

ANGRAU e-NEWSletter



Vol. 7(3), 2023 July-September, 2023

A Quarterly Publication

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Lam, Guntur - 522 034

From the Vice-Chancellor's Desk

On teaching front, 110th Academic Council meeting was held and 15 agenda items were discussed. Agricultural College, Bapatla celebrated its 78th foundation day on 16th July 2023 and being the oldest college of ANGRAU, acquired National and International repute with many notable milestones. Furthermore, ANGRAU merit student Ms. Srilekha, V. Chintha was nominated to participate in the XVI Agricultural Science Congress student competitions to be held at Kochi, Kerala in the month of October, 2023.

On the research front, ANGRAU entered into Diamond Jubilee Celebrations curtain raiser year (established in 1964) and initiated organizing National and International webinars. In this connection, RARS, Anakapalle and RARS, Chintapalle organized three national webinars. Also, nine new varieties of seeds (Rice- 4; Groundnut- 1; Urd Bean -2; Mungbean- 1 and Tobacco -1) were approved by the Andhra Pradesh State Seed Subcommittee for the year 2023. ANGRAU is the first SAU to be approved by DGCA for Agricultural drones trainings (RPTO) and organized six trainings in this quarter.



On extension front, important workshops such as “Digital tools” usage in extension such as “Plant wise” by CABI and “Digitalization of Agricultural Extension system in India” were held and strategies along with hands-on training were discussed. In the

annual zonal workshop of Zone X held at TNAU, Coimbatore KVK Programme coordinators received awards for the year 2022.

It is a matter of pride for ANGRAU that Principal Scientist Dr. P. V. Satyanarayana (Genetics & Plant Breeding) working at ARS, Ragolu received the prestigious 8th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan award for his contributions in the field of agriculture for the period 2021-2022.

ANGRAU teaching and non-teaching staff celebrated 77th Independence Day with fervor and enthusiasm. Also, ‘Parthenium Awareness Week’ was celebrated by RARSs and KVKs.

(R. SARADA JAYALAKSHMI DEVI)

Farmers Day Celebrated

On the occasion of late Chief Minister Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy's Birth Anniversary on July 8th, 2023, Farmers' Day was organized at Krishna Auditorium, RARS, Lam, Guntur. Dr. A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU stressed on the need to use drones in the agriculture sector to reduce the cost of production. He recalled that the University sprayed pesticides in 40,000 acres in the agriculture fields with the help of drones to reduce the cost of production. He said the University has set up a training centre at Guntur to impart trainings in drones operation and it has so far provided training to 300 students in drone operation. Shri Chiranjeevi Chowdary, Principal Secretary (Agriculture Marketing & Cooperation), Govt. of A.P. urged the farmers to form farmers' produce organizations to develop entrepreneurship and the government will also extend the cooperation to the FPOs. He further said that agriculture should be treated as a business to earn profits and added that if the farmers sell their agriculture yield after first processing and second processing, they will get more profits. Shri M. Venugopal Reddy, IAS, District Collector & Magistrate, Guntur dist. suggested to the farmers to go for crop



diversification. Later, innovative farmers A. Mohan Reddy (Veerlapadu), P. Rajamma (Venigandla), K. Jaya (Revendrapadu), Srinivasa Rao (Vatticherukuru), Bhagyalakshmi (Jonnalagadda), K. Padma (Venigandla), G.Venkata Ramakrishna Reddy, (Kottareddipalem) and K. Lakshmi Prasanna (Venigandla) were felicitated. A.P. State Agri Mission Member Dr. M. Chandrasekhar Reddy and Dr. A. Trivikrama Reddy, Director, A.P. State Seed Certification Agency were among those who participated.

Nine New Varieties Released

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU) have come up with nine new varieties of seeds in the year 2023, including four rice varieties. These new seed varieties have been approved by the 41st Andhra Pradesh State Seed Sub-Committee Meeting, headed by the Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation) and Special Commissioner of RBKs Sri Gopala Krishna Dwivedi, IAS in the presence of Sri Ch. Harikiran, IAS and Dr. A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU. The new varieties are not only high yielding, but also resistant to various pests and diseases.

The new varieties of seeds approved for release the year 2023 included, Rice – BPT 2841, BPT 2846, MTU 1271, NLR 3238; Urd Bean TBG 129, LBG 904; Mung Bean LGG 630; Groundnut TCGS 1522



and Tobacco ABD 132 varieties. The A.P. State seed sub-committee after a careful scrutiny of the varieties, had approved for their release. On this occasion, Sri Gopala Krishna Dwivedi, IAS, congratulated the scientists for their efforts in developing the new varieties.

3rd Patrons Meeting of The Journal of Research ANGRAU Held

The 3rd Patrons meeting of The Journal of Research ANGRAU was held on 11th August, 2023 at Board Meeting Hall, Administrative Office, ANGRAU, Guntur. Dr. A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor & Chief Patron for the Journal presided the meeting. Dr. A. Lalitha, Editor, The Journal of Research ANGRAU presented the progress of the Journal for the year 2022-23 and highlighted that the Journal is hosted in ICAR e-publications (DKMA) since December, 2022. Dr. G.

Rama Rao, Dean P.G Studies & Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Research ANGRAU discussed the agenda items such as new editorial and advisory boards members to be nominated for the year 2024-26; no. of hard copies to be printed from the current issue onwards, committee to improve the quality and get-up of the Journal; international articles procurement strategies, subscription tariff increase, etc. Faculty Deans and Directors participated.

Interactive Workshop by CABI about Digital Tools

Centre for Agricultural and Biocontrol International (CABI)'s Regional Office, New Delhi organized a one day interactive workshop on various digital tools of CABI such as 'Plantwise' toolkit; CABI bioprotection portal; plant wise plus knowledge bank; CABI academy; crop sprayer app, simulator apps, etc at the Krishna Auditorium, RARS, Lam, Guntur on 9th July, 2023. Programme Coordinators of KVKs and Coordinators of DAATTCs participated in the workshop. Ms. Malvika Chaudhary, Regional Coordinator, Asia for Plantwise delivered a powerpoint presentation on the benefits of focus on digital tools and climate smart farm advisory especially aimed at

dissemination for the small and marginal farmers of India. Dr. Madhu Manjari made five groups of the scientists and practically demonstrated the utility of plantwise tool kit and crop sprayer apps functions that can be used at the field level. The team leader of the various groups presented their posters and various calculations made by using the crop sprayer app. Dr. L. Prasanthi, Director of Research and Dr. A. Subbarami Reddy, Director of Extension participated. Dr. V. Visalakshmi, P.S., Directorate of Extension coordinated the events. Dr. B. Mukunda Rao, P.S., Directorate of Extension proposed vote of thanks.



110th Academic Council Meeting Held

The 110th meeting of the Academic Council of ANGRAU was held on 5th July, 2023 at Krishna Auditorium, RARS, Lam, Guntur. Dr. A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU presided the meeting as its Chairman. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor in his speech said that committees will be constituted for finalizing the qualifications for various posts of teaching/research associates. Two new gold medals will be institutionalized after approval from the academic council

members, he added. Dr. G. Rama Rao, Registrar & Dean P.G. Studies elaborated about the progress on the decisions taken in the 109th academic council meeting and put forth the 15 agenda items of 110th meeting for discussion. The agenda items were discussed thoroughly and approvals were given for few resolutions. A total of 79 members of the academic council participated. University Officers participated.

ANGRAU KVKs Received Awards during Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs of Zone X

Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs of ATARI, Zone X was held between August 17th and 19th, 2023 at Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Programme Coordinators of the 13 KVKs under the administrative control of ANGRAU participated in the workshop. Awards were presented for the year 2022 and few KVKs of ANGRAU received awards. KVK, Rastakuntubai won the first place for 'CFLD (Pulses) project' and second place for 'TSP Project' implementation. KVK, Nellore has

won first place for 'No. of farmers rendered Mobile Advisory services' and third place for 'Extension activities'. KVK, Utukur, Kadapa district bagged second place for 'Natural Farming Project'. KVK, Ghantasala received second place for 'Seed distribution' and 'Seed distribution through Seed Hub'. KVK, Reddipalle, Anantapur district received third place for 'Publications in Journals' of KVK based OFTs/ FLDs research publications. Also, it received second place for NICRA and third place for CFLD (Pulses) projects implementation for the year 2022.



Meeting on 'Digitalization of Agricultural Extension System in India' held

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI, New Delhi; Digital Green Trust, Bangalore and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Mangalagiri, Guntur district, Dept. of Agriculture jointly organized the meeting on 'Implementation of Digitalization of Agricultural Extension System in India' on 6th September, 2023 at Board Meeting Hall, ANGRAU, Guntur. A total of 10 scientists from ANGRAU participated in the meeting and discussed about the development of unified & integrated National digital platform to enable extension workers real-time access to agricultural best practices in the form of curated multi-lingual content videos



in agriculture and allied sectors. Dr. Sridevi, expert from the Digital Green delivered a ppt presentation on VISTAAR portal and its implementation in 10 states of India. Dr. Subbarami Reddy, Director of Extension, ANGRAU presented about the digital initiatives of ANGRAU. Shri Balasubramanyam, JDA, Agricultural Commissionerate, Mangalagiri; Smt. Vijayalakshmi, Additional Director, Dept. of Agriculture said that the VISTAAR project will be initially implemented in 10 districts of A.P. Dr. G.M.V. Prasad, Associate Director of Research, Iam; Programme Coordinators of ANGRAU KVKs Ghantasala, Garikapadu, Darsi, and KVK, SVVU, Lam participated.

77th Independence Day Celebrated



India celebrated its 77th Independence Day on 15 August 2023, marking 76 years of freedom. Dr. G. Rama Rao, Registrar, ANGRAU hoisted the tri-colour flag at the Administrative Office, Guntur in the presence of University Officers and Dr. A Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Special Officer. Mahatma Gandhi photo was paid floral tribute by the staff. In his address, Dr. Rama Rao said that this year two new agricultural colleges were started and e-office is implemented. Later, the celebrations were held at the Krishna Auditorium, Lam and non-teaching staff were felicitated by Special Officer with awards for their best performance.

78th Foundation day of Agricultural College, Bapatla Celebrated

The 78th Foundation day of Agricultural College, Bapatla was celebrated on 16th July, 2023. Notable alumnus and Chief Whip of A.P. state, Shri U. Venkateswarlu graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the college has international reput and has done marvelous work in teaching, research, extension, human resource development and farmer services. He expressed that its contributions are immense to the farmers of A.P. State. BPT 5204, a rice variety is the brain child of this college and is still irreplaceable and one should update professionally with all the digital competencies required post COVID-19, he added. Dr. V. Srinivasa Rao, Associate Dean presented the college progress and achievements of the students in competitive exams in recent times. Dr. D. Manoj Kumar (Plant Pathology), received Honorary Lt. Col. P.V. Krishnaiah Choudary, M. B. E. Memorial Silver Medal. Retired former Associate Deans were felicitated. The



occasion was graced by the retired former Associate Deans, Professors of the College, Alumni, Students and Staff.

Agricultural Drones Trainings Organized by APSARA



In this quarter, six Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO) batches of Agricultural Drone Trainings known as Agricultural Remote Pilot Course (ARPC) were organized by A.P. Sensors and Smart Applications Research in Agriculture (APSARA), Lam, Guntur and 120 rural youth, farmers and ANGRAU students received certificates. Each batch were trained for twelve days. After successful completion of the training, the candidate can be considered as DGCA authorised pilot, a complete drone assembler cum technician. Till date, a total of 316 certified pilots were produced from the centre.

Interactive Meeting Held with SSA Officials

An interactive meeting was held by Dr. A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU with the project coordinators from Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), SCERT officials, University Officers and staff from the Community Science College, Guntur on 1st August, 2023 at Board Meeting Hall, ANGRAU, Lam, Guntur.

The meeting was organized to discuss about the role of ANGRAU in implementing the World Bank funded ECCE project “Supporting Andhra’s Learning Transformation (SALT)” which is jointly implemented by Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Pratham International foundation in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The project aims at improving the early childhood education and foundational literacy and numeracy in Anganwadi centers as part of the National Education Policy (2020). The Project Coordinator of the SSA, Dept. of School Education explained about the project objectives, plan of action and



certification process for the year 2023. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor instructed the community science staff to submit a proposal to the SSA detailing about the points of interventions along with budgetary requirements from ANGRAU.

Skill Development Training Programme for SC beneficiaries

The skill development programme “Bakery Products with Millets” was held for five days between 23rd and 28th August 2023 to cater the technical needs of the SC beneficiaries for consumption and commercialization of millets. Dr. M. S. Chaitanya Kumari, Associate Dean, College of Community Science, Guntur was the Course Coordinator while Dr. K. Lakshmi and Mrs. B. Anuradha were the course co-coordinators. A total of 10 technical sessions including practical classes were held for five days.

On 28th August, 2023, Dr. L. Prasanthi, Director of Research, ANGRAU and Dean (i/c), Faculty of Community Science participated in the valedictory the event as the Chief Guest.. Dr. L. Prasanthi emphasized the need for consumption of millets owing to their health benefits and also asked the participants to form SHG groups to take up millet production as a small enterprise at household level to supplement the family income. Certificates were distributed to all the participants. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. K. Lakshmi.



ANGRAU Teachers felicitated in State-Level Celebrations

The State-level Teachers' Day celebrations was organised on September 5th, 2023 at Andhra University Convocation Hall, Visakhapatnam. Sri Botcha Satyanarayana, Education Minister, Govt. of A.P. was the Chief Guest. Three faculty from ANGRAU, took part in the programme and were felicitated as best teachers. Dr. G. Ravi Babu, Professor & Head, Dept. of Soil and water

Conservation Engineering, Dr. NTR CAE, Bapatla; Dr. L. Edukondalu, Professor, Dept. of Food Processing & Technology, College of Food Science & Technology, Pulivendula; Dr. M.S. Chaitanya Kumari, Professor & Associate Dean, College of Community Science, Guntur were honoured by the Education Minister. ANGRAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sarada Jayalakshmi Devi congratulated the faculty members for receiving the best teacher awards.



International Webinar on AI&ML Organized

Dr. NTR College of Agricultural Engineering hosted an international webinar on "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Agricultural Engineering- unleashing the potential for potential for food security" held between 4th and 5th of September 2023. With approximately 150 enthusiastic participants, this event brought together leading experts from around the world to delve into the vital role of AI and ML in ensuring food security. The event was inaugurated by our Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. R. Sarada Jaya Lakshmi, who set the stage with a thought-provoking address on the transformative potential of AI and ML in the realm of Agricultural Engineering. Dr. D.D. Smith, Associate Dean was the convenor of the webinar.

Throughout the two-day webinar, a distinguished panel of experts viz., Dr. Manjith Singh, Professor & Head, PAU, Ludhiana, India; Dr. N.N. Mishra, Director, Ingenium



Nature Pvt. Ltd. & Professor (Hon.), Taif University, Saudi Arabia; Dr. E. Ajith Jubilson, Associate Professor, VIT-AP, Amaravathi, India; Dr. Rajendra Machavaram, Associate Professor, IIT, Kharagpur, India; Dr. Mohammad Hadi Bazrkar, Professor, Texas A&M University, USA; Dr. Manoj Karkee, Professor, Washington State University, USA; Dr. Sunil D. Gorantiwar, Director of Research, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, India and Dr.

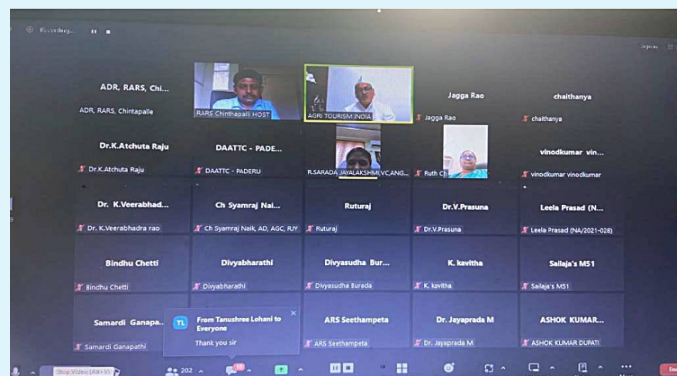
Santhosh Kumar Pitla, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska, USA shared their knowledge and insights on various facets of AI and ML in agriculture. The webinar concluded with a dynamic Q & A session, where participants engaged in stimulating discussions seeking insights, and shared their perspectives.

National Webinar on Agri-Tourism Organized

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of ANGRAU, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Chintapalle organized National Webinar on “Know-how agri-tourism” on 25th September, 2023. The objective of organizing the webinar was to bring awareness on the concept of agri-tourism at the farmer level. The webinar was intended for SAU faculty, KVK staff, ICAR staff, Dept. of agriculture and allied sectors, NGOs, FPOs, Students, Tour operators and all the stakeholders who can be part of the agritourism. Dr. M. Suresh Kumar, Associate Director of Research, RARS, Chintapalle was the Director of the Webinar and Dr. Kadiri Mohan, Scientist (Agril. Extension) was the organizer for the Webinar.

Mr. Pandurang Taware, Managing Director, Agri. Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC), Pune and known as Father of Agri-tourism in India, was the lead speaker. Dr. R. SaradaJayalakshmi Devi, Hon’ble

Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU participated in the webinar and discussed about Agritourism development issues with the lead speaker. Dr. L. Prasanthi, Director of Research, ANGRAU gave suggestions for agritourism development in Andhra Pradesh. Dr. K. Mohan, Scientist

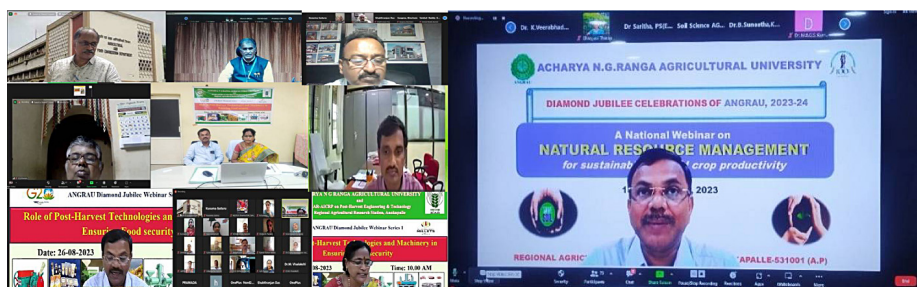


(Extension), RARS, Chintapalle gave presentation on agritourism concept for the participants. Mr. Pandurang Taware gave presentation on agritourism experiences in Maharashtra. He also discussed overall agritourism development in other states of India. Dr. M. Suresh Kumar, Associate Director of Research, RARS, Chintapalle conducted the session on “Road Map for agritourism development in Andhra Pradesh” followed by the three presentations. An interaction session was organised in which participants questions were answered by the speakers. Feedback was sought using Google-form and certificate of participation was given for 260 participants.

National Webinars Organized by RARS, Anakapalle

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of ANGRAU (established in June, 1964) kick-started and Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Anakapalle organized two National Webinars viz., “Role of post-harvest technologies and machinery in ensuring food security” and “Natural Resource Management for sustainable soil and crop productivity” through virtual mode.

AICRP on PHET conducted National Webinar Series-I on 26th August, 2023 and approximately 400 persons participated. Dr. K. Narasaiah, ADG (Process Engg.), ICAR in his presidential address emphasized that the farmers need to adopt new technologies and machinery to reduce post-harvest losses. Dr. Pramod Bakane, Professor & Head, Dr. PDKV Akola; Dr. Palami Muthu, Director NIFTEM; Dr.P.S.Rao, Professor, IIT, Kharagpur; Dr. Nidhoni, Professor, UAS Raichur; Dr.P.V.K. Jagannadha Rao, ANGRAU; Dr. P. Sreedevi, Principal Scientist (Ag. Engg.), ANGRAU and Dr. S. Ezhivelan,



Assistant Professor, Veterinary College, Chennai served as the resource persons.

Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry organized National Webinar Series -II on 13th September, 2023 and nearly 150 participants from different agricultural institutes across India participated. Dr. G.V. Ramanjeneyulu, Director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Hyderabad emphasized the importance of agro-ecological approaches for sustainable farming in India and in particular Andhra Pradesh. Dr. P. Balasubramaniam, Director, Directorate of Natural Resource Management, TNAU delivered a talk on “Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Soil and Crop Productivity”. Discussions were held after the lecture.

ANGRAU Student Selected for National level Competition

The XVI Agricultural Science Congress is to be held at Kochi, Kerala between 10th and 13th October, 2023. Student elocution competition was conducted in the constituent colleges of ANGRAU to nominate a winner student from ANGRAU to the Congress competitions. A Virtual University Level event was conducted for the winners at college level on the theme “Transformation of Agri-Food Systems for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals” by the Student Affairs Section, ANGRAU on 21st August, 2023. Ms. Srilekha V. Chintha, PF/2020-032, College of Food Science and



Technology, Pulivendula and Ms. Sk. Sumayya, MA/2022-80, Agricultural College, Mahanandi secured first and second places, respectively and were selected to participate in the Zone-II level Elocution competition. In the Zone-II Level competition held on 25th August, 2023 at PJTSAU, Hyderabad Ms. Srilekha V. Chintha brought laurels to the University by securing second place among the contestants from 17 State Agricultural Universities. Therefore, she was nominated to participate in the National Level competitions to be held at Kochi, Kerala.

“Parthenium Awareness Week” Organized

Integrated Weed Management Unit & All India Coordinated Research Project on Weed Management-Volunteer Centre, RARS, Lam organized the awareness programme on Management of Parthenium on 19th August, 2023 in view of 18th Parthenium Awareness Week (18thPAW) between 16th and 22nd August, 2023 by involving the staff members along the road sides of F.No. 6, 7 and 8 of the campus. A total of 100 staff were actively involved in removal of the Parthenium and collected one full tractor load of Parthenium weighing about 5 tons and the same was dumped in compost pit.



The Associate Director of Research, Dr.G.M.V. Prasada Rao advised to take up removal of Parthenium before flowering itself and protect the crops from the harmful effects of noxious weed. Dr.D.Subramanyam, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) & Head, Integrated Weed Management Unit explained about the ill effects of Parthenium on crops, animals and human being including impact of Parthenium on biodiversity. Furthermore, he also explained about the different management aspects of Parthenium. RARSs and KVKs also organized parthenium awareness week in respective districts.

Award

Dr. P.V. Satyanarayana, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Research Station, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Ragolu was awarded the prestigious 8th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan award for his contributions in the field of agriculture for the period 2021-2022. Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General (DG), ICAR and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) gave away the award to Dr. Satyanarayana at the event held on 3rd September, 2023 at Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad in the presence of senior scientists. The biennial Dr. M.S.Swaminathan Award, constituted by the Retired



Indian Council of Agricultural Research Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL), included a cash prize of Rs.2 lakhs and a gold medal.