

PALLI SIKSHA BHAVANA (Institute of Agriculture)



HISTORY OF PALLI SIKSHA BHAVANA

In tune with the thoughts of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Sriniketan Experiment was started in 1921 concerning with four important areas *viz.* agriculture, crafts and rural industries, village welfare and education. Agriculture was at the core area of Sriniketan Experiment with association of Leonard Elmhirst, Rathindranath Tagore, Santosh Chandra Mazumdar and Nagendranath Ganguly. In 1957, in accordance with the recommendation of the National Commission on Agriculture, an Institute of Rural Higher Education was set up at the present site of the Institute of Agriculture. Palli Siksha Sadana took birth in 1963 in place of Rural Institute. Palli Siksha Sadana was renamed as Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture) in 1984 with amendments of Visva-Bharati Act. Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture) is engaged in teaching, research and extension in the field of Agriculture and follow the course structure framed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and All the courses run by the institute have been accredited by ICAR. The Extension programme of the Institute received impetus with the establishment of Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Farm Science Centre) in 1994 to cater the training needs of farmers, farm women and rural youths of the Birbhum district, West Bengal. The institute has a good Agricultural farm, a Dairy farm and a Horticulture farm where the students do their practical training on different subjects of agriculture and do their field experiments. It has also a good library where students can get the relevant books for their study. A Unit on "Production of Edible mushrooms and spawn" has been established taking funding support from ICAR for the Experiential Learning programme. Final year UG students are placed

in this Unit for experiential learning with the objective of earn while you learn.

At present there are twelve departments viz. Department of Agronomy, Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Department of Horticulture and Post Harvest Technology, Department of Agricultural Extension, Department of Plant Pathology, Department of Agricultural Entomology, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Department of Animal Science, Department of Crop Physiology, Department of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agricultural Economics and Department of Agricultural Engineering. All those departments contribute in running the B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture programme of the Institute. Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture) has always been striving to make agricultural education relevant to the needs of present time, produce graduates, post-graduates with excellence in academics and research skills, entrepreneurial skills for self-employment and contributors to rural livelihood and food security. Teaching, research and extension efforts give emphasis on building competence and confidence of the human resources in Agriculture.

Presently A total of 65 seats (in addition to the 15% seats reserved for foreign students and 2 seats for students from Jammu & Kashmir state) are being offered in under-graduate (UG) programme. Fifteen percent seats are filled through ICAR's placement programme.

PROGRAMMES AND COURSES OFFERED

Programme Name	Number of Courses
B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture	97