







PANORAMA e-newsletter

Mandan Bharti Agriculture College Agwanpur, Saharsa, 852201



Bihar Agricultural University

Sabour, Bhagalpur, 813210

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Vice Chancellor





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It gives me immense pleasure to witness the launch of "News Panorama", the enewsletter of Mandan Bharti Agriculture College (MBAC), Agwanpur. This initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening the communication and dissemination of knowledge, achievements, and innovations emerging from the college. The title "News Panorama" aptly reflects the vision of MBAC, Agwanpur, to present a comprehensive view of its academic, research, and extension activities. This platform will serve as a bridge to connect students, faculty, alumni, and stakeholders, showcasing their contributions and inspiring collective growth in the field of agriculture and allied sciences.

In today's fast-evolving world, sharing knowledge and celebrating accomplishments are pivotal for fostering a culture of learning and excellence. I am confident that this e-newsletter will not only highlight the achievements of MBAC but also inspire meaningful dialogues on innovative solutions to agricultural challenges, paving the way for sustainable development. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the editorial team for their efforts in bringing this vision to life. I urge all students and faculty to actively contribute to "*News Panorama*" ensuring its success as a vibrant and dynamic forum for intellectual exchange.

Let this initiative strengthen our shared commitment to empowering agricultural education and research, aligning with the goals of Bihar Agricultural University to contribute to national and global development.

Wishing "News Panorama" great success in its journey ahead!

(D.R. Singh) Vice Chancellor

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Dr. Ajay Kumar Sah Dean Agriculture Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour

MESSAGE

With immense joy and pride, I address the MBAC community on the occasion of the launch of *News Panorama*, the e-newsletter of Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur, Saharsa. This marks a new chapter in the college's journey, reflecting its dynamism and the forward-thinking mindset of its faculty and students along with the Associate Dean cum- Principal.

Agriculture today stands at a crossroads, facing challenges from climate change, resource constraints, and market dynamics. MBAC plays an important role in shaping solutions through cutting-edge education, research, and technology transfer. I firmly believe that *News Panorama* will serve as a bridge to connect the world of agricultural knowledge within the college to the larger community, including farmers, researchers, and policymakers.

This e-newsletter represents more than a platform for news—it is a space for dialogue, learning, and inspiration. It will highlight the tireless efforts of students, faculty, and researchers who strive every day to innovate and improve agricultural practices. More importantly, it will reflect the spirit of collaboration that lies at the heart of progress in this field.

I encourage every member of the MBAC family to actively engage with *News Panorama*, sharing their insights, achievements, and ideas. Together, we can turn this into a hub of intellectual and practical exchange that benefits not just the college but the agricultural sector as a whole.

My heartfelt congratulations to the editorial team for their vision and hard work. Let this initiative shine as a beacon of knowledge and hope.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Sah



Dr. Arunima Kumari Associate Dean-cum Principal Mandan Bharti Agriculture College Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour

From the Principal's Desk

I am delighted to present the inaugural issue of *News Panorama*, the e-newsletter from our college. The publication of *News Panorama* marks an important step by MBAC, Agwanpur, in sharing its activities and contributions in agricultural education, research, extension, and training with a wider audience. Agriculture, being the backbone of our state, has a profound impact on the socio-economic status of the large population dependent on it. Hence, any innovation in agricultural research and its dissemination carries immense significance.

We hope that the reading and sharing of advancements in agricultural science and technology, whether directly or indirectly, will fulfil the purpose behind launching this enewsletter. *News Panorama* aspires to be a bridge between the scientific community, students, and farmers, fostering awareness and understanding of innovations that can transform the agricultural landscape.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated scientists, enthusiastic students, engaged readers, and progressive farmers for their unwavering support in promoting agricultural innovations, ensuring their dissemination, and embracing them for the holistic development of agriculture in our region.

Aumina Kumari

Dr. Arunima Kumari

Issue _



e-Newsletter

MBAC at a Glance

MBAC, Agwanpur is one of the leading institutes of the Koshi Region, Bihar. It is 7 KM away from the district head quarter, Saharsa which is located in the middle Gangetic plain of agro-climatic zone II. Saharsa has been an educational, political, and cultural centre since immemorial. MBAC, Agwanpur came into existence in 2007 under the aegis of then Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa Samastipur. It became an integral part of BAU, Sabour after the conversion of Bihar Agricultural College, Sabour into Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour in 2010. Since then, this college has been offering under Graduate program in Agriculture to meet the current challenges of scientific manpower, crucial and significant research, extension services, and quality planting. materials in the region.







Hands on training for biotech students of MLT College, Saharsa

Ten days training program for final year Biotech Students was organised at MBAC, Agwanpur from 05th February to 14th February 2024 led by Dr Tribhuwan Kumar. Topics such Instrumentation & Techniques of Tissue Culture Laboratory, Slide Cytological **Studies** Preparation & Microtomy & Elisa Reader, Morphology & Anatomy of Flowering Plants Agricultural Crops, DNA finger printing, Bioinformatics Software & Analysis, Preparation Media Composition, isolation of Pure Culture, Morphological & Molecular Basis of Identification of Pathogen, Chemistry of Honey & its

Production Technology, Functioning & Instrumentation of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, Visit of Poly house, Net Shed and Field were dealt by the combined efforts of faculty members of this college. Dr. Arunima Kumari, Associate Dean-Cum-Principal also distributed manuals on Fundamental of Plant Biochemistry & Biotechnology published MBAC, by Agwanpur among trainee students.



Issue]

Awareness program for proper disposal and management of kitchen waste

MBAC is all set to spread awareness among local residents regarding the proper disposal of kitchen wastes in an eco-friendly manner. An awareness program was conducted among local residents of *Sisai*, Saharsa on 20th January & 29th January, 2024 by the special team of Assistant Professors –cum-Jr. Scientist comprising Dr. Sima Kumari, Dr. Samir Pratap Singh & Ms. Kumari Rekha. Women play major role in every house kitchen and household chores in our Indian tradition. Training was given regarding different types of kitchen wastes including dry and wet wastes, their segregation and preparation of vermi-compost. Vermi-compost is manures generated by slow and steady digestion of garbage by earthworm. The manure thus generated is eco-friendly and have great health benefits. MBAC appreciated one of the trainees named Anokha devi for her exemplary work and being a role model for others to follow that good practice. Thirty percent farmers were versed with vermi-compost practice and revealed their interest in vermicompost preparation using household wastes.



Ornamental & flowering plants are available at MBAC

MBAC, Agwanpur saharsa has initiated conservation & Production of ornamental & flowering plantlets for consumers of Kosi region, More than 40 kinds of plants are being propagated here under the supervision of Dr. Mukul Kumar, Assistant Professor

Consumers may avails plantlets of different flower such as Petuniya, Dianthus, Holly hock, phlox, salvia, Dianthus, Arctotis, Antirochinum, tagetus, patule, Chryanthus, Dahaliya, Allysum, cosmos, acroclinum, Bellis,



verbena, calendula, pansy, helichrysum, gazania, larbsuper, marigold etc. The purpose of this nursery is to maintain a diverse range of ornamental and flowering species, including both native and exotic varieties. It is also a good spot for students to learn various propagation techniques such as seeds, cuttings, and grafting. This nursery is not only catering the needs of learning but also a resource of revenue generation by selling vivid plantlets. It is oriented on the promotion of community involvement and awareness about the importance of ornamental and flowering plants in the environment.



Seminar-cum-Workshop on Entrepreneurship Development for Farm Women

Four Seminar-cum-Workshop days on "Entrepreneurship Development for Farm Women" was organized by Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur, Saharsa, from 12thto 15th February, 2024. This was done by Mrs. Ashwini Choudhary and Dr. Mukul Kumar under the guidance of Dr. Arunima Kumari, Associate Dean-cum-Principal. Women from Saharsa, Sisai and Bangaon location participated in this workshop. This seminar -cum-workshop was based on employment generation through various agro-based enterprises, employment generation through Mithila paintings,



employment of women through value added horticultural products and makhana products, Marketing opportunities



e-Newsletter

Issue

and challenges in Bihar and other states of India.



World Rat Day was organised for awareness on Animal Ethics

World rat day was convened at Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur on 4th April, 2004 by joint effort of Dr. Mukul Kumar and Dr. Sonam Roy. It brought students, faculty, and staff altogether to honour these creatures. The event left a lasting impact on the college community, fostering empathy, curiosity, and deeper standpoints about their rats and The significance. successfully event challenged stereotypes and highlighted the complex and fascinating nature of these often-misunderstood animals through a combination of literary activities such as

discussion, speech, facts and creative expression. Celebration also included awareness about rats and promotion of their welfare. Rats often have a bad notion, but they are fascinating creatures with important roles in ecosystems and as pets. This day was aimed at educating people about rats, dispelling myths and stereotype and encouraging compassion towards these animals. Eventually, it ended with experience with owning pet rats and highlights of their intelligence, sociability, and the inherent bond they share with humans. This day provides serves as a mean to educate people about the positive aspects of rats, such as their intelligence, adaptability, and contributions to scientific research. World Rat Day seeks to dispel myths and misconceptions about rats



by providing accurate information about their behaviour, habitats, and roles in ecosystems. It helps conservation efforts including protection of endangered rat species and their habitats. Seed Dispersal, Pest Control, Soil Aeration, Nutrient Cycling, Indicator Species are some ways in which shows significance of rats in agricultural ecosystems. Rats are commonly used as research model organisms in agricultural research, particularly in studies related to nutrition, toxicology, and diseases. Overall, World Rat Day serves as a reminder to recognize and appreciate the diversity of life on our planet.



Preventive measures to control Grain Storage Pest Management during Harvest Season

Generally harvesting, threshing and storage of Rabi crops such as Wheat, Rabi Maize, Pulse, oil seed crop is done in the month of April. Storehouse/ mud store bin/ storage jute bags are commonly used for grain storage. It is essential to adopt precautionary measures to avoid any kind of infestation of insect in our stored grains. Stored grain pests pose a significant threat to agricultural productivity and food security worldwide. These pests can cause extensive damage to stored grains, leading to economic losses for farmers and food shortages for communities. Some of the common preventive measures are Drying of Grains to a moisture range of 10 to 14% using sunlight or dryers, Sanitation which involves regular cleaning of storage sites, both inside and outside, removes dirt, debris, foreign particles, and infested grains, reducing the risk of initial infestation and Cleaning of Machinery, Threshing yards and post-harvest machinery. The Storage Structure also affects infestation; therefore, it should be well-ventilated, hygienic, rodent-proof, bird-proof, and clean. We should not forget Sealing of Cracks, holes, and crevices in storage walls, floors.



Disinfestation of Godowns and store rooms using malathion 5% or DDVP is recommended to avoid cross-infestation of new stock. Surface dusting with malathion 5% on the grain surface can deter pests. In addition, Plant extracts/ Botanicals such as Neem leaf/ Neem leaf powder, black pepper, and turmeric powder (@10g /kg of grains should be mixed.) have insecticidal properties and can be mixed with grains for better protection. Aluminium phosphide @ 3 tablets of 3 g each per tonne of grain tablets wrapped in cotton pouches is most accepted practice to facilitate cleanup after fumigation.

Drumstick plantation helps to restore Wastelands in addition to well-known nutraceutical benefits

Planting of drumstick was initiated at MBAC, Saharsa by Dr. Arunima Kumari, Assoc. Dean- cum- Principal MBAC on 15th April leading to Greening and Restoration of



Wastelands. Principal emphasised on the utilization of waste land by planting in drumstick, bael, karonda, aonla, custard apple etc there in, which provide us food, nutritional medicinal and environmental security in addition to employment to rural people. Greening of wastelands can play a significant role in mitigating climate change, bringing socioeconomic welfare. It leads to improvements in the soil quality, greater vegetation and tree cover. Land under agriculture is decreasing at a rate 0.03 million hectares per year in India.

About 55.76 million hectares i.e. 16.96% of total Geographical Area (TGA) of the country is wastelands and are currently under-utilized and deteriorating due to a lack of appropriate resource management. The Governments are providing strong support to agro forestry through various schemes. Drumstick is perennial fast-growing tree. Planting in wasteland creates an additional carbon sink.



Drumstick leaves, seeds, seed pods, flowers and roots are very nutritious, rich in vitamins A and C, iron and calcium. This help to keep the skin healthy and smooth and make people on 12th Mare

and roots are very nutritious, rich in vitamins A and C, iron and calcium. This help to keep the skin healthy and smooth and make people strong and resistant to cold and infections. It also helps to strengthen the bone. The drumstick tree is also grown as a homestead crop. Drumstick leaves contain 7 times the vitamin 'C in oranges, 4 times the calcium in milk, 4 times the vitamin 'A' in carrots, 3 times the potassium in banana and 2 times the protein in milk. The plant can be considered as a powerhouse of nutritional value. Drumstick is also suitable to grow as a mixed crop with a wide range of perennial crops. Powder is being made from leave which is highly demanded in the market because powder has packed with protein and calcium. Their produce realizes as local for vocal. So, planting of drumstick is pivotal step in wasteland area.

Celebration of International Women's Day



Women's Day was celebrated at MBAC, Agwanpur, Saharsa on 12th March 2024 to recognize the importance and significance of women in every person's life and in every sphere of life. The occasion was graced by the presence of Mrs. Neelam Choudhary, Commissioner, Koshi Zone; Mrs. Ben Priya, Mayor, Saharsa; Mr. Jyoti Kumar, ADM, Saharsa; Mr. Pradeep Jha, SDM, Sadar, Saharsa and others. Developed women from various fields including legal, University, Teaching, Medical, Law & Administration, Entrpeunership, NGOs, political and cultural fields etc. had been invited and felicitated. Apart from these farm women, students etc. also participated in the programme. Discussions were done on gender equality, women empowerment, domestic violence, discrimination, equal opportunities, women education. progress, awareness about women's rights, and role of women in Nation building etc. Discussions were also made on various qualities of women like dedication, commitment, courage, their struggle and the way they manage and nurture their family life and professional life. The programme was organized by Mrs. Ashwini Choudhary, Dr. Arshad Anwer and Dr. Mukul Kumar under the supervision of Dr. Arunima Kumari, Principal, MBAC. The cultural programme and speech of students were added attraction of this programme





Harnessing Nature's Fragrance: Harvesting and drying of Khus plants

Aromatic plants have been an integral part of human civilization for centuries, offering a plethora of benefits ranging from medicinal to aromatic. Among these botanical wonders, the Khus plant (*Vetiveria zizanioides*), also known as Vetiver, stands out for its distinct aroma and versatile applications. Beyond their commercial and practical applications, Khus plants hold cultural and environmental significance in many communities. They are deeply ingrained in local traditions and rituals, symbolizing Purity, prosperity, and spiritual renewal. Moreover, their role in sustainable agriculture and land management makes them invaluable allies in the fight against soil erosion, deforestation, and climate change. As the seasons change and the days grow longer, the time for khus harvesting at MBAC Farm approaches.





Harvesting khus is a labor-intensive process that requires patience and attention to detail. Upon returning to the Agronomy Laboratory, the harvested khus undergoes a meticulous drying process to preserve its fragrance and potency. Here, in a controlled environment designed to mimic the warm, dry conditions of its natural habitat, the khus is spread out in thin layers on drying racks. The harvesting and drying of khus at MBAC Farm and Agronomy Laboratory respectively are more than just agricultural processes; they are a celebration of nature's bounty and the ingenuity of those who work tirelessly to harness its gifts. The work is led by Dr Sneha Kumari, Assistant professor at MBAC.

Viksit Bharat @ 2047-Voice of youth at MBAC, Agwanpur

MBAC, Agwanpur has been organising different sorts of program to induce young generation as part of mission Viksit Bharat @ 2047. The College invited students of different schools to motivate and induce young brains towards the agriculture science, keeping the vast potential of agriculture in the building of developed nation. Students of different schools and college were exposed to different activities being carried at MBAC. The college also organised different kinds of literary program such as debate, essay, speech completion on the topic related to the approaches for the developed nation.





Issue _



Sensitization Session on Aspire Leaders Program

A sensitization session on Aspire Leaders Program was organized on 16th May for the Under Graduate students of MBAC, Agwanpur under the Convenor ship of Dr. Arunima Kumari, Associate Dean-cum-Principal, MBAC, Agwanpur, Saharsa, Bihar. This is an incredible initiative by Harvard University Professors, on a mission to empower young individuals to reach their full potential and build thriving communities. It's a fully funded global online immersive leadership program designed for students to kickstart their journey to become leaders of the future. 14-Week Online Leadership Journey (self-paced),





by HBS professors, Certification of Completion, Global Alumni Community students from 180+ countries, Seed funding opportunity of INR 85000, Opportunity to receive seed funding of INR 8,00,000 on submission and approval of social impact project plan were some highlights of the program. The session was moderated by Dr. Arshad Anwer and Dr. S. M. Rahaman. Further an online interactive session was planned on 21 st May, 2024 with the Aspire Management Team for hand holding of students to fill the application form and answer the related queries.

One day workshop on GRE, TOEFL & IELTS

One day Workshop on GRE, TOEFL, and IELTS to study abroad with assistantship was organised by MBAC, Agwanpur on 21st May in the Chairmanship of Dr. Arunima Kumari, Associate Dean-cum-Principal. Dr. Pawan Kumar, Principal, MLT, College, Saharsa, Dr. Monika Pandey, Principal and Mr. Amol Kumar Jha, Vice Principal, KVS Saharsa also graced the occasion by their presence as guests.

One book on Intellectual Property National Rights: & Global Perspective and one Practical Manual Problematic Soil on and their management written by faculty members of Department of Plant Breeding/ Biotechnology and Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry respectively were also released in the inaugural session.





27 faculty members of different departments of faculty of Agricultural Science & Technology and 172 students of different semesters of B. Sc. Agriculture participated in this program. Dr. Arunima Kumari, Associate Dean-cum-Principal, MBAC elaborated on the importance of different examinations such as GRE, TOEFL & IELTS. These standardized tests play crucial role in determining eligibility and competitiveness in the application process for Masters & Ph.D Program in the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and other English speaking countries. Tribhuwan Kumar, Assistant Professor cum-Jr. Scientist & Organising secretary of the Workshop dealt with the Structure of GRE, TOEFL/ IELTS examination, Strategic time Management and Effective Study Techniques., Honing verbal and writing skills, designing of Statement of Purpose (SOP) and Curriculum Vitae (CV), Navigation of Study opportunities and application Process. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Professor-cum-Jr. Scientist, Soil Science and agricultural Chemistry Expressed vote of thanks.



World environment day celebrated at MBAC Saharsa

World Environment Day, which is celebrated on every 5th June, promotes environmental awareness and action to make our planet a beautiful place. The theme of World Environment Day, 2024 was land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience for our future. Department of Horticulture, Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur, Saharsa, organized World Environment Day with vital objectives under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Arunima Kumari, Assoc. Dean-Cum-Principal MBAC. Chief guest of this auspicious

occasion was Mr. Vaibhav Chaudhary, District Magistrate, Saharsa. Dr. Dilip Mahto, ADR, RRS, Saharsa, Scientist/ Faculty members, students of the College participated in this mega plantation drive. Mr. Vaibhav Chaudhary urged the house to take a firm pledge for the protection of the nature and environment by saving energy and water, reducing the use of disposable plastics, promoting reusable materials, and planting saplings. Dr. Arunima Kumari, while addressing the scientist and students, said that she believed in planting plants daily

e-Newsletter

June, 2024

because our lives deeply relied on the existence of plants. Dr. Dilip Mahto, ADR also retreated the notion *Van nhi to hum nhi* (no forest, no man). Mr. Vaibhav Chaudhary planted Rudraksha (*Elaeocarpus angustifolius*), at the left corner of the administrative building of the college, which is a majestic symbol of spirituality and enlightenment. Later on Plantation drive was intiated to plant the tree along the Road side.

Rangoli competition based on the theme of the year of the environment day was also organised. Celebration of World Environment Day (5-16 June 1972) was initiated in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment which resulted from discussions on the integration of interactions human and the environment.

Issue]



Plantation of Rudraksha by Sri. Vaibhav Chaudhary, DM, Saharsa



MBAC, Agwanpur welcomes New Faculty Members

A large number of Assistant Professors/ Scientists in various disciplines & specializations have been appointed by the Government of Bihar and posted at MBAC, Agwanpur for the enrichment and capacity building of the College by the untiring effort of Honourable Vice Chancellor, Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour. The following scientists have joined recently whose names and subjects are mentioned below.



Dr. Subhashisa Praharaj Agronomy

Crop Production



Dr. Sima Kumari Agronomy



Mr. Rahul Kumar Raushan Agronomy



Issue

Dr. Bharat Lal Soil Science & Agril. Chemistry

Crop Protection



Dr. Lalbabu Kumar Entomology



Dr. Munna Yadav Entomology



Dr. Samir Pratap Singh Plant Pathology



Dr. Jyothi V. Plant Pathology

Mandan Bharti Agriculture College, Agwanpur

15



e-Newsletter

June, 2024





Kumari Rekha Plant Breeding & Genetics

Plant Science



Dr. Prity Sundaram Plant Breeding & Genetics



Dr. Imran Plant Breeding & Genetics

Social Science



Mr. Awdhesh Kumar Agricultural Statistics



Mrs. Sonam Roy Agricultural Extension

Horticultural Science



Dr. Md. Abu Nayyer Fruit Science



Dr. Vikash Kumar Fruit Science



Issue]

Tourist places near MBAC, Saharsa

Sant Karu Khirhari Temple, Mahpura

N estled on the banks of the Kosi River, the revered temple of Saint Karu Khirhari stands as a symbol of devotion and resilience. Known for his unwavering Shiv-Bhakti and dedication to cows, Saint Karu Khirhari is worshipped by devotees from all walks of life, who throng the temple to offer milk in his honor. Located near Mahpura village, just 2 km from the Mahishi block office, the temple rests on the eastern embankment of the turbulent Kosi River. Despite being situated in such a precarious riverside location, the temple has withstood the onslaught of the river's fury over the years, emerging as a beacon of faith and heritage.



Mandan Bharti Dham, Mahishi

In the serene Mahishi Block of Saharsa district lies the historic abode of Pandit Mandan Mishra, the great Mimansa philosopher and disciple of Kumarila Bhatta. It was here, 1,200 years ago, that an iconic Shastrarth (religious discourse) unfolded between Adi Shankaracharya and Mandan Mishra. Legend has it that Shankara was guided to this place by a pitcher-woman, who described Mishra's home as where parrots and mynahs debated Vedic philosophy in Sanskrit. Mishra's wife, Bharti, herself a revered scholar, served as the impartial judge of this intellectual duel, marking a significant moment in Indian philosophical history.





Surya Mandir, Kandaha

The Sun Temple in Kandaha village, recognized by the Archaeological Survey of India, is an architectural and religious treasure, akin to the famed Surya Mandir in Aurangabad's Dev. Situated in Pastwar Panchayat of Mahishi Block, it lies 16 km west of Saharsa district headquarters and 3 km north of Gorho Ghat Chowk on the way to Tarasthan, Mahishi. The temple features a stunning granite-carved idol of Surya Bhagwan riding a sevenhorsed chariot. Inscriptions at its entrance trace its origin to the 14th-century Karnata dynasty under King Narsimha Deo. Damaged by Mughal invader Kalapahad, it was later restored by poet-saint Laxminath Gosai.



Shri Ugratara Sthan, Mahishi

Shri Ugratara Mandir, located in Mahishi village, lies 17 km west of Saharsa station and is a revered religious site in Bihar. The ancient temple houses the idol of Bhagwati Tara, believed to be centuries old, attracting devotees from across the region. Flanking the central deity are two smaller idols, worshipped as Ekjata and Nil Saraswati, adding to the temple's spiritual significance. Known for its serene ambiance and historical charm, the temple remains a focal point of faith and devotion, drawing pilgrims who seek blessings from the divine mother and her accompanying deities.





News- Panorama

June, 2024





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