CAFT Program on

"Next Gen e-Extension for Farmer Support in the AI Age"

February 21 – March 13, 2026

Patron

Dr. D.R. Singh

Vice Chancellor, BAU, Sabour

Course Director

Dr. S.K. Pathak

Course Co-Coordinators

Dr. Aditya Sinha

Dr. C.K. Panda

Organized by

Directorate of Extension Education,
Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bhagalpur, Bihar

Background

The CAFT Training Programme on **"Next-Generation e-Extension for Farmer Support in the AI Age"** is a 21-day advanced capacity-building initiative aimed at strengthening agricultural extension systems through the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies. With agriculture becoming increasingly knowledge- and data-driven, conventional extension approaches are often inadequate to meet the diverse, location-specific, and time-sensitive information needs of farmers. AI-enabled e-extension systems offer new opportunities to enhance the reach, efficiency, and responsiveness of farmer advisory services.

The programme is designed to equip agricultural educators, extension professionals, and researchers with the knowledge and practical skills required to design, implement, and manage next-generation digital extension solutions. Participants will gain exposure to AI-driven decision-support systems, big data analytics, mobile-based advisory platforms, Internet of Things (IoT), geospatial tools, and digital communication technologies that enable personalized and real-time farmer support.

Through a balanced combination of theoretical lectures, hands-on training, case studies, and interactive discussions, the programme will provide insights into modern e-extension tools such as AI-powered chatbots, expert systems, digital advisory platforms, and social media-based extension approaches. Emphasis will be placed on improving farmer engagement, strengthening feedback mechanisms, and enhancing last-mile delivery of advisory services.

In addition to technical competencies, the programme will address institutional, ethical, and policy dimensions of digital extension, including data governance, digital inclusion, and cybersecurity. By the end of the programme, participants will be prepared to integrate AI-enabled e-extension models into teaching, research, and extension activities, contributing to scalable, farmer-centric, and sustainable agricultural development in the AI era.

About BAU Sabour

Sabour, situated in the Bhagalpur district of Bihar, is a picturesque countryside renowned for hosting one of the oldest colleges and research centers in the Indian subcontinent. Established in 1908 during the British colonial era, Bihar Agricultural College (BAC) in Sabour occupies coordinates of 25^0 15' N latitude, 86^0 57' S longitude, and an elevation of 46 meters above mean sea level. On the 5th of August 2010, Bihar Agricultural University was founded at the same location, serving as a prominent hub for education, research, extension, and training in the field of agriculture and related subjects within the state. The university has swiftly earned recognition for its exceptional contributions. Alongside BAC Sabour, it encompasses 10 colleges, 14 research stations, and 22 Krishi Vigyan Kendras spanning 21 districts of Bihar. Conveniently accessible via Bagdogra, Purnea, Deoghar and Patna airports, the region enjoys a mildly cool climate with gentle breezes during the months of February and March.

Objectives

The CAFT training programme on "Next-Generation e-Extension for Farmer Support in the AI Age" aims to strengthen the capacity of faculty members, extension professionals, and researchers in applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies for effective agricultural extension. The programme seeks to enhance participants' understanding and practical skills in designing and delivering AI-enabled, farmer-centric e-extension services using decision-support systems, mobile platforms, data analytics, and digital communication tools. It promotes the integration of next-generation e-extension approaches into teaching, research, and extension activities while fostering collaboration and innovation among participants. The programme also emphasizes developing a forward-looking perspective to adapt to evolving digital ecosystems, policies, and farmer needs, ultimately enabling participants to contribute to scalable, inclusive, and sustainable extension systems in the AI era.

Course Content

- Fundamentals of e-Extension and Digital Advisory Systems
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Applications in Agricultural Extension
- AI-enabled Decision Support Systems for Farmer Advisory Services
- Mobile-based Extension, Apps, and Digital Communication Tools
- Big Data Analytics and Farmer Profiling for Personalized Advisory
- IoT, Remote Sensing, and GIS for Real-time Extension Support
- AI-powered Chatbots, Expert Systems, and Virtual Assistants
- Social Media, Multimedia, and Digital Content Creation for Extension
- Digital Platforms for Market Intelligence and Farmer Linkages
- Data Governance, Ethics, Cybersecurity, and Digital Inclusion
- Impact Assessment of e-Extension Interventions
- Research Methods, Project Formulation, and Case Studies in e-Extension

Important dates

Last date to apply: February 5, 2026
Notification for selection: February 10, 2026
Confirmation of participation by the selected candidates: February 12, 2026

Eligibility

- Master's degree in Agriculture and allied subjects with working knowledge of computers.
- Working not below the rank of Assistant Professor/ Subject Matter Specialist and equivalent in the concerned subject in Agricultural university/ ICAR institute/ Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Boarding and lodging facilities

- The selected candidates will be entitled to the Third AC/ Second AC/ Railway fare to and fro by the shortest route from the respective place of work.
- Free boarding and lodging facilities will be provided at the University premises.

How to apply

Interested candidates are required to submit the duly filled application form along with a registration fee through a Demand Draft (DD) drawn in favour of Director CAFT in ICT, BAU, Sabour payable at Sabour (Bhagalpur). The registration fee is ₹1,000/- per participant for candidates from ICAR and ICAR-accredited Colleges/Universities, and ₹5,000/- per participant for candidates from organizations other than ICAR. The registration fee is non-refundable under any circumstances. For further details or clarification regarding the programme, interested applicants may contact the Course Director or Course Coordinators through email or telephone.

Note

Please bring your Laptop and Smartphone for attending practical exercises of the training.

Selection of Participants

As per the eligibility criteria, participant's selection would be based on first-cum-first basis. Selection of candidates is a matter of discretion of the competent authority of BAU Sabour. Participants' nomination from the respective heads of organizations does not entail confirmed participation in the programme. A formal confirmation letter indicating the selection of candidates will be sent after the last date for the receipt of nominations.

Travel to BAU, Sabour

The nearest railway station is Sabour (SBO), Bhagalpur (BGP) and Naugachhia (NAA), located at 0.5 km, 9.0 km and 22.0 km from University Headquarter, respectively. It is well connected to Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangaluru, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar through railheads.

COURSE CO-COORDINATORS

Dr. Aditya Sinha
Asst. Professor-cum-Junior Scientist,
Department of Extension Education,
Bihar Agricultural University. Sabour
Mob. No.: 9798649444
E-mail: inc.aditya@gmail.com

Dr. C.K Panda
Asst. Professor-cum-Junior Scientist,
Department of Extension Education.
Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour
Mob. No.: 8617025402
E-mail: dr.ckpanda@gmail.com

COURSE DIRECTOR

Dr. S.K. Pathak
Director Extension Education,
Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour
Mob. No.: 9431310417/ 8987171991
E-mail: deebausabour@gmail.com

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PROFORMA FOR APPLICATION

1. Name & Designation   : ....

2. Date of Birth   : ....

3. Affiliation (University/Institute) : ....

4. Address (Postal) Office & Residence: ....

5. Male/Female : ....

6. Telephone No. : ....

7. Mobile No. (What's App) : ....

8. E-mail   : ....

9. Educational Qualification:

Degree	Inst./Univ.	Class	% of marks/ C.G.P.A.
B.Sc.			
M.Sc.			
Ph.D.			

10. Training attended at this Department /at other places, if any (Specialized).Give details.

11. Experience:
   a) In the field of Agril. and allied. :
   b) Total experience   :

12. Publications (No.)
   a) Scientific articles   :
   b) Technical articles   :
   c) Others (please specify)   :

13. Whether teaching Agril. Extension at UG/PG   level: Yes/ No

14. Details of payment :

Signature of the candidate
Name and Designation

Recommendation of the Head of the Department/Institute/University

Organized by
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Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bhagalpur, Bihar