



K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
THE COMPLETE WORLD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



NEWSLETTER JULY TO SEPTEMBER

2025

S.No	CONTENT PAGE
1	From the Editor's Desk..... 4
2	From the Desk of IQAC Coordinator..... 5
3	Words from Leadership..... 6
4	Message from the Dean..... 7
5	School Vision and Mission..... 8
6	Faculty Achievements 9
7	Students Achievements..... 11
8	Initiatives by School..... 17
9	Krishi Vikas..... 18
10	Events..... 20
11	Agriculture and Community Connect..... 25
12	Faculty Research Updates..... 26
13	Students Corner..... 28
14	Thoughts from Faculty Members..... 31
15	Internship..... 32
16	Alumni..... 33

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dear Readers,

It gives me immense pleasure to present the new edition of the School of Agricultural Sciences Newsletter for the July–September 2025 session. This quarterly publication continues to highlight the vibrant academic, research, and outreach activities that define our school's dynamic learning environment.

During the past three months, our faculty, students, and staff have shown remarkable dedication, innovation, and excellence across various domains of agricultural sciences. This issue shows key highlights from research breakthroughs and field visits to workshops, seminars, and notable student achievements: that contribute significantly to the agricultural sector.

In this edition, you will find engaging articles on emerging areas such as the use of drones in agriculture, precision farming, innovative pest-management strategies, soil conservation, and advancements in agri-tech. Our faculty and students have been actively involved in projects, field-based learning, and capacity-building programs, all of which reflect our commitment to meaningful agricultural progress. We also feature inspiring stories from our alumni, celebrating their contributions and success in the field.

As we move into a new academic and cropping season, we hope this newsletter serves not only as a record of our accomplishments but also as a source of motivation and connection for our academic community. We trust that you will find the contents informative and insightful.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to bringing you more enriching and thought-provoking content in the coming editions.

Warm regards,

Dr. Anjali Tomar

Editor-in-chief & Assistant Professor

School of Agricultural Sciences

K. R. Mangalam University

FROM THE DESK OF IQAC COORDINATOR



Dear Readers,

I am delighted to share this message for the new edition of the School of Agricultural Sciences Newsletter for July-September 2025. This publication showcases the school's dedication to academic excellence, innovation, and impactful community engagement. I extend my appreciation to the editorial team for presenting a thoughtful compilation of the school's initiatives and accomplishments from this quarter.

At the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), our mission is to foster a culture of continuous improvement, institutional integrity, and quality-driven growth across the university. We strive to cultivate an environment where academic innovation, student-centric practices, and socially responsive actions work in harmony. It is encouraging to see that the School of Agricultural Sciences continues to uphold these principles through its active and future-focused endeavours.

The enthusiastic involvement of students and faculty in diverse academic activities, experiential learning opportunities, research pursuits, and collaborative engagements highlights the school's commitment to developing competent and globally aware agricultural professionals. This newsletter reflects not just the events of the past three months, but the collective spirit of progress, creativity, and excellence that defines the school.

I hope readers view this edition as a source of insight and inspiration. May it encourage all stakeholders to contribute proactively to our shared vision of academic advancement and meaningful societal impact.

Let us move forward with renewed dedication, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to quality.

Warm regards,

Editor

Dr. Shikha Dutt Sharma

IQAC Coordinator

WORDS FROM LEADERSHIP



The School of Agricultural Sciences at K.R. Mangalam University has been steadily advancing in the areas of education, research, and community engagement. Drawing inspiration from India's timeless agricultural traditions while embracing modern scientific innovations, the School is committed to fostering experiential learning, impactful research, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Research lies at the heart of agricultural transformation. It is encouraging to see our faculty and students actively engaged in exploring solutions for sustainable farming, agribusiness development, and rural livelihood enhancement. Their scholarly efforts not only strengthen our academic ecosystem but also align closely with national agricultural priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As we move forward, I extend my best wishes to our academic community to continue this journey with dedication and purpose. Let us collectively reaffirm our commitment to contributing meaningfully to agriculture, rural development, and societal well-being, in the true spirit of service and innovation.

Prof (Dr.) Seema Raj

Dean, Research

K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Readers,

It gives me great pride and pleasure to share with you the edition of our newsletter for the July to September 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 endeavours. 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

We are proud to share that Dr. Deepak Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, has been honoured with the Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing by the Journal of Advances in Biology & Biotechnology on 18th September 2025.

This prestigious recognition acknowledges his outstanding

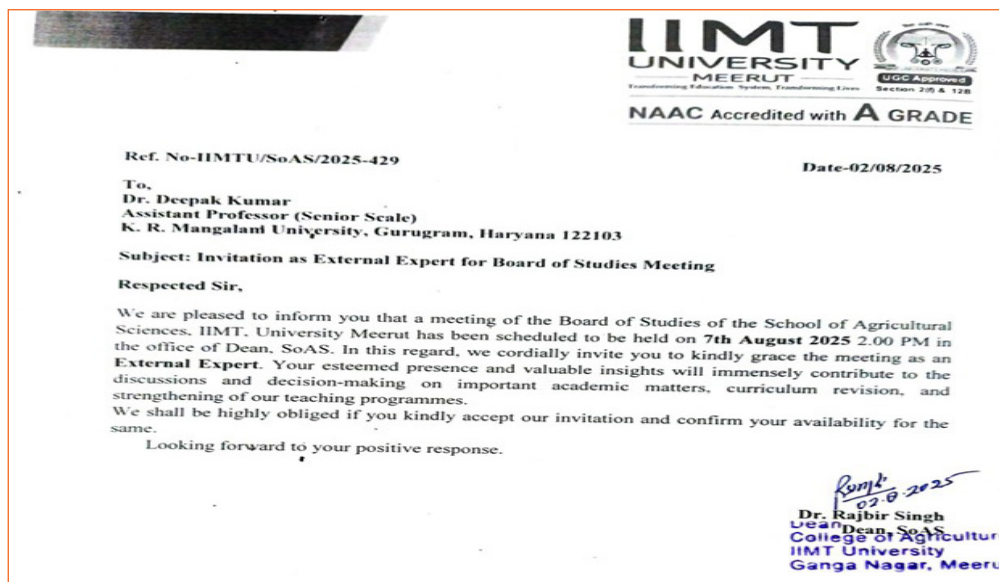
contribution to maintaining and enhancing the quality of scholarly publications through rigorous and insightful peer review. Such achievements not only reflect Dr. Kumar's commitment to academic excellence but also bring great prestige to the school, reinforcing our continued efforts toward fostering a strong research and publication culture.



EXTERNAL EXPERT

We are pleased to share that Dr. Deepak Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, was invited to serve as an External Expert for the Board of Studies (BoS) meeting at IIMT University, Meerut, held on 7 August 2025. His participation in the academic deliberations reflects his expertise and growing recognition in the field

of agricultural sciences. Dr. Kumar contributed valuable insights toward curriculum enhancement and academic planning, strengthening inter-institutional collaboration and reinforcing our school's commitment to academic excellence and quality education.



BEST ACADEMICIAN AWARD

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Rabiya Basri, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, has been honored with the Best Academician Award-2025 by the Executive Committee of AETDS. This prestigious recognition was awarded during the World Congress on “Climate Change and Its Effects (CCIE-2025)”, held at Central College, Kathmandu, Nepal, from 6-8 September 2025. Dr. Basri received this accolade for her outstanding contributions and impactful work in the field of Entomology.



PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING-CUM-SUMMER SCHOOL

We are pleased to share that Dr. Ambika Bhandari, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, successfully completed the 30-Day International Agriculture Training-cum-Summer School on Natural Farming and Emerging Technologies (AI, Drones, IoT), held from 16 August to 16 September 2025 in hybrid mode. Jointly organized by prominent national and international agricultural institutions: including ICAR, Gujarat Natural Farming Science University, Kerala Agricultural University, and several global research organizations, the program focused on sustainable agriculture, modern technological interventions, and advanced farming systems. Dr. Bhandari’s active participation demonstrates her commitment to continuous learning and contributes significantly to the school’s vision of integrating innovation with agricultural education.



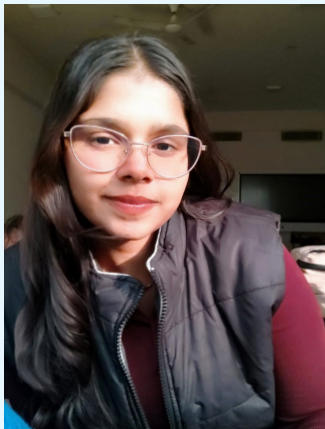
STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

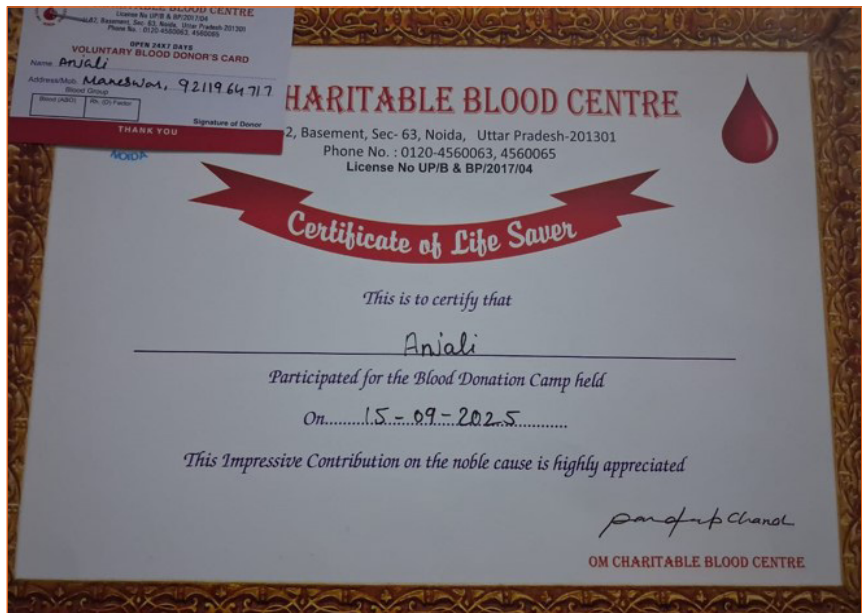
Students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture actively participated in a Blood Donation Drive organized by Om Charitable Blood Centre, Noida, Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with K.R. Mangalam University on 15 September 2025, with the objective of promoting social responsibility and humanitarian values among youth. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting the students' commitment to

serving society and contributing to a noble cause.

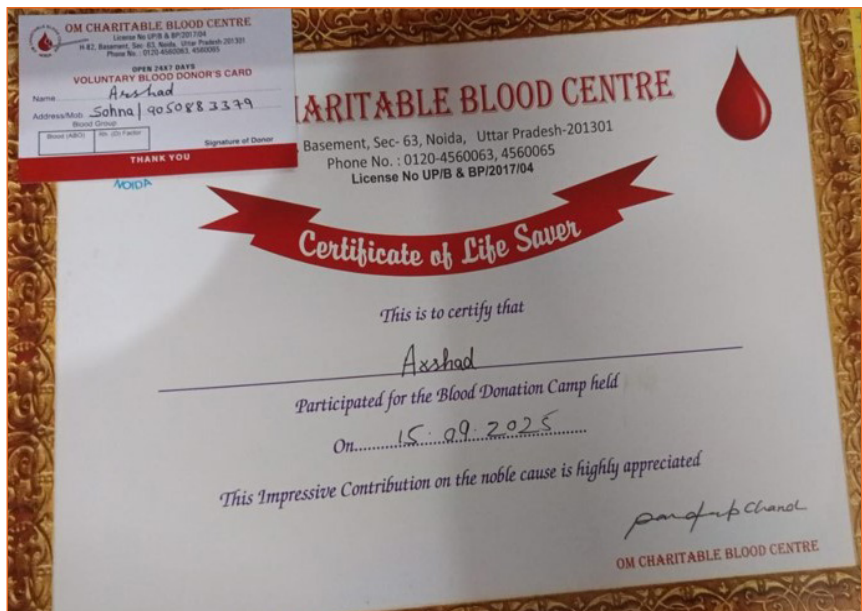
Our students voluntarily donated blood during the drive, setting an inspiring example of compassion, empathy, and civic responsibility. Their selfless act not only supports those in medical need but also encourages others to come forward and participate in such life-saving initiatives.



Ms. Anjali
Student of B.Sc. (Hons.)
Agriculture- 1st Year

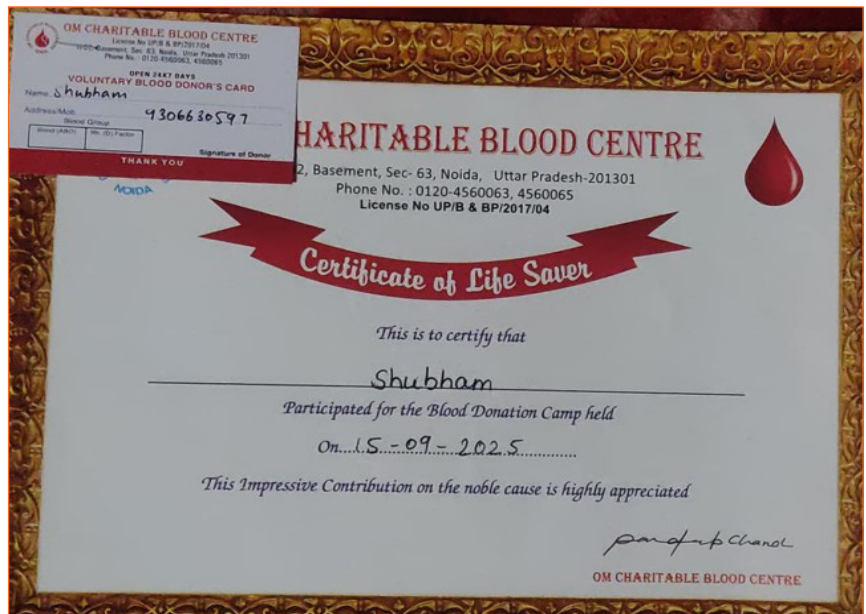


Mr. Arshad
Student of B.Sc. (Hons.)
Agriculture- 1st Year





Mr. Shubham
Student of B.Sc. (Hons.)
Agriculture- 1st Year



STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN “TRASH AND TREASURE” SERIES-II

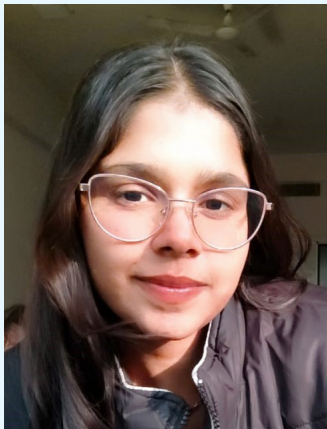
Students from the School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University actively participated in the “Trash and Treasure” Series-II, an initiative aimed at promoting creativity, sustainability, and environmental responsibility by transforming waste materials into useful and innovative products.

The enthusiastic participation of students demonstrated their commitment to environmental awareness and responsible practices. Student’s was awarded a Certificate of Participation by the Office of the Dean Student Welfare in recognition of her active involvement in the program.



Ms. Anupriya
Student of B.Sc. (Hons.)
Agriculture- 1st Year





Ms. Anjali
Student of B.Sc. (Hons.)
Agriculture- 1st Year



Ms. Priya
Student of B.Sc. (Hons.)
Agriculture- 1st Year



STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL-LEVEL ONLINE QUIZ (VBYLD 2026)

Shivjeet Singh II Year Student of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, KRMU, successfully participated in the Online Quiz on “Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026”, organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, through the MYBharat platform.

The quiz aimed to create awareness and encourage youth engagement in nation-building initiatives, leadership development, and the vision of a Viksit Bharat. The

participation reflects the student’s enthusiasm, awareness of national development goals, and commitment to contributing positively towards society.

The institution appreciates the active involvement of the student in such national-level initiatives that promote leadership, civic responsibility, and informed youth participation.



STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON MICROBIOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES

Students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, III semester from the School of Agricultural Sciences actively participated in the Capacity Development Program on “Awareness on Trends and Technology of Microbiological Techniques with a Glimpse into Crop Stress Solutions” from 12 September to 10 October 2025, reflecting keen interest in emerging

microbiological tools and their applications in addressing crop stress and sustainable agriculture. The program aimed to enhance students’ technical knowledge, practical understanding, and awareness of recent advancements in microbiological techniques relevant to agricultural sciences.

All the participants were awarded a Certificate of Participation for successfully completing the program.







INITIATIVES BY SCHOOL

GREEN ROOTS PLANTATION DRIVE: CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH MEDICINAL AND HERBAL BIODIVERSITY

In a meaningful step toward environmental sustainability and ecological education, the School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS) and Environment Club, K.R. Mangalam University, organized a campus-wide plantation initiative titled “Green Roots Plantation Drive” on September 06, 2025. Conducted under the aegis of the Environment Club, the initiative reflected SOAS’s commitment to integrating environmental stewardship with academic learning and community participation.

Amid growing global concerns related to deforestation, climate change, and biodiversity loss, the Green Roots Plantation Drive emerged as a proactive response aimed at restoring ecological balance and strengthening green cover within the university campus. The activity was carried out across prominent green zones of the campus, including the Agriculture Farm and Herbal Garden, which were transformed into vibrant living spaces supporting sustainability, conservation, and experiential learning.

A Focus on Medicinal and Herbal Diversity

A distinctive feature of the initiative was its emphasis on planting more than 40 species of medicinal, herbal, native, and fruit-bearing plants across the campus. These species were carefully selected to promote biodiversity, support pollinators, enhance soil health, and preserve valuable medicinal flora. The plantation of such diverse species also aimed to create long-term ecological benefits, including carbon sequestration, microclimate regulation, and improved air quality.

The drive commenced at 1:30 PM with an opening address by Dr. Jay Nath Patel, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences and Co-Convenor of the Environment Club. In his address, Dr. Patel highlighted the importance of individual responsibility and collective action in environmental conservation. He emphasized that plantation activities should be viewed as a sustained commitment to nurturing life and protecting natural resources rather than a one-day symbolic effort.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Several medicinal and herbal species—including Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*), Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), Ashok (*Saraca asoca*), Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Black Plum (*Syzygium cumini*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), and multiple native and ornamental plants—were planted during the drive. Through interactive discussions, participants gained insights into concepts such as carbon sequestration, microclimate moderation, and the role of green cover in mitigating air

pollution.

An important highlight of the initiative was encouraging participants to “adopt” saplings and take responsibility for their care, fostering a sense of ownership and long-term engagement with the campus environment. This approach strengthened the connection between environmental awareness and practical action.

Impact and Way Forward

The Green Roots Plantation Drive successfully enriched the campus landscape while instilling a deeper understanding of sustainability and ecological responsibility among participants. The initiative strengthened collaboration among students and faculty, promoted experiential learning, and laid a strong foundation for future green initiatives led by SOAS.

Conclusion

More than a plantation activity, the Green Roots Plantation Drive stood as a reflection of SOAS’s vision to harmonize education, ecology, and community engagement. By planting over 40 species of medicinal and herbal plants across the campus, the initiative contributed meaningfully to biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. The drive reaffirmed K.R. Mangalam University’s commitment to creating a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future—where learning extends beyond classrooms and into the living environment that surrounds it.



Hands-on plantation activity promoting teamwork and sustainability on campus.



Students and faculty planting saplings during the Green Roots Plantation Drive

KRISHI VIKAS

STRENGTHENING FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS (FPOS) THROUGH EXTENSION INTERVENTIONS

Introduction

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) have emerged as a powerful institutional platform for empowering small and marginal farmers in India. With nearly 86% of farmers operating on small landholdings, individual farming often limits access to quality inputs, technology, credit, and markets. FPOs bridge this gap by enabling farmers to work collectively and build stronger market presence. In this context, Extension Education plays a central role in strengthening FPOs through capacity building, knowledge dissemination, and institutional support. Strong extension interventions ensure that FPOs evolve from basic producer groups into sustainable, market-oriented farmer enterprises.

Why FPOs Need Extension Support

Although FPOs have great potential, many face challenges such as limited managerial skills, weak governance, inadequate exposure to modern technology, and lack of market information. Extension services can help FPO members and leaders acquire the skills, confidence, and knowledge required to run professional farmer-led organizations. By guiding them in production, management, and marketing, extension personnel help FPOs become more resilient and competitive in a fast-changing agricultural landscape.

Key Extension Interventions



Dr. Anjali Tomar
Assistant Professor
(Agri. Extension Education)

1. Capacity Building and Leadership Development

Extension agencies enhance the managerial strength of FPOs by training members in leadership, financial management, business planning, and group dynamics. Exposure visits further improve understanding and encourage democratic, transparent functioning.

2. Dissemination of Modern Technologies

Extension systems update farmers on improved seeds, precision farming, digital tools, climate-smart practices, and better post-harvest techniques. This helps increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve product quality.

3. Market Linkages and Value Chain Development

Extension workers guide FPOs in understanding market needs, adopting grading and packaging, forming buyer linkages, and using e-NAM and digital trading platforms. This boosts bargaining power and ensures better prices for farmers.

4. Access to Government Schemes and Institutional Support

Extension personnel connect FPOs with NABARD, SFAC, subsidies, credit schemes, crop insurance, and digital finance systems. These linkages help FPOs expand and operate efficiently.

5. Strengthening Social Capital and Inclusivity

Extension initiatives build trust and cooperation within FPOs by promoting member participation, women and youth involvement, transparency, and farmer-to-farmer learning—ensuring long-term stability and growth.

Impact of Extension Interventions on FPO Growth

Well-designed extension efforts lead to several positive

outcomes:

- Improved managerial efficiency and organizational health
- Higher adoption of modern technologies
- Better quality produce and reduced production costs
- Increased access to credit and investment
- Stronger market presence and higher price realization
- Reduced vulnerability to market and climate risks

Ultimately, these benefits translate into higher farmer income and improved rural livelihoods.

Conclusion

FPOs are a cornerstone for transforming Indian agriculture into a more inclusive, competitive, and resilient sector. Extension interventions play a decisive role in equipping FPOs with knowledge, skills, linkages, and institutional strength. By integrating modern technology, building market intelligence, and fostering strong leadership, extension systems ensure that FPOs grow into successful farmer-owned enterprises. Strengthening FPOs through effective extension support is not just an organizational need—it is a pathway to securing the future of millions of small and marginal farmers and driving sustainable rural development.

SEEDS OF CHANGE: HOW HORTICULTURE REDEFINES MODERN LIVING

Introduction

Horticulture has become a cornerstone of sustainable development in an increasingly urbanized and resource-constrained world. It supports diverse sectors including food production, environmental conservation, landscaping, and human wellness. With innovations in production systems and renewed focus on sustainability, horticulture is at the center of modern ecological and urban transformation.

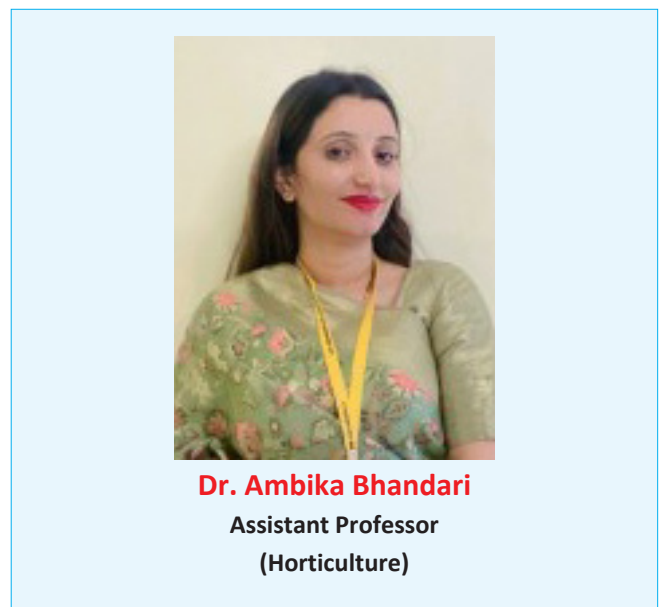
A Greener Approach to Food Production

Horticulture ensures access to nutrient-rich fruits, vegetables, herbs, and nuts essential for human health. Unlike large-scale agriculture that prioritizes monoculture, horticulture fosters crop diversity and higher nutritional quality.

Technologies such as

- hydroponics,
- aeroponics,
- vertical farming, and
- controlled-environment agriculture (CEA)

enable continuous production in urban spaces with minimal land and water use (Resh, 2020). These methods improve availability of fresh produce, reduce transport emissions, and enhance urban food resilience.



Dr. Ambika Bhandari
Assistant Professor
(Horticulture)

Horticulture and Urban Well-Being

Green infrastructure plays a vital role in enhancing mental and physical health. Parks, botanical gardens, community gardens, and green roofs reduce stress, improve air quality, and foster social interaction. Studies show that exposure to green spaces significantly lowers anxiety and boosts cognitive performance. Urban horticulture integrates

nature into built environments, transforming dense cities into livable ecosystems.

Driving Sustainability and Climate Resilience

Horticulture contributes to climate mitigation through ecological landscaping, tree planting, and sustainable soil practices. Organic horticulture reduces reliance on synthetic inputs, enhances biodiversity, and improves soil structure.

Horticultural systems also help communities adapt to climate change by:

- conserving water through drip irrigation,
- using drought-tolerant plant species,
- restoring degraded soils, and
- promoting carbon sequestration.

These practices strengthen environmental resilience at local and global scales.

Innovation at the Heart of Horticulture

Modern horticulture incorporates technologies such as:

- AI-based crop monitoring,
- drones for field imaging,
- sensor-controlled irrigation, and

- biotechnological breeding for disease resistance.

Precision horticulture increases efficiency by giving each plant optimal care, reducing resource waste and improving yield. Such advancements are shaping the next generation of sustainable production systems.

Growing Economic Opportunities

Horticulture supports millions of jobs globally—from nurseries and floriculture to agro-processing and landscape architecture. The growing demand for organic produce, ornamental plants, and wellness-focused gardening products fuels economic growth, particularly in developing regions. Urban-based horticulture businesses such as microgreens farms, plant boutiques, and eco-landscaping startups are reshaping the green economy.

Conclusion

Horticulture is more than cultivation; it is a transformative force shaping modern societies. Through sustainable practices, technological innovation, and urban integration, horticulture enhances food security, environmental resilience, and human well-being. As global challenges intensify, horticulture plants the seeds for a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future.

EVENTS

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR STUDENT'S

School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS), K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, organized a training program on “Professional Ethics” for the students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture on 26 August 2025. The training was conducted with the objective of sensitizing students to the importance of ethical values in academic life and preparing them for responsible professional conduct in the future.

The training commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Anjali Tomar, who introduced the theme of professional ethics and highlighted its relevance in students’ academic life. She emphasized that ethics is not limited to rules and regulations but is about developing strong moral values that help individuals gain respect, trust, and long-term success in society.

The session was conducted by the Resource Person, Dr. Neha Sharma, who delivered an engaging and insightful presentation on various aspects of professional ethics. She discussed the significance of ethical behaviour in decision-making, punctuality, academic sincerity, and respectful

communication.

An interactive discussion followed the presentation, during which students actively participated, shared their views, and discussed ethical challenges commonly faced in academic and social settings. The training concluded with an open question-and-answer session and an Ethics Pledge, where students collectively committed themselves to upholding ethical values throughout their academic and professional journey.

The training proved to be highly beneficial for students, as it enhanced their understanding of ethical values, strengthened their decision-making skills, and prepared them to handle ethical dilemmas with confidence and fairness. Overall, the program served as a strong foundation for instilling ethical awareness among students at the beginning of their academic life. By reinforcing the importance of professional ethics, the initiative contributed significantly to nurturing responsible future professionals and promoting a culture of integrity at K.R. Mangalam University.



Event coordinator felicitating the resource person



Resource person - Students interaction

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT'S

The School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University organized a training programme on "Code of Conduct" for newly admitted students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture on 26 August 2025. Conducted as part of the orientation programme, the session aimed to familiarize students with the university's academic culture, ethical framework, and behavioural expectations, thereby laying a strong foundation for a disciplined and responsible academic journey.

Aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), the initiative reflected the university's commitment to inclusive, equitable, and value-based higher education. The programme emphasized that education extends beyond classroom instruction and plays a crucial role in shaping integrity, accountability, and social awareness.

The session commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Anjali Tomar, who introduced students to the vision and ethos of the university and the School of Agricultural Sciences. She

highlighted the importance of discipline, mutual respect, and ethical conduct in fostering a positive and professional learning environment.

The core session was delivered by Dr. Ambika Bhandari, who provided a comprehensive overview of the university's Code of Conduct. She explained behavioural expectations including academic sincerity, punctuality, cleanliness, respectful interaction, and adherence to professional dress norms. She also outlined institutional policies regarding the prohibition of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and misuse of university facilities, along with the consequences of misconduct.

The interactive nature of the programme encouraged students to engage in discussions and reflect on real-life campus scenarios. Case-based examples helped them understand the practical relevance of institutional guidelines. The session concluded with students expressing their commitment to uphold the university's values, reinforcing the institution's dedication to nurturing responsible and ethically grounded future professionals.



Dr. Anjali Tomar felicitating the resource person



Glimpses from training of Code of Conduct

DEEKSHARAMBH 2025: STUDENT INDUCTION PROGRAMME

The School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, inaugurated DEEKSHARAMBH 2025, the Student Induction Programme from 25th August to 29th August 2025, for newly admitted B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students, with a well-planned Day-1 schedule focusing on academic orientation, institutional awareness, digital readiness, and student engagement.

The day began with Session 1: Welcome and Familiarisation to the School of Agricultural Sciences, where Prof. (Dr.) J. S. Yadav, Dean, SOAS, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the importance of agriculture in national development, sustainability, and food security. Dr. Deepak Kumar, Programme Coordinator, introduced students to the vision and mission of the school, curriculum framework aligned with NEP 2020, evaluation methods, and learning resources such as laboratories, research farms, greenhouses, library facilities, and digital platforms. Students were also informed about co-curricular activities, student clubs, experiential learning, and SDG-based academic initiatives.

Session 2: Introduction to Faculty, Course In-charges and Mentors focused on building strong teacher-student relationships. Faculty members were introduced along with their academic roles and areas of expertise, while course in-charges explained subject structures and assessment patterns. The mentor-mentee system was explained to ensure continuous academic guidance, career counselling, and personal support. An interactive exchange allowed students to introduce themselves and share their expectations.

In Session 3: Orientation to KRMU MOODLE LMS and Serosoft, Dr. Rabiya Basri conducted a hands-on demonstration of the university's digital learning and administrative platforms. Students were guided on accessing course materials, submitting assignments, tracking academic progress, and

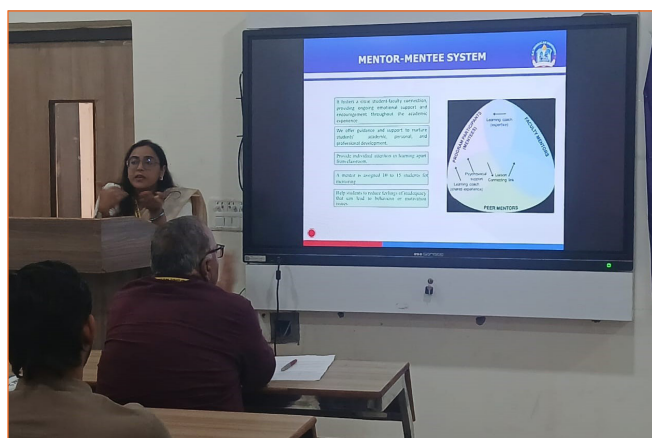


Welcome address by Dr. Deepak Kumar, Programme Coordinator, SOAS

managing academic records, ensuring digital readiness for their academic journey.

Session 4: Ice-Breaking Activities was designed to encourage peer interaction and ease initial inhibitions. Activities such as Two Truths and a Lie, Human Bingo, and reflection exercises promoted communication, teamwork, and confidence among students. The session created a friendly and energetic atmosphere, helping students feel comfortable within the new academic environment.

The day concluded with Session 5: Introduction to the Career Development Centre (CDC) and International Relations Office. The CDC team briefed students on career counselling, skill development programmes, internships, industry collaborations, and placement support. The International Relations Office highlighted global learning opportunities including student exchange programmes, international collaborations, summer schools, and research partnerships, encouraging students to develop a global outlook



Introduction to Mentor-Mentee System



Students Receiving Prize during Ice-breaking Session



CDC Session



Students and Faculty of SOAS During Ice-breaking Session

Day 2 : 26th August 2025

The second day of DEEKSHARAMBH 2025, organized by the School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, was designed to inculcate values, ensure student safety, promote ethical conduct, and encourage self-expression among newly admitted B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture students. The sessions focused on creating a safe, disciplined, and supportive learning environment while fostering confidence and emotional resilience.

The day began with a session on Student Grievance Redressal, Discipline, and Anti-Ragging Measures, conducted by Dr. Gajraj Yadav. Students were sensitized about the grievance redressal mechanism, university discipline policy, and the institution's zero-tolerance approach towards ragging. The session reassured students of a safe, inclusive campus and encouraged them to seek support whenever required.

The post-lunch session featured a lively Talent Hunt, providing students a platform to showcase their creativity and skills. Performances included dance, ramp walk, physical fitness demonstrations, storytelling, shayari, and stand-up comedy. The event fostered confidence, teamwork, and camaraderie, creating a joyful and energetic atmosphere among students and faculty.



Dr. Gajraj delivering presentation in student grievance, discipline and anti-ragging

The day concluded with an interactive session on "How to Handle Peer Pressure", conducted by Dr. Ambika Bhandari and faculty members. The session addressed both positive and negative aspects of peer influence and equipped students with practical strategies to manage pressure, such as assertive communication, choosing positive peer groups, stress management techniques, and seeking guidance from mentors. A question-and-answer segment further helped students clarify concerns related to stress, anxiety, and decision-making.



Student's watching movie and having refreshments



Dr. Neha Sharma and Dr. Anjali Tomar addressing students in the Professional Ethics session



Dr. Ambika, Dr. Anjali Tomar, and Dr. Jay Nath encouraging students for growth



Student's receiving prizes during Talent Hunt

Day 3: 27th August 2025

The third day of DEEKSHARAMBH 2025, organized by the School of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, focused on inspiring students through real-life experiences, strengthening career awareness, encouraging creativity, and promoting social sensitivity and values essential for holistic development.

The day began with Session 1: Alumni Connect – Inspiring Journey Beyond the Campus, where distinguished alumni Mr. Tufail, Mr. Rihan Khan, and Mr. Abdul Qadir shared their academic journeys and professional experiences. They highlighted the importance of discipline, time management, skill development, internships, and perseverance in achieving career goals. The session provided students with practical insights into career planning, competitive examinations, and industry expectations, while strengthening the bond between alumni and the institution.

This was followed by Session 2: Industry Expert Lecture, delivered by Mr. Vinay Tripathi, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Gurgaon. The lecture offered valuable insights into the role of NABARD in agricultural and rural development, financial inclusion, farmer producer organizations, rural entrepreneurship, and climate-resilient agriculture. Students were introduced to the financial dimensions of agriculture, career opportunities in rural banking, and support systems for agri-startups. The interactive session helped bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application.

In Session 3: Play, Art and Drawing, students engaged in a creative activity focused on preparing vision boards to visualize their goals and aspirations. Guided by Dr. Rabiya Basri and Dr. Ambika Bhandari, students expressed their ambitions related to career, personal growth, and well-being through art and reflection. The session emphasized positive thinking, self-awareness, and goal setting, allowing students to explore creativity as a tool for personal development.



Mr. Rihan, a SOAS alumnus, along with faculty members Addressing his Juniors

The post-lunch session featured Session 4: Introduction to Gender Sensitization and the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), conducted by Dr. Shobhna Jeet, Associate Professor, School of Legal Studies, KRMU. The session sensitized students to gender equality, prevention of sexual harassment, and institutional mechanisms under the POSH Act, 2013. Students were informed about their rights, responsibilities, and the functioning of the ICC, reinforcing the university's commitment to a safe, inclusive, and respectful campus environment.

The day concluded with Session 5: Gratitude Towards People Helping Us, led by Dr. Deepak Kumar. Through interactive discussions and reflections, students were encouraged to recognize and appreciate the contributions of teachers, parents, peers, and non-teaching staff who support academic and personal growth. The session instilled values of humility, respect, empathy, and thankfulness, leaving a meaningful impact on students.



Welcome Address by Dean, SOAS of Mr.Vijay Tripathi, AGM, NABARD



Students are preparing their vision boards



Interactive Discussion on Gratitude



Dr. Shobhnajeet with Dean and faculty of SOAS during session on Introduction to Gender Sensitization & ICC

AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY CONNECT

AWARENESS ON NATURAL FARMING AND PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA



Community engagement forms the foundation of sustainable agricultural development. In line with this vision, the School

of Agricultural Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University (KRMU), Gurugram, organized a Community Connect Awareness Programme on Natural Farming and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) on 12 August 2025, in collaboration with DD Kisan, Prasar Bharati, New Delhi. The programme aimed to strengthen awareness among farmers about eco-friendly farming practices and financial risk management tools essential for today's agriculture. With Indian farming facing challenges such as climate variability, soil degradation, rising input costs, and income uncertainty, the initiative emphasized knowledge-based solutions through effective extension and communication.

Sessions on natural farming focused on restoring soil health, reducing dependence on chemical inputs, and utilizing locally available bio-resources. Experts highlighted how

natural farming combines traditional agricultural wisdom with modern sustainability goals, helping farmers lower production costs while improving soil fertility and crop quality. Equally important was the session on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, which addressed farmers' concerns related to crop loss and financial security. The objectives, benefits, enrollment process, and claim settlement mechanisms of the scheme were explained in a simple and farmer-friendly manner, encouraging wider adoption of crop insurance as a safeguard against unforeseen risks.

The collaboration with DD Kisan significantly enhanced the outreach of the programme by enabling effective dissemination of key messages through mass media. Faculty members and students of the School actively participated, reinforcing experiential learning and strengthening the link between academic knowledge and field realities.

The programme also encouraged interactive dialogue, allowing farmers to share experiences and seek clarifications, thereby fostering trust and mutual learning. Participants appreciated the practical insights and relevance of the topics

discussed. Through such Community Connect initiatives, K.R. Mangalam University continues to reaffirm its commitment to farmer empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and rural development. The programme stands as a meaningful step toward bridging the gap between research, policy, and practice—contributing to a more resilient, informed, and sustainable agricultural future.



FACULTY RESEARCH UPDATES

RESEARCH PAPER

Dr. Anjali Tomar, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences (SOAS), K.R. Mangalam University, is a co-author of the research paper titled “A Study on Personal Profile and Organizational Facilitation of Agricultural Extension Functionaries for Information Dissemination in Kashmir Valley” in July 2025.

The study examines the socio-personal characteristics and organizational support systems of Agricultural Extension Functionaries working in the Kashmir Valley. Conducted across selected agricultural subdivisions of Baramulla district, the research highlights that a majority of extension personnel experience a medium level of organizational facilitation, indicating adequate basic support with scope for further strengthening. The paper emphasizes the need for enhanced training, improved information-sharing mechanisms, and stronger institutional coordination to improve the effectiveness of agricultural information dissemination.

RESEARCH PAPER

A Study on Personal Profile and Organizational Facilitation of Agricultural Extension Functionaries for Information Dissemination in Kashmir Valley

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ABSTRACT

State department of Agriculture in every state is running with objectives of technology transfer, providing training services, updating farmers with new technologies and giving solutions to problem of farmers. The present study regarding the personal profile of the Agricultural Extension Functionaries (AEFs) and assessing the organizational facilitation of AEFs for dissemination of information was carried out in three purposively selected Sub-Divisional Agricultural Offices namely Baramulla, Sopore and Rohama in district Baramulla of Jammu & Kashmir. Among the Sub-Divisional Extension functionaries, all Subject Matter Specialists (SMS), Agricultural Extension Officers (AEO's), Agricultural Assistants Inputs (AAI's), Junior Agricultural Extension Officers (JAEO's) and Agricultural Extension Assistants (AEA's) were taken for collecting the primary data with the help of a well-structured interview schedule. The study indicated that majority (51.80 %) of the Agricultural Extension Functionaries (AEFs) belonged to the age group of 36 to 43 years, 74.82 per cent of the AEFs were Agricultural Extension Assistants (AEAs), 83.45 per cent of the AEFs were male, 57.55 per cent of the AEFs were Post graduates, 100 per cent of the AEFs were married, 68.35 per cent of the AEFs belonged to joint family type, 51.8 per cent of the AEFs belonged to medium family size (6-10 members), 41.73 per cent of the AEFs belonged to rural family background, 48.92 per cent of the AEFs preferred public transport, 79.86 per cent of the AEFs belonged to job experience category of 2-13 years and 74.82 per cent of the AEFs belonged to income category of ₹ 35400 - ₹ 112400. Under overall organizational facilitation, majority (56.84 %) of the Agricultural Extension Functionaries (AEFs) were having medium level of organizational facilitation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Department of Agriculture aims to transfer technology, train staff, and solve farmers' problems.
- The study was conducted in Baramulla, Sopore, and Rohama in Jammu & Kashmir.
- 56.84% of AEFs reported medium-level organizational facilitation.
- Key recommendations include staff training, info-sharing, partnerships, and monitoring.
- Emphasizing data-driven collaboration to improve farmer support.

Keywords: Agricultural Extension Functionaries, Personal profile, Organizational facilitation, Job experience

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Source of Support: None; **Conflict of Interest:** None

PARTICIPATION IN WORLD CONGRESS

We are delighted to share that Dr Rabiya Basri, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, actively participated and presented a research paper at the prestigious World Congress on “Climate Change and Its Effects (CCIE-2025)”, held at Central College, Kathmandu, Nepal from 6–8 September 2025. The international congress, jointly organized by leading institutions across Nepal, India, and Turkey, brought together global experts to discuss pressing issues related to climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and agricultural adaptation. Dr. Basri’s contribution highlighted her commitment to addressing global climatic challenges through research, innovation, and collaborative knowledge exchange.



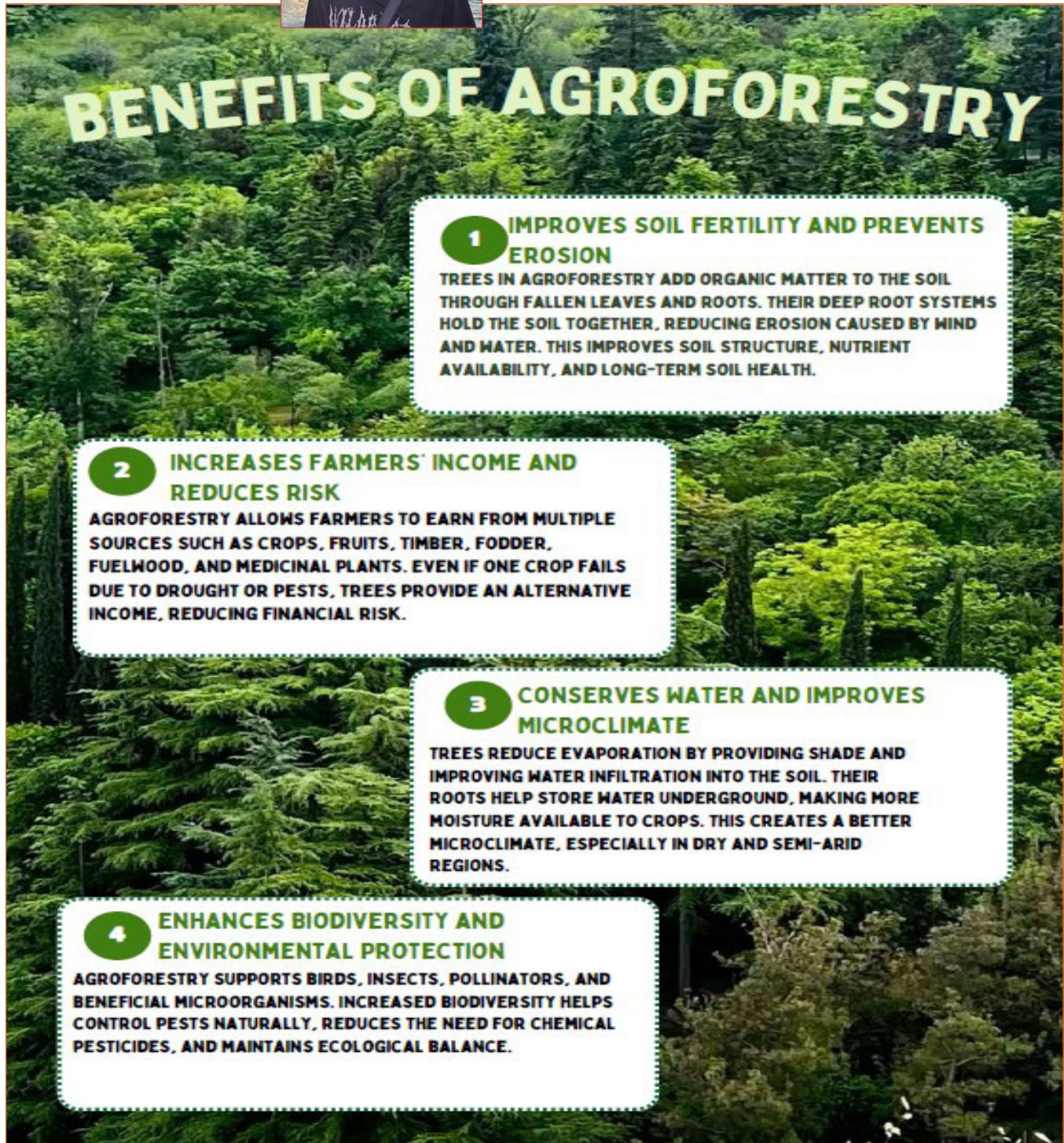
STUDENTS' CORNER



Digital Poster on “Benefits of Agroforestry” Prepared by:

Bhanu Pratap Singh,

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





Digital poster on “Food Security and Agriculture:

Harshita,

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

TYPES OF SMART IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

- 01 Soil Moisture-Based Irrigation System**
Uses sensors to supply water only when the soil moisture level is low.
- 02 Weather-Based Irrigation System**
Adjusts watering schedules using real-time weather data like rainfall and temperature.
- 03 Smart Drip Irrigation System**
Delivers water directly to the plant roots with controlled and automated flow.
- 04 Smart Sprinkler Irrigation System**
Automatically controls sprinklers based on crop needs and climate conditions.
- 05 IoT / Mobile App-Based Irrigation System**
Allows farmers to monitor and control irrigation remotely using smartphones.
- 06 AI-Based Irrigation System**
Uses artificial intelligence to predict and optimize crop water requirements.

SLOGANS WRITTEN BY STUDENTS OF B. SC. (HONS.) AG. KRMU



“From seed to soil, from soil to soul—agriculture sustains life.”

“Strong farms build strong nations.”

“मिट्टी से जुड़ा किसान, देश की शान।”

“कृषि से विकास का मार्ग खुलता है।”

Aayushi

B.Sc. (Hons.)

Ag. III Year



“Seed by seed, we grow the land; farmer by farmer, we strengthen the nation.”

“Farming grows the nation; every farmer’s step is a foundation.

With Mother Earth’s grace, blessings fill every space.”

“बीज बोओ विश्वास के साथ, खेती बनाए उज्ज्वल भारत।”

Harshita

B.Sc. (Hons.)

Ag. III Year



“Sustainable agriculture today ensures food security tomorrow.”

“खेतों में हरियाली जब लहराती है, तब खुश होता किसान,

मेहनत का फल जब पकता है, तब खिल उठता हिंदुस्तान।”

“किसान की मेहनत में ही देश की समृद्धि छिपी है।”

Surabhi Dubey

B.Sc. (Hons.)

Ag. III Year

THOUGHTS FROM FACULTY MEMBERS



Dr. Jay Nath Patel
Assistant Professor
SOAS

I am honored to share my reflections in this edition, focusing on the vital role of agronomy in building sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

Agronomy forms the scientific foundation of crop production, integrating soil health management, nutrient optimization, water efficiency, and climate-resilient practices to enhance productivity. In the face of climate variability, resource degradation, and growing food demands, scientific agronomic interventions such as conservation agriculture, integrated nutrient management, and precision farming have become increasingly important.

The true impact of agronomic research lies in its effective field-level application. By promoting sustainable crop management practices and efficient resource use, agronomy not only improves farm productivity but also strengthens environmental stewardship and long-term soil health.

As we move forward, continued innovation, research integration, and farmer-centric implementation will be essential to ensure food security, sustainability, and a resilient agricultural future for our nation.



INTERNSHIP

HANDS-ON LEARNING AT ICAR-NRCL

Ms. Sakshi Sneha, a B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture student of K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, successfully completed a two-week internship programme titled “Post-Harvest Management in Litchi” at the ICAR–National Research Centre on Litchi (NRCL), Muzaffarpur, Bihar. The internship was conducted from 21st July to 3rd August 2025 under expert guidance at the national research institute.

During the programme, Ms. Sakshi Sneha gained hands-on exposure to scientific practices related to post-harvest handling, grading, storage, processing, and quality management of litchi. The training emphasized modern technologies aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and improving shelf life and market value of horticultural produce. Interaction with scientists and technical staff further enriched her understanding of research-based solutions in fruit crop management.

Such internships play a vital role in bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application. The exposure provided by ICAR–NRCL has strengthened her technical competence and broadened her perspective on horticultural research and post-harvest management,



Sakshi Sneha
B.Sc. (Hons.)
Agriculture IV Year

contributing meaningfully to her academic and professional development.



ALUMNI



Rihan Barkat

Alumni, SOAS, KRMU

My journey at K.R. Mangalam University has been truly enriching and transformative, both academically and personally. The School of Agricultural Sciences provided a strong academic foundation complemented by extensive hands-on training, enabling me to understand agriculture from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Regular field visits, laboratory experiments, internships, and interactive classroom sessions helped me develop analytical thinking and problem-solving skills. The supportive learning environment and constant encouragement from faculty members motivated me to explore new ideas and build confidence in my abilities. Exposure to real-life agricultural challenges and innovative practices prepared me to adapt to dynamic professional environments. Today, as I pursue my career in the agricultural sector, I find myself consistently applying the knowledge, skills, and values nurtured at KRMU.



Yogesh

Alumni, SOAS, KRMU

The School of Agricultural Sciences follows a holistic approach to education by seamlessly integrating classroom learning with practical exposure and experiential training. This approach helped me gain a comprehensive understanding of agricultural sciences while fostering innovation, leadership, and critical thinking. The mentorship and guidance provided by the faculty played a significant role in enhancing my technical competence and professional discipline. Opportunities such as workshops, seminars, research activities, and industry interactions broadened my perspective and prepared me for the evolving demands of the agricultural and agritech sectors. As I move forward in my professional life, the strong foundation laid at KRMU continues to guide my decisions and growth.



Parth

Alumni, SOAS, KRMU

Studying at K.R. Mangalam University has been a rewarding and inspiring experience that greatly influenced my career aspirations. The School of Agricultural Sciences places strong emphasis on skill development, innovation, and practical learning, which helped me gain clarity and confidence in my chosen field. Exposure to field-based learning, project work, and hands-on training enabled me to apply classroom concepts to real-world agricultural situations. The nurturing academic environment and continuous support from faculty members encouraged me to develop leadership qualities, teamwork skills, and a problem-solving mindset. These experiences have been invaluable as I work towards contributing meaningfully to the agricultural sector. I take immense pride in being an alumnus of KRMU and will always cherish the experiences, values, and lessons that laid a strong foundation for my professional journey.



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