Government of India with the assistance of the State Government established the biggest multi-campus university at Jabalpur, in the heart of India, named after the architect of modern India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru based on the recommendations of Radhakrishnan commission (1949) on the concept of establishment of Agricultural University.

An approach was envisaged to narrowed down the gap between the experts and farmers through Joint Indo-American Team on Agricultural Research and Education in 1954-55 and 1959-60 on the patterns of Land Grant Colleges of USA. On October 2, 1964, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (JNKVV) was inaugurated by the then Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Smt. Indira Gandhi. The Central Administrative Office of the University is located about 7 km North of Jabalpur town on National Highway No. 7.

The University was created by an act of Madhya Pradesh Legislature passed in 1963. The University had to part with the creation of sister universities Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) at Raipur in 1987, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindhia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Gwalior in 2008 and Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, Jabalpur in 2009.

At present, the University holds an area of about 1544 ha of land. The area under the University jurisdiction contains alluvial, deep black, medium black, shallow and light black, mixed red and black, mixed red and yellow and skeletal or Gravelly soil. It is low to medium in available nitrogen and phosphorus, and medium to high in available potassium. At present, JNKVV encompasses five colleges of Agriculture (Jabalpur, Rewa, Tikamgarh, Ganjbasoda and Waraseoni, Balaghat); one Agricultural Engineering (Jabalpur); 4 Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) (Jabalpur, Powarkheda, Tikamgarh, Chhindwara); 2 Regional Research Stations (Rewa, Sagar); Agricultural Research Stations (ARS) (Dindori, Waraseoni, Garhakota, Sausar, Tendini) and 20 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) (Badgaon, Betul, Chhattarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Dindori, Harda, Jabalpur, Katni, Mandla, Narsinghpur, Panna, Powarkheda, Rewa, Sagar, Seoni, Shahdol, Sidhi, Tikamgarh, Umaria) representing 6 agro-climatic zones spread over 25 districts.