

## FOREWORD



The first Agricultural University of India, dedicated to the nation on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1960 by the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru has covered an expeditious journey of 43 years by serving the farmers of the country. The University was established on Land Grant Pattern on the then known as Tarai State Farm of 16000 acres with integrated mandate of higher agricultural education, research and extension. Initiating from two colleges- Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, the University has now ten colleges – Agriculture, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Basic Sciences & Humanities, Home Science, Technology, Fisheries, Post-Graduate Studies, Agri-Business Management, Forestry & Hill Agriculture (Ranichauri) and

VCSG College of Horticulture (Bharsar).

Its valuable contributions through teaching, research, extension and large scale seed production have very well been acknowledged by the Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, eminent scientist Prof. M.S. Swaminathan and other dignitaries of national and international level. The University has evolved 166 improved varieties of various crops, fruits and vegetables which has made this university a synonym of seeds of high yielding varieties. In addition, the University has made contributions in livestock and fish production. Recognizing its yeomen services in agricultural and rural development, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research bestowed it with 'Best Institution Award' in 1997.

The University has played a pivotal role in national research stream as is evident from the fact that it has 40 All India Coordinated Research Projects and over 260 adhoc projects funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other national and international agencies. Its 13 under-graduate programmes and 123 post-graduate programmes run by 70 departments in 9 faculties are also land-marks in the field of agricultural education in the country. The University has been blessed with very eminent guiding forces from time to time since its inception viz. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Dr. V.V. Giri, Sri Zail Singh, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Sh. Chandra Shekhar, Sh. I.K. Gujral, Sh. C. Subramaniam and Sh. N.D. Tewari. Following the creation of the state of Uttaranchal, the University has a challenging role ahead especially for bringing prosperity to the small farmers of the hill region through diversified agriculture, preserving and protecting the rich biodiversity and the delicate ecological balance of the region, besides maintaining its national leadership and global visibility. For sustainable agricultural development of the state, the University has reoriented its teaching, research and extension programmes with emphasis on horticulture, biotechnology, organic farming, herbal farming, women empowerment, biodiversity conservation, information and communication technologies and distance education.

I am happy to note that this document is being published on the auspicious occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Convocation of the University, which *inter-alia* includes historical perspective, rare speeches, addresses and messages of eminent scientists, planners, dignitaries over a period of last four decades. I hope this publication will be an asset in refreshing all those who are engaged in modernization of Indian agriculture to keep pace with the global speed.



( P.L. Gautam )  
Vice-Chancellor