

School of Agriculture Swami Vivekananda University Barrackpore, West Bengal, 700121, India www.swamivivekanandauniversity.com

# From the director's desk

I am delighted to present the latest edition of our departmental newsletter, which captures the vibrant spirit of the School of Agriculture at Swami Vivekananda University. Since our establishment in 2020, we have been dedicated to enhancing food security and improving livelihoods through innovative research and sustainable practices. In this edition, you will find highlights from our research trials, insights into the RAWE program, notable student achievements, and updates on our social outreach initiatives. Each feature reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence in agricultural education and practice.

We greatly value your engagement and feedback as we work together to shape a sustainable future for agriculture.



Prof. (Dr.) Swapan Kumar Datta Director, School of Agriculture, SVU Former Vice-Chancellor, Visva Bharati & Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay Ex-Deputy Director General (Crop science) at ICAR

### **About School of Agriculture**

The 2020-founded School of Agriculture strives for academic and scientific excellence. The school offers bachelor's degree programs in agriculture, agricultural engineering, and master's degree programs in agribusiness management. In accordance with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's (ICAR) requirements, the school has created dynamic and targeted curricula to produce skilled workers for academics, agro-based industries, and extensionoriented applications.

#### Workshops/ Conference/ Invited Talks

On September 25-26, 2024, the School of Agriculture organized International Conference on The Future of Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities (ICFSDCO. 2024). Numerous distinguished scientists from the agricultural area attended both conferences, and more than 100 research and review publications were presented. Both occasions acted as inspiration boosters, encouraging a great deal of invention and research. Promoting demand- driven research, development, and innovation in the agriculture industry was the main objective. Scholars and students alike responded in large numbers to the conferences, highlighting their significance in the academic community. An enriching interaction session with distinguished guest speakers was held at the end of each conference to further increase the participants' understanding. The School of Agriculture's mission to promoting cooperation, expanding knowledge, and boosting the agricultural industry is demonstrated by its commitment to hosting such significant international conferences.

The accomplishments of ICFSDCO, 2024 demonstrate the school's capacity to bring together influential people and emphasize its function as a center for the sharing of ideas and the advancement of innovative agricultural research.

#### **RAWE visit**

#### Agro-Industrial attachment programme

A recent educational industrial visit to Debgiri Agro Products Private Limited, a trailblazing agroindustrial farm with a focus on seed production, was undertaken by the B.Sc. Agriculture students. The private limited firm was founded in Khilkapur in



1998 with the goal of properly preparing and distributing seeds to farmers. With 26 workers, the farm is run under the direction of a board of directors. Using semi- automated gear, the production process heavily emphasizes quality control to guarantee that the seeds meet the

minimum standards for the farmers, who are the final consumers. A dedication to conventional farming methods is shown in the product portfolio's wide range of OP and hybrid vegetable, fodder, jute, maize, and pulse seeds. Debgiri Seeds possesses all necessary statutory approvals, which include registrations from the District Industries Canter and GST, consent from the Pollution Control Board, and a Shop & Establishment registration. The logistics and distribution framework is managed by both company employees and third-party partners, spanning an area of 10-15 bigha. The company operates its own vehicles for transportation, offering services on a flexible schedule that accommodates weekly, monthly, and seasonal customer interactions. Customers have the option to make payments either online or in cash. This visit yielded valuable insights into the complexities of agro-industrial operations and the evolving challenges encountered in the seed production industry.

#### **CRIJAF/Institutional attachment programme**

On November 14, 2024, B.Sc. Agriculture students conducted a visit to the Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres (CRIJAF) to gain insights into its organizational structure, objectives, and ongoing field activities. Situated at Bus Stop, Barrackpore - Barasat Rd, near Saheb Bagan Lane, Nilganj, Barrackpur Cantonment, West Bengal 700120, CRIJAF features a well-structured facility that includes dedicated areas for administration, laboratories, classrooms, a museum, and demonstration farms focused on jute and allied fibre research. The visit underscored the Centre's key mandates, which emphasize technology assessment, on-farm testing, capacity building, and advisory services aime



at enhancing jute and allied fibre cultivation and production. During their time in the field, students observed various demonstrations of fibre crops, soil health management practices, and integrated livestock farming systems. The institution's commitment to fostering direct interactions between farmers and scientists highlighted a collaborative approach to agricultural advancement. Overall, this visit provided students with valuable practical experiences that reinforced the critical role of research stations in connecting research initiatives with extension activities. This connection is vital for promoting sustainable agricultural development and empowering local farmers.

### **Research Trial**

#### **Polyhouse Cultivation**

A research trial at Swami Vivekananda University's School of Agriculture has shown how polyhouse farming can improve vegetable cultivation and promote sustainable agriculture. The study focused on growing vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, chili, tomato, okra, spinach, amaranthus, and broccoli in polyhouses, which control temperature, humidity, and light. These conditions allowed for year-round farming with higher yields and better quality compared to traditional open-field methods. Researchers used advanced techniques such as drip irrigation, precise nutrient management, and integrated pest control. These methods saved resources and reduced environmental damage. Vegetables like broccoli and spinach, which are sensitive to weather



changes, grew well in the polyhouse, with fewer pests and strong, healthy plants. The study also proved that polyhouse farming is cost- effective, with lower input costs and higher market value due to the improved quality of the produce. This project highlights the university's dedication to solving challenges like climate change, food security, and resource shortages. This success strengthens the university's role as a leader in sustainable agriculture and inspires future projects in protected farming systems.

### **Student Participation in International Conference**

Mr. Loknath Dash's active participation and impactful presentation at the prestigious International Agricultural Congress 2024 garnered widespread appreciation and acclaim. This significant event, jointly organized by the renowned University Putra Malaysia and the esteemed National University of Singapore, provided an excellent platform for Mr. Dash to showcase his innovative research. His presentation not only demonstrated the depth and quality of his work but also highlighted the cuttingedge advancements being pursued by our institution. His contribution to the congress brought notable recognition to our organization, enhancing its reputation within the global academic and scientific community.



## List of publications

Faculty members of School of Agriculture have published 44 articles of international reputed journals, ten book chapters and one edited book and also in newspaper under the SVU affiliation.

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