vibrant campus of K.R. Mangalam University came alive on January 22 with music, energy, and celebration as the annual Freshers' Party welcomed the new batch of students with enthusiasm and flair. Among the highlights of the evening was the much-anticipated Mr. and Miss Fresher contest - a platform for first-year students to showcase their talents, confidence, and personality.

Representing the School of Agricultural Sciences, Mr. Hilminthang Haokip stepped into the spotlight with poise and charm. A first-year student with a keen interest in sustainable agriculture and rural development, Hilminthang impressed the audience and judges alike with his confident stage presence, engaging introduction, and enthusiastic

participation in all rounds of the contest. His participation reflected not only his individual charisma but also the growing spirit of leadership and participation among students of the School of Agricultural Sciences. Cheered on by peers and faculty, Hilminthang's performance stood as a proud moment for the school, highlighting the diverse talents of its students beyond academics. Events like the Freshers' Party provide a valuable opportunity for students to bond, express themselves, and become a part of the university's vibrant cultural fabric. The School of Agricultural Sciences applauds Hilminthang for his spirited participation and wishes him continued success in his academic and extracurricular journey at K.R. Mangalam University.



Professional Ethics for Educators

School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS), K.R. Mangalam University organized a training session on "Professional Ethics for Educators" on 1st February 2025. The program aimed to deepen educators' understanding of ethical standards in the academic profession and to empower them with tools for maintaining integrity, fairness, and responsibility in their teaching roles. Organized under the guidance of Dr. Anjali Tomar, the training focused on enhancing educators' awareness of their moral responsibilities toward students, peers, and the broader academic community. It also contributed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 by promoting inclusive, equitable, and quality education through ethical teaching practices. The session began with a warm welcome by Dr. Anjali Tomar, followed by a comprehensive presentation by Dr. J. S. Yadav, the resource person for the event. Dr. Yadav covered key aspects of professional ethics including integrity, accountability, respect, confidentiality, cultural sensitivity, and ethical decision-making. He emphasized the importance of ethical behavior in shaping a supportive



Dr. J. S. Yadav providing training to faculty members.

and inclusive learning environment. This training served as a meaningful step toward fostering a culture of integrity and ethical awareness in academia, ultimately enriching the educational experience for both educators and students at KRMU.



Dr. J. S. Yadav with faculty members of SOAS

Empowering Connections: Enhancing Communication Skills

On February 7th, 2025, School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS) at K.R. Mangalam University, in collaboration with the Career Development Center (CDC), hosted an insightful expert lecture titled "Empowering Connections: Enhancing Communication Skills." The session, led by Ms. Tuhina Ray, Verbal & Communication Trainer at KRMU's CDC, aimed to equip students with essential communication skills necessary for both academic and professional success. With a focus on active listening, non-verbal communication, clarity in messaging, and building confidence, the lecture provided practical strategies for enhancing interpersonal skills. Students were encouraged to practice effective

body language, use clear and concise language, and engage in active listening to strengthen relationships and solve problems. The session was highly interactive, with students participating in exercises and discussions, allowing them to gain hands-on experience in improving their communication abilities. The event, attended by 30 students, was coordinated by Dr. Ambika Bhandari, Dr. Anjali Tomar, and Dr. Neha Sharma, who ensured its smooth execution. This expert lecture aligns with SDG Goal 4: Quality Education, emphasizing the importance of strong communication skills for fostering better learning, collaboration, and lifelong growth.



Ms. Tuhina Ray CDC trainer with students and faculty members of SOAS.

Mindful Living: Cultivating Inner Strength and Resilience” Held at KRMU

On 14th February 2025, the School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS), K.R. Mangalam University, successfully organized an insightful session titled “Mindful Living: Cultivating Inner Strength and Resilience.” The event aimed to highlight the importance of mindfulness in everyday life and to equip students with practical strategies to manage stress, improve focus, and enhance emotional well-being. The resource person for the session was Ms. Kashish Pandey, Assistant Professor at the School of Humanities (SOHS) and a trained mindfulness practitioner. She provided students with a deeper understanding of the scientific and practical aspects of mindful living. She explained how mindfulness positively impacts brain function, emotional regulation, and mental clarity, especially in high-pressure environments like academics. During the session, Ms. Pandey engaged students in guided mindfulness exercises including breathing

techniques, body scans, and short meditations. These practices gave participants firsthand experience of how mindfulness can bring calmness and focus to the mind. The session was highly interactive, with students actively participating in discussions and sharing their thoughts and experiences related to mental wellness. The presence of the Dean of SOAS added further value to the session. He emphasized the relevance of mindfulness in the fast-paced modern world and encouraged students to adopt mindfulness techniques in their daily routines for better academic performance and personal growth. A memento was presented to Ms. Pandey as a token of appreciation for her valuable contribution. The event was smoothly coordinated by Dr. Neha Sharma and Dr. Anjali Tomar, Assistant Professors at SOAS. Their efforts in organizing and managing the session ensured active student involvement and a meaningful learning experience.



Ms. Kashish Pandey, Assistant Professor, Psychology with faculty members of SOAS.



Dean SOAS along with faculty members SOAS honoring Ms. Kashish Pandey with a memento



Ms. Kashish Pandey answering the questions from the students during the session.

Alumni Engagement for Empowerment: Gather and Grow

School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS) at K.R. Mangalam University organized an engaging session titled “Alumni Engagement for Empowerment: Gather and Grow” on 27th February 2025. The primary objective of the event was to strengthen the bond between alumni and current students, offering a platform for mentorship, knowledge sharing, and career guidance. The session began with a warm welcome by the event organizer Dr. Anjali Tomar, who highlighted the importance of alumni engagement in shaping the academic and professional development of students. The event featured Mr. Aamir Khan, a distinguished alumnus of SOAS, who shared his inspiring journey from student life to a successful career in the agricultural sector. His address focused on various career opportunities in agriculture,

challenges in the field, and the importance of innovation and sustainable practices. He also emphasized the value of alumni networks in providing mentorship, internships, and job opportunities. The interactive session allowed students to engage directly with Mr. Khan, seeking advice on career development, skill enhancement, and industry expectations. Mr. Khan’s stories of alumni success inspired students to confidently pursue their ambitions. The session also reinforced the importance of SDG 3 by promoting student well-being through mentorship and SDG 8 by highlighting sustainable career options in agriculture. Overall, the session successfully fostered a culture of collaboration, continuous learning, and professional growth, motivating students to utilize alumni connections for a brighter future.



Faculty members presenting memento to Mr. Aamir Khan (Batch 2020-24)



Mr. Aamir Khan sharing his experience at KRMU with students.



Mr. Aamir Khan with Dr. Anjali Tomar interacting with students and providing them guidance.

Seminar and Hands-on Activity on Post-Harvest and Food Processing at SOAS



Faculty and students of SOAS having photos at the end of the session with Mrs. Richa (expert)

On February 27, 2025, the School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS) at K.R. Mangalam University, in collaboration with Verdanta Food Industry, organized a seminar and hands-on activity on "Quality and Post-Harvest Food Processing". The event, attended by 26 students, aimed to enhance practical knowledge of food preservation, safety, and processing techniques, bridging the gap between academic learning and industry practices. The session began with a welcome address from Dr. Ambika Bhandari, followed by Dr. J. S. Yadav, who introduced the esteemed resource person, Ms. Richa Gupta, Proprietor of Verdanta Food Industry. Ms. Gupta led an in-depth discussion on key topics like post-harvest handling, food preservation methods (including refrigeration, freezing, and fermentation), and ensuring food safety through industry

standards such as GMPs and HACCP. The hands-on activity focused on the preparation of Aonla Jam and Aonla Candy, where students actively participated in the entire process—from selecting and washing the fruits to packing the final products. Students gained valuable insights into quality control measures, food processing, and the commercial potential of these products. The event successfully equipped students with practical skills essential for careers in the agribusiness and food industries. This seminar aligns with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), promoting sustainable food production and responsible food processing practices. The session concluded with a vote of thanks, and SOAS plans to host more such workshops to continue fostering industry-relevant skills in students.



Faculty and students of SOAS having photos at the end of the session with Mrs. Richa.

The Alumni Talk - Reconnect and Relive

Alumni Meet 2025, hosted by the School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS) at K.R. Mangalam University, was a remarkable event that successfully bridged the gap between past and present students. Held on March 26, 2025, at C-302, the event attracted 45 students eager to gain insights into career paths and industry trends. The event's goal was to foster meaningful connections, promote knowledge-sharing, and provide valuable mentorship, giving students the chance to engage directly with alumni who had once walked the same halls. The event began with a warm welcome from Pallavi and Prachi, third-year students, along with Dr. Ambika Bhandari, the event coordinator. It set the tone for an inspiring day, emphasizing the importance of alumni-student interaction in shaping future careers. Three distinguished alumni, Mr. Pranay Surha, Mr. Tufail, and Mr. Aamir, shared their personal journeys and career

experiences. Mr. Tufail, a field assistant at the DST project, offered advice on preparing for competitive exams and succeeding in government and corporate roles. Mr. Surha, an associate designer at Hexagram Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., shared how his time at KRMU helped him thrive in the design industry, encouraging students to stay engaged in their academic pursuits and seek internships. Mr. Aamir, a farm supervisor, emphasized the importance of adaptability, continuous learning, and building strong networks in today's evolving job market. A unique chat system allowed students to ask questions anonymously, encouraging participation and fostering an interactive environment. The event concluded with heartfelt mementos presented to the alumni in gratitude for their time and insights, marking the event as a highly successful platform for professional growth and community building.



Faculty members presenting memento to Mr. Pranay Surha (Batch 2020-24)





Students and Faculty members of SOAS with Alumni Mr. Pranay Surha, Mr. Aamir Khan & Mr. Tufail.

AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY CONNECT

Kisan Gosthi on Promotion of Quality Practices of Natural Farming and Agriculture Diversification



Vice Chancellor KRMU Prof. Raghuvir Singh welcoming all the farmers and participants.

School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, in collaboration with the Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran, Panchkula, organized a Kisan Gosthi on "Promotion of Quality Practices of Natural Farming and Agriculture Diversification" on 19th February 2025 at the university campus. The event aimed to provide farmers and students with valuable insights into sustainable agricultural practices, focusing on the benefits of natural farming and the need for diversification to enhance soil health, reduce risks, and improve farm income. The session commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Anjali Tomar, who emphasized the urgent need for sustainable farming in addressing environmental and economic challenges. The event was graced by Prof. Raghuvir Singh, Vice Chancellor, KRMU, who highlighted the role of education in promoting eco-friendly

agricultural transformation. Dr. J.S. Yadav, Dean of SOAS, spoke on how natural farming and crop diversification contribute to ecological balance and risk management. The event featured notable speakers such as Prof. Baljeet Saharan (CCSHAU, Hisar), Rao Mansingh, President, Kisan Club Gurugram, Mr. Sanjay Yadav, founder of Dharuhera Agro Organic Farm, Dr. Ravinder Singh Chauhan, CEO, Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran, and Dr. Bhagendra Singh from the DDA. The Kisan Gosthi underscored the importance of aligning agricultural practices with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by promoting food security, soil health, and farmer welfare. The successful organization of the event by Dr. Anjali Tomar, marks a significant step in fostering collaboration and awareness for a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future.



Farmers attending Kisan Gosthi Program





Faculty members of SOAS with Dean SOAS at the Kisan Gosthi event at KRMU

Case Study: Insect Fauna at Aravali Biodiversity Park, Gurugram and its impact on Ecosystem



Students are collecting insects through swiping net.

This case study was planned and executed by School of Agricultural Sciences. Objective of this study was to make students and other citizens to aware about environmental stewardship, empathy and social responsibility and civic engagement to understand the importance of wildlife in our ecosystem. The study is designed to understand the data-driven conservation strategies for protecting native insect species and their habitats, to support the preservation of endangered or vulnerable insect species and to highlight the role of urban biodiversity parks in enhancing quality of life and ecological sustainability in cities. Students of B. Sc. (H) Ag. I and III year were involved in this case study and was coordinated by Dr. Rabiya Basri. Visits were conducted for survey fortnightly of every month of even semester, 2024-2025 academic session. The Aravali Biodiversity Park, located in Gurugram, Haryana, spans over 380 acres and represents a restored arid ecosystem from the ancient Aravali Mountain range. Initiated in 2010 by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram and the NGO I am gurgaon, the park aims to reintroduce native flora and fauna to a severely degraded mining site. B. Sc. (H) Ag. students visited the premises of biodiversity park in process to conduct a case study on the

diverse insect fauna of the park and assess their impact on the ecosystem. This park is a significant ecological restoration initiative, serves as a habitat for numerous insect species that contribute to pollination, decomposition, herbivore and pest control, thereby maintaining ecological balance. This study was aimed to document the diversity of insect species present and study the ecological roles of these insects. We came across the insect species of Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Diptera and Orthoptera taxonomic orders. Insects were collected for the purpose of preservation and to rear in the laboratory to study further. Population dynamics of Insect fauna is very much correlated with the abiotic factors. Therefore, temperature is the key factor for regulating the numbers of species and their generations in particular time frame on respective flora. Limited number of insect fauna was observed and collected due to rising temperature. However, Students learned the relation between insect fauna and the vegetation in a free and natural forest ecosystem. Study will be carried out further in the second phase to determine the dynamics of insect fauna in different range of temperature especially under optimum and favourable environmental conditions.



Dr. Rabiya Basri is guiding students to identify the insects and their orders



Mealy bugs present on the leaf (Collected and brought to the laboratory)

FACULTY RESEARCH UPDATES

Book Chapter: We are proud to share that Dr. Ambika Bhandar and Dr. Anjali Tomar have recently published a book chapter titled “Harnessing Biodiversity for Resilient Organic Horticulture” with Golden Leaf Publications. This scholarly contribution highlights the critical role of biodiversity in strengthening organic horticultural practices and promoting sustainable agriculture.(Feb-2025)

*Principles of Organic Horticulture
for Sustainable Farming*

*ISBN- 978-93-48240-84-2
Golden Leaf Publishers*

Chapter 11

Harnessing Biodiversity for Resilient Organic Horticulture

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Abstract

Biodiversity is essential for building resilient, sustainable, and productive organic horticulture systems by enhancing ecological balance, improving soil fertility, increasing pest resistance, and strengthening climate adaptability. Research shows that farms integrating diverse crops, beneficial organisms, and habitat conservation experience 30% higher yields, 40% improved pest control, and 25% greater soil organic matter than monoculture farms. The adoption of agroecological approaches, such as intercropping, agroforestry, and cover cropping, ensures long-term farm sustainability by improving nutrient cycling, increasing carbon sequestration, and reducing climate vulnerabilities. Strengthening seed sovereignty through community seed banks and participatory breeding helps preserve genetic diversity and supports farmer independence. The role of pollinators in increasing fruit set and enhancing crop productivity underscores the need for maintaining diverse landscapes that provide nesting and foraging habitats. Implementing conservation strategies such as hedgerows, buffer zones, and rewilding native plant species not only promotes biodiversity but also stabilizes microclimates and prevents soil erosion. Strengthening farmer-led biodiversity initiatives through research institutions and knowledge-sharing platforms fosters innovation and accelerates the adoption of biodiversity-friendly organic farming practices. Expanding market opportunities for heirloom crops and nutrient-rich organic produce enhances farm profitability while reducing reliance on industrial food systems. Policy interventions that provide financial incentives, research funding, and organic certification programs can encourage biodiversity conservation in agriculture. Increasing consumer awareness about the benefits of biodiverse organic farming will drive demand for sustainably grown crops, ensuring long-term economic viability for farmers. The integration of ecological, economic, and social dimensions of biodiversity conservation will enhance food security, promote environmental health, and create self-sustaining farming communities. By embracing biodiversity-driven

Research Paper: The School of Agricultural Sciences proudly announces the publication of a research paper by Dr. Ambika Bhandari in the International Journal of Research in Agronomy. Her co-authored study, titled "Effect of pre-emergence herbicide and mulching on rabi wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) production, growth, and weed management," (Jan-2025)

International Journal of Research in Agronomy 2025; 8(3): 421-425



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Effect of pre-emergence herbicide and mulching on rabi wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) production, growth, and weed management

Premchand Chaurasiya, Pradeep Kumar, Ningaraj Belagalla, Ambika Bhandari, Sulochna, Pallabi Patra, Nandlal Singh, Santosh Kumar, Ankush Kumar Singh and Amit Kumar Patel

DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.33545/2618060X.2025.v8.i3f.2666>

Abstract

The experiment was conducted during the Rabi season of 2023-2024 at Dr. C.V Raman University's agronomy research farm in Vaishali, Bihar, India. The purpose of the experiment was to examine the effects of mulching and pre-emergence herbicide on weed dynamics, growth, and yield in wheat variety PBW-550. The study was set up using a Randomised Block Design, with three replications of each of the twelve treatments. Plastic mulching plus salsulfuron at 25 g a.i./ha pre-emergence and plastic mulching plus mesulfuron at 4g a.i./ha are the treatments. T2: Two-hand weeding and plastic mulching T4: Mulching with plastic + Control T5: 25 g a.i./ha of salsulfuron combined with straw mulch (paddy straw). T6: Mersulfuron + straw mulch (Paddy Straw) at 4g a.i./ha T7: Paddy straw mulch and two manual weeding. T8: Paddy straw (straw mulch) + Control Pre-emergence T9: Control + Salsulfuron at 25 g a.i./ha, T10: Control + Mersulfuron at 4g a.i./ha T12-Control and T11-Control plus Two-Hand Weeding. There was a significant increase in grain output (44.10 t/ha), gross returns (Rs. 2,61,491.45 /ha), net returns (Rs. 1,58,190 /ha), and benefit cost ratio (1.53) with the treatment (T-7) combination of straw mulch (Paddy Straw) + two hand weeding.

Keywords: Pre-emergence herbicide, mulching, rabi wheat

Introduction

For a nation to have food security, it must produce wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.), the grain that is most valued by the great majority of people on the planet. Weeds can decrease yield by 15% to 50% or more, depending on their density and dynamics (Sirazuddin *et al.*, 2016) [12]. Weeds include *Phalaris minor*, *Grasshopper indicum*, *Spilanthus calva*, *Polygonum plebeium*, *Avena fatua*, *Digitaria sanguinalis*, and *Cyperus rotundus* have supplanted the main weed flora in wheat (Rahaman and Mukherjee 2009; Pawar *et al.* 2017; Rana *et al.* 2017; Mondal and Duary 2009) [10, 9, 11, 8]. Mulching is crucial for increasing yield since it decreases weeds and improves the soil's capacity to retain water. Burning paddy plays a major role in air pollution by emitting greenhouse gases such as CO₂, CH₄, and NO₂, along with particulate matter, which negatively impacts soil quality (Buttar *et al.* 2022) [21]. Moreover, the ash produced from straw reduces the efficacy of several pre-emergence (PE) herbicides (Chhokar *et al.* 2009) [19]. Therefore, to limit weed density and development, we can apply the residue as mulch instead of setting it on fire. Utilizing rice leftovers as mulch helps to inhibit the emergence and growth of various weed species. Beyond controlling weed growth, straw mulch enhances the moisture level in the soil and boosts wheat production (Sidhu *et al.* 2007) [12]. Using herbicides by themselves, or just using leftover plant material as a cover, is not enough to control weeds effectively during the entire growing season (Chauhan and Abugho 2013) [20]. However, to boost crop yields in an eco-friendly manner, combining mulch with pesticides can help limit weed development (Fatima and Duary 2020; Fatima *et al.* 2021) [16, 7]. There is not much research on how typical weeds react to a method that combines herbicides and straw mulch. In light of this, the present study was conducted to collect information on the growth and population changes of several important weed species, along with the productivity and financial aspects of late-planted wheat using a mix of herbicides and straw mulch.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING BY STUDENTS

Rural Agricultural Work Experience and Agro-Industrial Attachment: A Transformative Journey of 4th Year Agricultural Science Students



Students with farmers during village survey

In the ever-evolving field of agriculture, experiential learning plays a pivotal role in shaping future agri-professionals. This year, the final-year students of the School of Agricultural Sciences embarked on an enriching journey through the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) and Agro-Industrial Attachment (AIA) programs. This combined 8-week experiential program provided an exceptional blend of academic learning and practical exposure, deeply rooting students in the realities of modern and traditional agriculture.

The RAWE Experience: From Theory to Practice

From 15th January to 19th February 2025, fifteen enthusiastic students — Yash Sharma, Abdul Qadir, Jyoti Rawat, Khushi Kalra, Sonal Goyal, Goutam Sharma, Parth, Yogesh Sharma, Anushka Rawat, Sakshi Singh, Ronak Sharma, Mayank Singhania, Waseem, Rihan Khan, and Afsha — participated in a comprehensive 5-week RAWE program at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ghaziabad, under the expert guidance of Dr. Pramod Kumar. The program offered immersive exposure to vital aspects of rural agriculture. Students engaged in village surveys, gaining firsthand

insights into farming practices, local socio-economic dynamics, and challenges. They contributed to vegetable nursery raising and herbal garden management, practiced natural and organic farming techniques, conducted soil testing, and prepared soil health cards, directly benefiting farmers. Moreover, they delved into livestock and fish-based interventions and explored advanced crop production techniques. The students also actively participated in extension activities organized by KVK, which added a dynamic outreach component to their learning. These included bee training at KVK Ghaziabad, an exhibition at HRI University, the Krishi Vigyan Mela at ICAR, Pusa, Delhi, and insightful visits to the Natural Farming Testing Centre at Gurukul, Kurukshetra and IBDC, Kurukshetra. Their participation in the 11th Vegetable Mega Expo at Gharonda, Karnal showcased innovative approaches and technologies in vegetable production. This hands-on engagement not only enhanced the students' technical skills but also instilled in them a profound understanding of rural realities, community engagement, and the importance of integrating modern science with traditional wisdom.

The AIA Experience: Learning from Industry Leaders

Continuing their journey, from 20th February to 12th March 2025, the students transitioned to a 3-week Agro-Industrial Attachment (AIA) at Manju Innovative Organic I.F.S. Farm, Duhai, Ghaziabad, guided by Ms. Manju Rani Kashyap. This phase offered students an in-depth understanding of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)- a holistic approach that integrates multiple farm enterprises for resource

optimization and sustainability.

At the AIA site, students gained practical skills in cultivating seasonal fruits and vegetables, fishery practices, poultry management, and ornamental plant production. This unique opportunity allowed them to witness and participate in real-world applications of IFS models, providing valuable lessons in sustainable and diversified farming — essential for modern agribusiness and entrepreneurial ventures.



Students at Fishery Farm with Expert

A Lasting Impact

The combined RAW and AIA program of 8 weeks, have left an indelible mark on the students' academic and professional journeys. These experiences have not only bridged the gap between theory and practice but also empowered them with the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to

navigate the complexities of today's agricultural landscape. The School of Agricultural Sciences takes immense pride in the dedication and enthusiasm shown by these future agri-leaders. Their journey is a testament to the power of hands-on learning and the critical role of agricultural education in nation-building.



Students at Poultry unit with Expert.

STUDENTS' CORNER



Digital Poster on "Zero Waste Farming- Key Elements" prepared by:

Bhanu Pratap Singh,

Student of B. Sc. (Hons.) Ag. II year

Food Security & Agriculture

ESSENCIAL ROLE OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is crucial for providing food, employing billions globally, and supporting economies, particularly in rural areas.



ISHA PATEL
B.SC.(HONS.)AG.
1ST YEAR

Challenges to Food Security

Climate change, water scarcity, and soil degradation threaten food production, impacting the availability and stability of food supplies.

Sustainable Practices

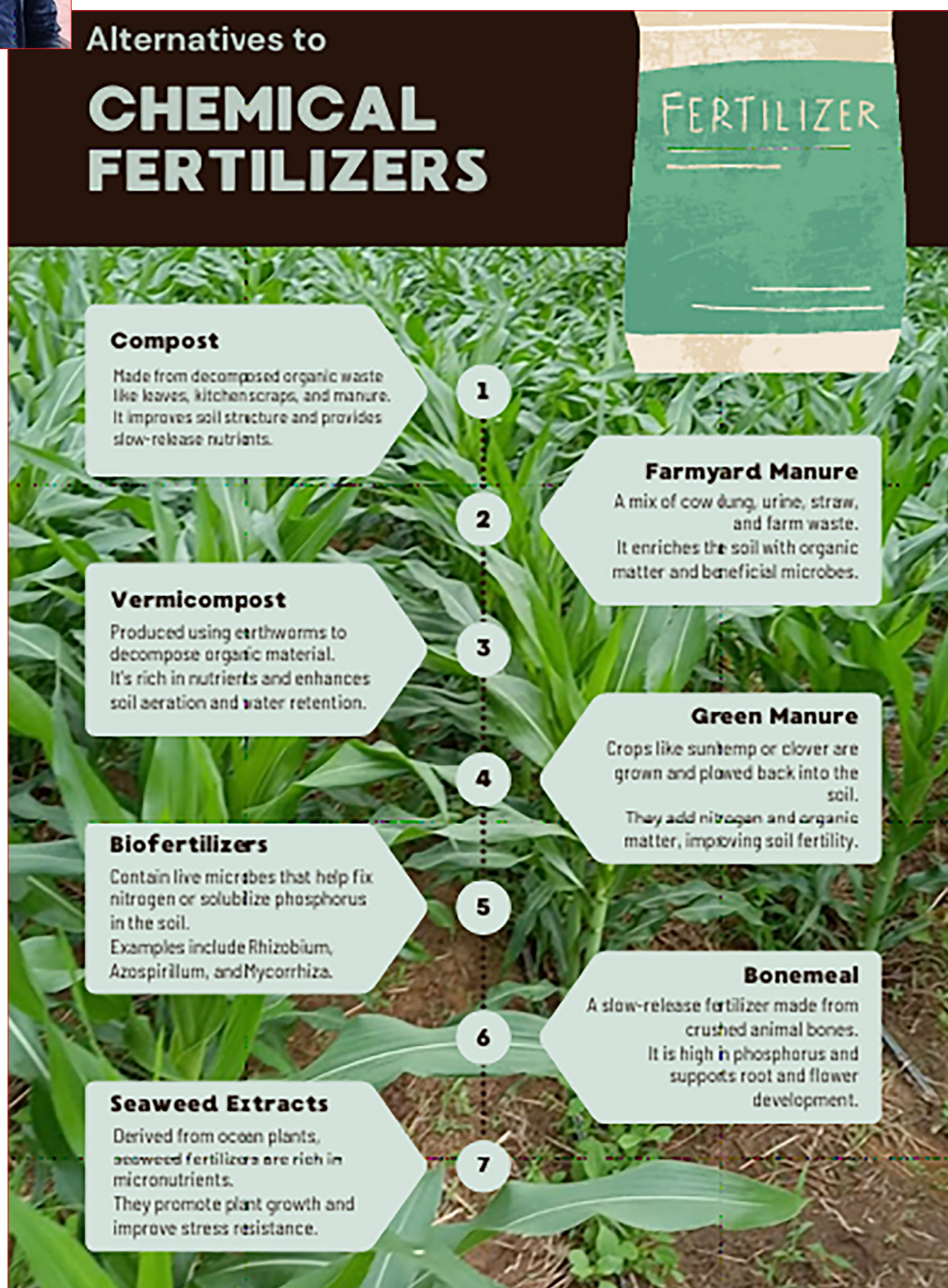
Techniques like crop rotation, agroforestry, and organic farming enhance soil health and biodiversity, ensuring long-term agricultural productivity.

Innovative Solutions

Technologies such as precision agriculture and hydroponics improve efficiency, reduce waste, and enhance resilience, helping meet the growing global food demand.



Digital poster on Alternatives to Chemical Fertilizers: **Shivjeet Singh**,
Student of B. Sc. (Hons.) Ag. I year



THOUGHTS FROM FACULTY MEMBERS

I am truly honored to share my thoughts in this edition, highlighting the transformative power of agricultural extension and communication in shaping the future of our rural communities. Agricultural extension serves as a vital bridge between research institutions and the farming community, ensuring that innovations, scientific knowledge, and sustainable practices are effectively translated into real-world applications. In a time when agriculture faces mounting challenges - from climate change to food insecurity and population pressure - the role of extension becomes more crucial than ever. Through strategic communication and knowledge dissemination, we can foster stronger collaboration, build resilience, and empower farmers with the tools they need to adapt, innovate, and prosper. Extension professionals play an indispensable role - not just in enhancing productivity - but in driving inclusive growth, environmental stewardship, and rural transformation. Let us continue to support and strengthen agricultural extension



Dr. Anjali Tomar
Assistant Professor, SOAS.

efforts as a pathway to a more secure, sustainable, and equitable future for all.

INTERNSHIP/ TRAINING

Hands-on Learning at Krishi Vigyan Kendra

The School of Agricultural Sciences is proud to announce the successful completion of a 5-week internship by its final-year students at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Muradnagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, from 15th January to 19th February 2025. This internship program, designed

to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world agricultural practices, offered students an invaluable opportunity to engage with the agricultural community and gain hands-on experience in diverse aspects of farming and rural development.

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA
MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD (U.P.)
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology Meerut-250110 (U.P.)
(ICAR - ATARI ZONE-III)

RAWE CERTIFICATE

This is Certify that Yash Sharma Student of B.Sc. Ag. (Hons.) Agricultural Science at School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana, India attached with K.V.K. Ghaziabad (U.P.). From 15/01/2025 to 19/02/2025 for Fulfillment of RAWE Course. During this attachment following Components Covered in RAWE Period -

1. Village Survey Work (Dhondhe & Pursi)	6. Livestock - Fish Interventions.
2. Integrated Farming System Module.	7. Crop Production
3. Veg Nursery Raising and Herbal Garden.	8. Extension Activities (Exhibitions, Seminar Experiments, Diagnostic Visit Kisan Mela)
4. Natural and Organic Farming.	
5. Soil Testing and Soil Health Card.	

During this period His/Her Conduct Appreciable and She/He Successful Completed RAWE Work
We wish him for bright future.

(Pallavi Chaudhary)
RAWE Incharge
KVK, Ghaziabad

(Pramod Kumar)
Officer Incharge
KVK, Ghaziabad

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA
MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD (U.P.)
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KVK, Ghaziabad

(Pramod Kumar)
Officer Incharge
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MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD (U.P.)
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KVK, Ghaziabad

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RAWE Incharge
KVK, Ghaziabad

(Pramod Kumar)
Officer Incharge
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KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA
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(Pallavi Chaudhary)
RAWE Incharge
KVK, Ghaziabad

(Pramod Kumar)
Officer Incharge
KVK, Ghaziabad

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA
MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD (U.P.)
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KVK, Ghaziabad

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MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD (U.P.)
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MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD (U.P.)
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4. Natural and Organic Farming.	
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During this period His/Her Conduct Appreciable and She/He Successful Completed RAWE Work
We wish him for bright future.

(Pallavi Chaudhary)
RAWE Incharge
KVK, Ghaziabad

(Pramod Kumar)
Officer Incharge
KVK, Ghaziabad

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA
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RAWE CERTIFICATE

This is Certify that **Ronak Sharma** Student of B.Sc. Ag. (Hons.) Agricultural Science at School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana, India attached with K.V.K. Ghaziabad (U.P.). From 15/01/2025 to 19/02/2025 for Fulfillment of RAWE Course. During this attachment following Components Covered in RAWE Period -

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