

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Chapter - X



10.1 Activities of Vice Chancellor

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Junagadh Agricultural University is responsible for overall administration, development, maintaining discipline and appropriate functioning of the University as per the Gujarat Agricultural Universities Act 2004. The Vice Chancellor has to run the administration as per University rules and regulations. He is also responsible for financial activities of the University. He maintains coordination between Teaching, Research and Extension Education activities conducted by the University. A brief summary of the activities done by the Vice Chancellor during 2020-21 are as under.

Dr. Vithaldas Parsotambhai Chovatia, Director of Research and Dean, PG Studies, JAU, Junagadh was the officiating Vice Chancellor of Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh since October 07, 2019. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardarkrishinagar in the year 1981. He completed his Master and Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding & Genetics from Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar in the year 1984 and 2000, respectively. He was recipient of Junior Research fellowship from I.C.A.R. for M. Sc. for good contribution in Education, Research and Extension.

As a head of University, he always works on smooth performance and overall development of Education, Research, Extension, Administration of University and coordinating with State and Central Govt. and Other Universities.

Due to efforts of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. V. P. Chovatia and Principals/Deans of various faculties of JAU, all colleges and polytechnics conducted live online classes ever since lockdown using various video conferencing apps. Teachers have adopted themselves well to the current challenges and the students seem to lap up the lessons well. More than 90% attendance was being reported in the virtual classroom. All examinations completed successfully and students completed their degrees timely. Due to

continuous encouragement of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, despite of corona situations various virtual trainings under for students under IDP and for farmers by KVKs and Research Stations were arranged. Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Awarded "**Most Impactful Dedicated Vice Chancellor**" by Dynergic Business Solutions at the "Golden Aim Conference and Awards for Excellence and Leadership in Education" held on September 11, 2020. Jury have selected Dr. V. P. Chovatia for award on the basis of Strategic / Academic Innovation, Integrity and Ethics, Track Record, Process Management and their contribution in Plant Breeding.

Under his able leadership, JAU ranked First in the Monitoring and Evaluation progress review of **NAHEP IA (Impact assessment)** in India amongst all IDPs scoring 7.9 out of 10. Cattle Breeding Farm, JAU, Junagadh received national level "**Breed Conservation Award-2020**" from ICAR-NBAGR (National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal) for the conservation of Jaffrabadi buffalo. JAU under **green initiatives** took firm steps by installing 500 kW Solar Power Plants on different buildings with earning Carbon Credit of approximate 180 ton/year. Five startups were set by JAU Students. JAU celebrated First ever Virtual Sixteenth Annual Convocation on February 06, 2021 under his guidance.

A National WEBINAR on 'Post COVID-19 Agribusiness – Challenges and Opportunities' was organized at Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh under the aggies of NAHEP – IDP during June 13-14, 2020. The inauguration session was graced by Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI and Shri R. C. Faldu, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Transport, GoG and other dignitaries along with nearly 2500 participants. In the inaugural function, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of JAU and PI-IDP NAHEP welcomed the dignitaries and



informed the gathering about the major aims to organize this webinar were to overcome the adverse effect of COVID-19 outbreak in agriculture.

Honourable Vice Chancellor attended Video Conference of Hon'ble President of India on National Education Policy 2020 on September 7, 2020. Dr. V. P. Chovatia participated in **Sarhad Vikasotsav at Dhordo Kutch on November 12, 2020 to foster developmental dialogue with villagers and last village on Kutch border** organised by Govt. of Gujarat. Over 1500 Sarpanch and Gram Panchayat members from 158 border villages from Kutch, Banaskantha, and Patan districts were invited to participate. Activities of JAU were exhibited in the event. He participated Annual Conference of Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of Agricultural Universities (AUs) and Interface meeting with Directors' of ICAR Institutes held at NASC Complex, New Delhi on December 04-05, 2020.

Dr. V. P. Chovatia also attended the 41st Foundation day of Directorate of Ground Research, ICAR, Junagadh on October 1, 2020 and addressed the gathering. He delivered a keynote address on eve of Industry Interface Day- 2020 organized by

Directorate of Groundnut Research (ICAR), Junagadh on December 7, 2020. He enriched the deliberation by valuable suggestions to strengthen the interface between industry-researchers-farmers. Dr. V. P. Chovatia contributed a chapter “Diversification and Intensification in Agriculture for Doubling Farmers' Income” in the book “Atmanirbhar Self Reliant and Climate Smart Farmers – Road map for Agriculture: 2020-2030 – India” published by NCCSD Ahmedabad. The book was released by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chairman – NITI Aayog, New Delhi on December 30, 2020. Under his guidance, pearl millet Research Station, JAU received recognition for Food and Nutritional Security of the country for Development of landmark Pearl Millet Hybrid GHB-538 by Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, New Delhi. Annual Workshop of KVKs of Gujarat was organized on February 18, 2021 by ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI) Zone-VIII, Pune and KVK, NAU, Navsari, Dr. Chovatia addressed the participants and gave his valuable suggestions for improving agricultural extension activities in Gujarat.



