



Natural Farming News

Project on Out Scaling of Natural Farming through KVKs

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भाकृअनुप-कृषि प्रौद्योगिकी अनुप्रयोग अनुसंधान संस्थान, जोन-VIII, पुणे, महाराष्ट्र
ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone-VIII, Pune, Maharashtra

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Director's Message

ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Pune is vested with the responsibility of coordination and monitoring of technology application and frontline extension education programs through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in three states viz., Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa. There are currently 82 KVKs in the Zone, including 50 in Maharashtra, 30 in Gujarat and 2 in Goa.

Among these 48 KVKs are implementing a Natural Farming project. 30 KVKs in Gujarat, 17 in Maharashtra, and 1 KVK in Goa. Natural farming practices can also help India to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. It would contribute to the mitigation of hunger and ensure food security sustainably. The inclusive nature of natural farming and its economic viability even for the small and marginal farming community would result in better employment opportunities in rural areas. This opportunity and exclusivity would benefit the women farmers in rural areas. Most notably natural farming would help conserve soil, stop desertification, reverse land degradation, and prevent biodiversity loss.

I feel excited to present the Newsletter of ICAR- Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone VIII, Pune for the period October 2022 to March 2023. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have conducted various activities like training, awareness campaigns and demonstrations related to natural farming in 2022-23.

This newsletter highlights the real-life experiences of natural farming in a structured manner. The Zonal workshop of Natural Farming was held on 19th January 2023, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Kailash Chaudhary inaugurated the workshop on natural farming organized by ICAR-ATARI Pune. More than 500 scientists and officers attended the workshop. This project supporting in increasing the area under natural farming by conducting 64 trainings, organizing 395 demonstrations and 632 awareness campaigns in the zone. I hope this initiative will help us to move towards a sustainable, eco-friendly and economically viable agricultural ecosystem.

(Dr. S. K. Roy)



About ATARI, Pune

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established 11 Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs) across the country for monitoring, reviewing, and coordinating the KVK system. Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) and supported by two Assistant Director Generals monitor and review the progress of KVKs (at present 731) through ATARIs. Earlier, there were Eight ATARIs (Ludhiana, Kolkata, Barapani, Kanpur, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Jabalpur and Bengaluru). Considering more number of KVKs and intricate monitoring/coordination mechanisms, three additional ATARIs (Pune, Guwahati and Patna) were established in 2015 for effective monitoring, coordinating and reviewing the KVKs and started functioning from 2017. ATARI Pune office site was visited by the DDG (Agri. Extension) and VC, MPKV, Rahuri on 23rd May 2019. ICAR-ATARI Pune Administrative building inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri. Kailash Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India. Chief Guest Hon'ble Shri Narendra Singh Tomar (Union minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India) attended the program virtually and gave guidance about Natural farming on 19th January 2023.

If you look at the history of ATARI, it was established as a Zonal Coordination Unit in 1979 at 8 locations to monitor the transfer of technology projects. The Zonal Coordination Unit was upgraded as the Zonal Project Directorate (ZPD) in 2009. Again, it was upgraded to Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI) in 2015.

State and Host Organization wise KVKs

States	Host Organizations						Total
	SAUs	NGOs	ICAR	DUs	OUs	SDA	
Maharashtra	20	28	01	-	01	00	50
Gujarat	18	07	02	03	-		30
Goa	-	-	01	-	-	01	02
Total	38	35	04	03	01	01	82

Additional KVKs in Larger Districts of the Zone

In Maharashtra, 16 districts (Amravati, Ahmednagar, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Buldhana, Nanded, Beed, Yavatmal, Solapur, Nagpur, Sangli, Jalgaon, Satara, Jalna and Kolhapur) are having two KVKs in the district while double KVKs have been established in 3 districts (Banaskantha, Kutch and Rajkot) of Gujarat.



Mandate of ATARI

- Coordination and monitoring of technology applications and frontline extension programmes.
- Strengthening agricultural extension research and knowledge management.

Major Activities of ATARI

- Planning, monitoring and reviewing of KVK activities in the zone; to identify, prioritize and implement various activities related to technology integration and dissemination.
- Coordination with SAUs, ICAR institutes/ organizations, line departments and voluntary organizations in the zone for implementation of KVK-mandated activities.
- Facilitating financial and infrastructural support to KVKs for effective functioning.

About Krishi Vigyan Kendras

Krishi Vigyan Kendra is a frontline extension model at the district level, designed and nurtured by the ICAR to showcase the frontier technologies, capacity development of different stakeholders, and frontrunner in technology application. It acts as *One Stop Shop* for solving farmers' problems through real-time agro-advisory in different forms.

Activities carried out under the project “Out Scaling of Natural Farming”

During an address to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Conference in 2019, the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself urged farmers to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and also emphasized on the use of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) for soil conservation. Agro ecological practices are an alternative to conventional high-input agriculture, resulting in better yields without compromising the needs of the future generation and avoiding inter-generational conflict. These have been also advocated by the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. Various countries have adopted such practices on a large scale to achieve the SDGs and simultaneously address issues of food security and climate change (FAO, 2016; UNDP, 2015). Sustainable agriculture practices involve mixed cropping, increasing the diversity of crops produced raising the diversity of insects, other animals, and plants in and around the fields, and promoting microbial diversity and intensity in the soil. Further, sustainable agriculture practices increase the organic matter content of the topsoil, raising its ability to retain and store rainwater.

There are many working models of natural farming all over the world but nowadays the Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) is the most popular model in India, which is followed by various farmers, which practices cow-centric agriculture which involves the application of natural inputs prepared only cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, pulse flour combined with mulching practices and symbiotic intercropping. SPNF farming has advocated a renewed sense of confidence among farmers to make farming an economically viable venture and has freed them from the debt trap. This system of farming has the potential to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services along with strengthening climate resilience and improving livelihoods.

There are several states practicing Natural Farming. Prominent among them are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Till now 6.5 lakh ha of area is covered under natural farming in India. State governments of different states are promoting natural farming through various schemes. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi during his address to the farmers at the National Conclave on Natural Farming held at Anand, Gujarat on December 16,

2021, remarked that “we need not only to re-learn this ancient knowledge of agriculture but also to sharpen it for modern times. In this direction, we have to do research afresh, mould ancient knowledge into the modern scientific frame”. The Prime Minister said that those who will benefit the most from Natural Farming, constitute about 80% of the farmers of the country. He urged every State government, to come forward to make natural farming a Jan Andolan.

In Budget 2020–21, special financial assistance was announced for promoting Natural Farming practices under the Gujarat Atma Nirbhar package in Gujarat. Further, on 17 September 2020, two schemes were launched—Sat Pagla Khedut Kalyaan and Pagala for Natural Farming—by the Government of Gujarat. Along with that Central government is also participating in promoting natural farming through 425 KVKs.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra works with the farmers and farm women to increase agricultural production. For that KVK organize different types of training programme for change of knowledge, attitude, and behaviour of farmers and farm women and motivate for the adoption of new appropriate technology among the farmers. The requirement of maintaining relevance and a high degree of responsiveness necessitates that KVK must have a continuous flow of new technology from institutions of Agriculture research mainly agricultural universities and ICAR Institutes. To find out the success of any programme a periodic appraisal and evaluation of what is being done is essential so that suitable changes can be made to make the programme more effective.

This creates a need to do some serious evaluation of the Impact of the training programme on the adoption of natural farming practices organized by KVK, These KVKs are monitored and mentored by the Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 11 Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs) across the country for monitoring, reviewing and coordinating the KVK system Out scaling of Natural Farming project details. For the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa ATARI Zone VIII is the Authority which is having 82 KVKs Out of which 48 KVKs working on Natural farming as given below.

Activities carried out by KVKs under Natural farming as on 31st March 2023

Name of State	No. of KVKs under the project	Total No. of Training	Total No. of Demonstration	Total No. of Awareness Program
Maharashtra	17	17	129	200
Gujarat	30	41	253	426
Goa	1	06	13	06
Total	48	64	395	632

In 2022, the KVKs of Maharashtra have conducted 200 Awareness Programs, 17 Trainings, and 129 Demonstrations, whereas 426 Awareness Programs, 41 Trainings, and 253

Demonstrations were done by KVKs in Gujarat and 6 Awareness Programs 6 Trainings and 13 Demonstrations by Goa KVKs under the Zone-VIII.

Zonal Workshop on Natural Farming

On the occasion of the Inauguration ceremony of the Administrative building on 19th January 2023, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri. Kailash Chaudhary inaugurated the workshop on natural farming and millets organized by Atari Pune, Director, Dr. Lakhan Singh, Vice Chancellor M.P.K.V, Dr. P.G. Patil, ADG (Agri Extension), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. V.P. Chahal, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Natural Farming University, Dr. C. K. Timbadia and other dignitaries were present.

Minister Chaudhary said that both natural farming and millet play very important roles in health and Agricultural Science. In that regard, KVKs will be crucial in the coming era. He also announced a separate award to the KVK for remarkable work in the field of natural farming.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the program on the importance of natural farming by attending the programme virtually.

More than 500 participants including the Vice-Chancellor of SAUs, Chairmen of NGO KVKs, Directors of ICAR Institutes, Directors of Extension Education, and Heads of 82 KVKs from the zone participated in the Workshop on Natural Farming.



Training programme

The Training programme was conducted at KVK Osmanabad

A two-day training programme on natural farming was conducted in Dharashiv village of Alni Taluka. In that Mr. Appasaheb Navde, Shri. Lawand Yu guided the farmers. Production of natural inputs and practical field visits also on naturally grown rabi sorghum and chili plots.



Training programme along with method Demonstrations and field visit was conducted at KVK Dhule

01: Special Event

Two-day training programme along with method demonstrations and field visits was conducted at KVK Dhule on the 9th and 10th of March, 2023 in the presence of respected Dr. C. D. Deokar (Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Dhule), Shri. Shantaram Malpure (DSAO, Dhule), Dr. D. R. Nandre (Head, KVK, Dhule), Dr. Rahul Desale (Principal, ATS, Dhule) Dr. Khushal Bharate (Bajra Breeder, BRS, Dhule), Krishi Bhushan Shri. Adv. Prakash Patil, Krishi Bhushan Shri. Dilip Patil (Chairman, Farmer-Scientist Forum, KVK Dhule), Shri. Shriram Patil, Shri. Valmik Sonawane (Progressive farmers, Dhule) along with KVK Scientists, Professors from the College of Agriculture, Dhule, and officers from the state agriculture department, Dhule.

Dr. D. R. Nandre (Head, KVK, Dhule) in his introductory remark explained the importance of natural farming for sustainable agricultural production. He also gave information regarding activities conducted by KVK under the project "Out scaling of Natural Farming through KVKs".



02: Special Event

Two days training programme along with method demonstrations and a field visit was conducted at KVK Dhule on the 09th and 10th of February 2023 in the presence of Dr. D. R. Nandre (Head, KVK, Dhule), Mrs. Manisha Patil (Circle Agril. Officer, Dhule), Krishi Bhushan Shri. Dilip Patil (Chairman, Farmer-Scientist Forum, KVK Dhule), Dr. Pankaj Patil (Scientist, Plant Protection), Shri. Jagdish Kathepuri (Scientist, Agronomy) and Dr. Atish Patil (Scientist, Soil Science).

The training programme was conducted in the field of Shri. Dilip Patil (Krishi Bhushan for Organic farming) at village Wadne, Tal. & Dist. Dhule to share their experience and knowledge about natural farming. Dr. D. R. Nandre (Head, KVK, Dhule) gave a

Dr. C. D. Deokar (Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Dhule) in his presidential remark focused on the injudicious and unscientific application of chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals. He stated that soil health and soil quality can be maintained through natural farming.

Dr. Pankaj Patil (Scientist, Plant Protection), Shri. Rohit Kadu (Scientist, Horticulture) Shri. Jagdish Kathepuri (Scientist, Agronomy), Dr. Dhanaraj Chaudhari (Scientist, Dairy Science), and Dr. Atish Patil (Scientist, Soil Science) delivered lectures on basic concepts of natural farming during technical sessions.

Shri. Valmik Sonawane (Progressive farmer, Borvihir, Dhule) shared his views on natural farming. He stated that natural farming is in need of time, as soils deteriorate day by day. In order to keep soils alive, farmers have to add more organics to the soil.

Dr. Atish Patil (Scientist, Soil Science) showed a method demonstration on preparation and use of natural farming inputs like Bijamrita, Jivamrita, Ghanjivamrita, Neemastra, Dashparni ark, Agniastra, and Bramhastra to the participants at the demonstration unit of KVK. Field visit was conducted to show the results of natural farming demonstration plots at KVK farm. A total of 325 farmers were present during the programme.



presidential remark on the implementation of the project "Out scaling of Natural Farming through KVKs". He stated that soil and water conservation can be managed through the effective utilization of various concepts of natural farming.

During the technical session Dr. Pankaj Patil (Scientist, Plant Protection), Shri. Jagdish Kathepuri (Scientist, Agronomy) and Dr. Atish Patil (Scientist, Soil Science) delivered lectures on the production technology of field crops under natural farming system. Showed method demonstrations on production technology of inputs used under the natural farming system. Shri. Dilip Patil (Krishi Bhushan for Organic farming) also shared his experience on the preparation and use of Bijamrita, Jivamrita, Ghanjivamrita, Neemastra, Dashparni ark, Agniastra and Bramhastra.

After the completion of technical sessions and method demonstrations, field visit was conducted to show the results of natural farming demonstration plots in the farm of Shri. Dilip

Patil. During the field visit, he showed natural farming demonstration plots of Chickpea and Maize to participants. Also, he shared his experience with natural farming.



One day Training program under Natural Farming was conducted by KVK Dahod

An one-day duration training programme on Natural Farming was organized by KVK, Dahod on 15 February, 2023 where a total of 28 farmers from village Thala Limdi of Zalod taluka, participated.

Additionally, a total of 4 one-day duration training programmes

on Natural Farming were organized on the 20, 21, 23 and 24 of March 2023 wherein a total of 106 farmers from Dhar, Ranapur, and Jhabua Districts of Madhya Pradesh participated.

In each of the five training programmes, the attended participants imparted with in-depth knowledge of Natural farming and its five basic principles. Also, live demonstrations and hands-on practical training for the preparation of *Bijamrita*, *Jivamrita*, *Agniastra*, and *Bramhastra* were provided.



Training Programme was conducted by KVK, Mohol (Solapur-II), Dist. Solapur related to "Natural Farming"

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mohol, Dist. Solapur has conducted Training Programmes for the farmers, farm women, and youngsters in the different villages like Mohol, Gotewadi, and Akluj from January to March 2023 and guided them about the major practices like the use of local varieties, microbial treatment, microbial inoculants for soil health, use of mulching and incorporation of biomass for creation of a sustainable microclimate for maximum beneficial microbial activity.



KVK Solapur-II conducted six training programs under the Natural Farming Project from January to March 2023 with a total of 331 participants (207 male and 124 female).

- 1) KVK Solapur-II under zone-VIII, organized the “*Training of Natural Farming*” on 03rd January 2023 in Mohol village with a total of 30 participants (12 male and 18 female).
- 2) KVK Solapur-II conducted the “*Training of Natural Farming and PM-FME Scheme*” on 24th January 2023 in Gotewadi, Taluka Mohol with a total of 62 participants.
- 3) A training programme was organized on 09th February

2023 at village Mohol in which a total of 73 participated including 44 males and 29 females.

- 4) A total of 42 participated in the Training programme organized by KVK Solapur-II in Akluj Village dated 27th February, 2023.
- 5) In Akluj, KVK Solapur-II organized one training programme on 16th March 2023 with the participation of 84 farmers (70 male and 14 female)
- 6) KVK Solapur-II conducted the “*Training of Natural Farming*” on 23rd March 2023 in Mohol with a total of 40 participants.

Training on “Natural Farming” at KVK Surat

A total of five training programmes, involving 269 farmers of Surat district, were organized under the project entitled “*Out scaling of Natural Farming through KVKs*”. Among these, three training programmes of two days were organized at FTC-Bardoli (6th and 7th January 2023), Kadvali (23rd and 24th January 2023), and Umargot (30th and 31st January 2023) for 40 farmers at each village. In these two days of training, farmers were trained with a theoretical part on the first day & practical part on the second day as well. In the theoretical part, they became aware of what is Natural Farming? How it can be practiced? What are the important five pillars of Natural Farming? and what are the benefits of adopting Natural Farming? Practical knowledge preparation of Bijamrita, Jivamrita, Ghanjivamrita, Neemastra, Bramhastra, Agniastra, etc. and about its application to agricultural as well as horticultural crops was explained in the secondary. They were also given different pamphlets containing



information on (1) Prakritik Krishi (2) Prakritik Krishi na Adharstambho (3) Sakbhaji ma Prakritik kheti (4) Fal pako ni Prakritik kheti in vernacular languages.

Training Programme on Preparation of Natural Farming Pesticides at KVK Sindhudurg

Objectives of the training programme:

1. To give information on the usefulness of natural pesticides.
2. To give information on ingredients required for the preparation of natural pesticides.
3. To demonstrate the preparation of natural pesticides.

The training programme was conducted at Oros on the preparation of natural pesticides. A total of 38 participants attended the training program. The information on the preparation of natural pesticides and the ingredients required for the preparation of natural pesticides was given. Also, the preparation of Agniastra, Dashparni ark, Neemastra, and



Bramhastra was demonstrated. The purpose of the training was to make aware of the use of natural pesticides and avoid the use of hazardous pesticides for producing residue-free food.

Training programme on Natural Farming: Preparation of Kitchen Garden at KVK Sangli-I

On 9th March 2023, KVK, Sangli-I conducted one training programme on “Natural Farming – Preparation of Kitchen Garden” for farm women of nearby villages. 19 farm women from nearby villages participated in this training programme. Dr. Dinar Sarjerao Patil, SMS (Horticulture) has explained in detail about the importance of natural farming. He also made them aware of the effects of chemical fertilizers on soil and chemical insecticides and pesticides on the human body.

Dr. Dinar Patil has also explained in detail about the preparation of kitchen gardens for these farm women. He told them about different vegetable crops that can be taken in the kitchen garden during the summer season. These farm women have also visited



kitchen gardens prepared at KVK, Sangli-I campus for demonstration and took every minute details of the same.

The training related to "Natural Farming" was conducted at KVK Hingoli

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Hingoli conducted training on natural farming and organic farming. Farmers' were inspired by training and their mind-set was changed towards innovative things in agriculture. Initially, they started small enterprises leading to higher income. Later they started cultivating vegetables through the chemical-free farming method. Farmers also got good returns by practicing innovative agriculture practices like use of Jivamrita, Bijamrita Dashparni ark, Bramhastra, Neemastra, etc.



State-Level Training Program conducted at KVK Surat

Directorate of Agriculture in collaboration with the State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute, Goa (SAMETI – Goa) conducted training in Natural farming. The information on Natural farming was delivered by Shri P. B. Kistanriya and Shri. B. A. Patel, Master of Trainer for Gujarat. Extension functionaries, Subject Matter Specialists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, progressive farmers, and Goshthi members participated in the training programme.



During the training programme following points were discussed:

1. Importance of Natural Farming.
2. Process of Natural Farming / Natural Cycle.
3. Difference between Conventional Farming and Organic farming or natural farming.
4. Role of Desi Cow, Earthworm, Microorganism.
5. Nutrient Management, Bijamrita, and Mulching.
6. Crop Protection from different types of Astras in Natural farming.

Launching of State level Natural Farming project by the hands of Governor of Gujarat and the Governor of Goa



KVK Wardha organized a Training programme on Natural Farming for Sustainable Agriculture

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wardha organized a training programme on Natural Farming for Sustainable Agriculture at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Selsura, Wardha on 18th March 2023. Sr. scientist and head Dr. R. S. Zadode guided farmers on Millet opportunities in Natural Farming. Millets are resilient and rain-fed crops that thrive in dry regions and grow well in conditions of low soil fertility and moisture. In terms of nutritional value, millets are superior to popular cereals like wheat and rice. The calcium, iron and fibre content of millet provides important nutrients for children's healthy growth. Describing millets as a source of balanced nutrition, which is produced through natural farming practices that require less water.

Broadcasting of the Hon'ble PM address through Webcasting of Virtual Participation in International Millets Conference was also

Training on sugarcane trash management under natural farming at KVK Nanded-I

Sugarcane is one of the important cash crop of Nanded District. The average area under this crop is above 10 thousand hectares. The average productivity of the sugarcane is only 75 tons per ha and Ratoon sugarcane is 45-50 tons per ha. The sugarcane productivity is reduced drastically due to the heavy use of irrigation water, soil degradation and imbalance in nutrient management, less or no use of organic fertilizers that affects the crop yield, soil micro-organisms and soil fertility.

KVK, Pokharni, Nanded-1 has conducted a training programme



organized for the participants. An introduction to Shree Anna and its benefits was also explained to the participants on this occasion. Near about 54 farmers participated in the programme.

on Trash management in sugarcane under natural farming and gave detailed information to the farmers on the importance of trash management in sugarcane. Made new intervention by introducing the concept of trash mulching in sugarcane, particularly in the Ratoon crop to minimize the operation losses, improve the soil structure and texture. KVK conducted three training programmes on trash mulching benefiting to 205 farmers of selected villages. KVK also disseminated the technology through extension agencies like state agriculture department and SHGs in the year 2022-2023. Now the impact of the training can be seen that each and every farmer is using the trash and no one is burning the trash of ratoon crops.

Technology demonstrated to 25 farmer's field in 20 ha area. Besides technological intervention, KVK also made inputs available of farmers like waste decomposing culture, Trichoderma, metarhizium, and biofertilizers to increase the adoption of technology. Trash mulching improves soil health

and soil moisture, maintain the soil pH, increase the organic carbon, and reduce the requirement for nutrient. The area under trash mulching will be increased in the future, which is also helpful in natural farming.



Five days Vocational Training programme under Natural Farming by KVK Dahod

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dahod under Anand Agricultural University, Anand organized a 5 day vocational training programme on 'Natural Farming' from 17/01/2023 to 21/01/2023. The beneficiaries of this training were a group of

36 progressive farmers hailing from district Vidisha of Madhya Pradesh state. The first day of the programme started with the registration of participating trainee farmers followed by the inaugural ceremony. Programme continued smoothly with lectures, slide shows and practical demonstrations as per schedule upto 5th day. Lectures on various topics like 'Soil Profile and its characteristics' and 'Cultivation practice of field crops



under natural farming' along with method demonstrations and hands-on practical experience of preparing *Jivamrita*, *Ghanjivamrita*, *Bijamrita*, *Neemastra* and *Bramhastra* were provided by Dr. N.D. Makwana, Scientist (Agronomy), KVK, Dahod. Topics like 'Role of KVKs in Indian Agriculture', 'Natural farming-A step towards doubling the farmer's Income', and 'Cultivation of vegetable crops under Natural Farming' were covered by Dr. H.L. Kacha, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, AAU, Dahod. Lectures were also delivered on the topics 'Importance and Utilization of Indigenous Cow in Natural Farming' and 'Principles of Animal Breeding for Conservation of Indigenous cattle breeds' by Dr. R. Radha Rani, Scientist (Animal Science), KVK, Dahod. The lecture on 'Packaging and Marketing of Natural

Farming produces' and exposure visit to Integrated Farming System units of KVK, Dahod were conducted by Dr. G.K. Bhabhor, Scientist (Extension Education), KVK, Dahod then next lecture delivered on the 'Importance of weather parameters and forecasting in Agriculture' by Dr. H.M. Pandya, SMS (Agro met), KVK, AAU, Dahod. Also, a motivational Field Visit to a successful Natural Farming Demonstration plot at Parab Prakritik Farm, that is run by a progressive farmer at Village Chandawana was conducted by KVK staff, Dr. Radha Rani, Shri H. M. Pandya & Shri R. B. Bhalani. On the last day, a valedictory programme was held wherein the trainees were conferred with certificates. The programme ended with feedback from the trainees and a vote of thanks.

Farmers Training under 'Out scaling of Natural Farming' through KVK, Jamnagar

On 23rd December 2022, Farmers Training was organized with the collaboration of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jamnagar, ATMA Project, Jamnagar and Horticultural Department, Jamnagar at Dhrol village of Dhrol Block of Jamnagar District. Different discipline officers shared information related to natural farming. Dr. K. P. Baraiya, Senior scientist and head, KVK,

Jamnagar Delivered lecture on natural farming and its benefits to reduce the cost of cultivation through the use of natural resources in farming. He informed about the health benefits of natural farming in human health and soil health. He also gave information about KVK activities and their role in natural farming, and also informed about major problems in current farming. ATMA project and Horticultural department officer gave information about different schemes related to natural farming. The total number of participants present were 76.

Two days Training campaign conducted By KVK Tapi

On 21st and 22nd February 2022, Farmers Training under "Out Scaling of Natural farming through KVKs" was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tapi. Officers from different discipline shared information related to natural farming. Dr. C. D. Pandya, Senior scientist and head, KVK, Tapi informed about the Method demonstration including the Preparation of *Jivamrita*, *Dashparni* ark and *Bijamrita*. He also gave the information about

KVK activity and their role in natural farming and also informed about the Film show through Farming overview, Effect of pesticides on human health. They also organized the Farmer's visit to KVK farm and Natural farming plot. During the training, farmers Scientists interacted on subject like cultivation, processing, and packaging of minor millets under Natural Farming. A total number of 40 farmers participated in programme. Out of which 35 Males and 05 females were participants.



Awareness Programme

The awareness Programme on Natural Farming was organized in KVK Nanded-I

KVK, Nanded-I has conducted an awareness training programme on natural Farming on 20.02.2023 at Malegaon village, Tq. Ardhapur, Nanded, In the presence of Dr. S. D. More, Ex. DEE, VNMKV, Parbhani, Scientist-Agronomy.

The main object of this training was to train the farmers to adopt the natural farming and preparation of products like bio-pesticides, insecticides, bio-fertilizers, etc., and to create awareness on their importance and increase use in natural farming.

Scientists of KVK provided information about Natural farming and technology of preparation of natural farming products like Jivamrita, Bijamrita, Ghanjivamrita, Agniashtra, Dashparni ark, Neem ark, waste decomposer, Trichoderma & vermin compost etc. to the farmers & encourage the farmers to adopt the natural farming on their own field to improve the health of soil environment as well as own.

The aim of the training programme was to promote traditional indigenous practices which reduce the external purchase of inputs. It is largely based on farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung urine formulation and periodic soil aeration. Natural farming also reduces the dependency on external inputs purchase and will help to easy smallholder farmers. It helps increase production, sustainability, saving of water use and improving soil health and farmland ecosystem. It is considered a cost-effective farming practice with scope for rising employment and rural development.

In this training programme, 35 farmers were present to whom KVK gave detailed information on natural farming and inputs. Farmers visited organic fields of vegetable, floriculture, fruit, and field crops. Farmers took an interest in training and they showed eagerness to adopt natural farming technology in their own field.



Awareness programme cum Workshop at KVK Gondia

Awareness program cum one-day workshop on Natural Farming was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hiwara, Gondia in Model Village Kidangipar Taluka Gondia for farmers on 30/01/2023.

The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Lata Uike, Sarpanch, Kidangipar, and Dr. Syed Shakir Ali, Senior Scientist and Head KVK Gondia. The introductory remarks were given by Dr. Vijaykumar Kore, he explained the theme of Natural Farming and type of programmes and demonstrations KVK will be implementing at village Kidangipar. In addition to this, he



briefed about the use of Natural Farming in Vegetables. Mr. Pawar, Circle officer gave information about various activities to be conducted under Natural Farming and informed the farmers about various schemes of State Agri. Department. Mr. Rajebhav Chavan SMS (Entomology) gave detailed information about the preparation of Dashparni Ark, Jivamrita, Neemastra and Santhastra and their use in natural farming to manage pests and diseases.

Dr. Syed Shakir Ali, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, Gondia briefed about the concept of Model Village and guided the farmers about the various activities conducted by KVK, Gondia

One day Awareness Lecture was conducted in KVK Jamnagar

On 17th February 2023, Training was organized by the Agakhan Foundation at Kolva village of Jamkham bhadiya Block of Devbhumi Dwarka District. They invited KVK, ATMA and state agricultural department staff for guidance and awareness about Natural Farming. Different discipline officers shared information related to natural farming.

Shree A. V. Savaliya (SMS) KVK, Jamnagar delivered lecture on natural farming and its benefits to reduce the cost of cultivation through the use of natural resources in farming. He informed about the benefits of natural farming on human health and soil health. He also gave information about KVK activity and their role in natural farming and also informed about major problems in current farming.

ATMA project officer gave information about different schemes related to natural farming. He suggested to farmers to make a group of farmers who do natural farming under the ATMA project to get more benefits. He shared information about how to

Major activities and Awareness Programmes conducted By KVK Surat

KVK-Surat organized a total of 30 awareness programmes in which a total of 3944 farmers participated from 9 different blocks of Surat district during the year 2022-23. In these programmes, farmers were made aware on what is Natural Farming? How it can be practiced? What are the benefits of adopting Natural Farming. This was presented with help of powerpoint presentation along with practical knowledge of making *Bijamrita*, *Jivamrita*, *Ghanjivamrita*, *Neemastra*, *Bramhastra*, *Agniastra* etc. They were also given different folders containing information related to (1) Prakritik Krishi (2) Prakritik Krishi na Adharstambho (3) Sakbhaji ma Prakritik Kheti (4) Fal pako ni Prakritik kheti in local languages. Farmers were very much egourous in knowing different aspects of Natural Farming. They were also questioning some points to scientists of KVK. All the queries were answered to their satisfaction. Among this programmes, one khedut shibir for

in this village. He gave detailed information about Natural Farming and its importance to the farming community. In addition to this, he gave information about Natural Farming and the use of Dashparni Ark, Jivamrita, Bijamrita, and Vermiwash to the participants. On this occasion Mr. Pawar, Circle Officer, Mr. Mendhe, Agril. Supervisor, Mrs Turkar, Agril. Asst., Mr. Tembhare Deputy Sarpanch and Mr. Ashok Uikey, Progressive Farmers Kidangipar, were present and they shared their views about Natural Farming and Model Villages. All 107 farmers, farm women, youths, officials, etc. had actively participated in the programme.



prepare Jivamrita and Bijamrita and how to use them at irrigation time and foliar spraying. The Agricultural State Department officer gave information related to current and upcoming schemes related to agriculture, horticulture, Natural Farming, etc. We provided live demonstrations about how to make Jivamrita were shown by KVK and also requested farmers to do natural farming for human health, soil health, and the environment.



awareness of natural farming in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and ATMA-Surat, involving 625-650 farmers was organized at Vankal village, Mangrol Block, Surat District. In the programme following dignitaries remained present.

Chief Guest & Chairman of the event:

Hon'ble Ganpatbhai Vasava -Ex. Cabinet Minister and MLA-Mangrol

Guest of Honour:

1. Shri. Afzal Khan-District Pathan-Chairman-Production, Co-operation and Irrigation, Dist. Panchayat-Surat
2. Shri. K. V. Patel, Joint Director of Agriculture- Dist. Panchayat-Surat
3. Smt. Chandanben M Gamit, Chairman, Taluka Panchayat-Mangrol

Awareness cum Demonstrations Programme at KVK Gondia

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gondia organized an awareness cum demonstrations program on "Natural Farming" Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gondia. Dr. PDKV, Akola. An awareness cum method demonstrations programme was organized on 14/03/2023 under the Out-scaling of the Natural Farming Project at KVK, Hiwara, Gondia. One 250-litre capacity plastic drum along with jaggery and gram flour were distributed to the farmers from model village Kidangipar of Gondia Tehsil to whom coriander seeds of variety ACR-01 were earliest distributed.

Dr. Vijaykumar Kore, SMS (Horticulture) mentioned the purpose of inputs distributed among the farmers in an introductory remark. He also mentioned the need for natural farming in recent years. He gave detailed information regarding preparations of Dashparni Ark, Jivamrita, and other inputs.

Dr. Shakir Ali Syed, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, Gondia gave information about natural farming and, the role of Govt. in

Natural Farming Awareness Programmes at KVK Tapi

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tapi (Gujarat) is sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, and implemented by the Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari. Awareness programs like Farmers Shibir, Film shows, Method demonstrations, Farmers scientist interaction, Farmer's Visit to KVK-Natural Farming Plot, etc. have been organized by KVK under 'Out scaling of natural farming through KVKs' project. A total of 2565 farmers benefited from 42 programs in the scheme. Hon'ble President, Shri. Suraj Vasava, District Panchayat-Tapi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. C. K. Timbadiya, Hon'ble Collector Ms. Bhargavi Dave (IAS), and Hon'ble DDO Dr. D. D. Kapadia (IAS) remained present as president during different programmes. They emphasized Natural Farming instead of chemical farming to preserve the natural environment of the Tapi district.



In this programme, different stalls were also exhibited including Natural farming. They were visited by dignitaries and all farmers as well.



introducing natural farming. He also suggested going with natural farming to minimize the pendency of chemical inputs.

Mr. Ganesh Khedikar, PA (Lab.) suggested farmers for soil sampling and explained its importance. He also mentioned the need for natural farming. Anchoring and vote of thanks was done by Dr. Vijaykumar Kore, SMS (Hort.). In all, 25 farmers and officers attended the programme.



At the programme, Dr. C. D. Pandya, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK-Tapi welcomed all the guests and briefed them about the importance of the programme in detail. Prof. Kuldeep Rana, Scientist (Crop Production) explained in detail about Natural Farming.

Awareness Programme cum Parisamvad on Natural Farming was conducted by KVK Porbandar

A Parisamvad on Natural Farming was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, JAU, Porbandar on 20th February, 2023. On this occasion, farmers were invited to KVK, Porbandar, and a lecture cum interaction session on natural farming was organized between farmers and scientists.

Farmer Ramesh Bhai Savaliya who has experience in natural farming shared tips and his experience regarding natural farming with other farmers. Dr. R. B. Thanki, Assistant Professor, CoA, JAU, Khapat delivered a lecture on “Major difference between Conventional Farming and Natural Farming”. Mr. V. M. Savaliya, Scientist from KVK delivered a lecture on “Importance of Natural farming in the current era” and also discussed different aspects of natural farming with farmers. Staff from



KVK and CoA also remained present were a total of 367 participants were present for the programme.

One day Awareness cum PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme was conducted in KVK Dahod

The event 'Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme' was celebrated at KVK, AAU, Dahod on 27th February 2023 where the farmers benefitted directly through their bank accounts with the amount of Rs. 2000/-. The programme was graced by our Hon.' Prime Minister in which a total of 339 farmers belonging to the Dahod district attended the live programme online mode. Considering it to be a golden opportunity and as per the pressing need of the present times, the participating farmers have been imparted with detailed knowledge of Natural Farming and were made aware about the various opportunities and benefits it bears. While concluding the programme, the farmers were appealed to adopt each of the five principles of Natural Farming.



Awareness Programme on Natural Farming was organized in KVK Jamnagar

On 23rd January 2023, the Kisan Seminar was organized by ATMA project, Jamnagar, and KVK, Jamnagar at Karana village of Lalpur Block of Jamnagar District. Shree H. S. Godhani (Agricultural Officer) KVK, Jamnagar gave information on natural farming about different techniques in natural farming, insect-pest control, crop management, farm produce market, etc. He also suggested that farmers should take the chance of natural farming to list their own home requirements. He informed about the health benefits of natural farming in human health and soil health. Also provided information on how to make Jivamrita and Bijamrita.

ATMA project officer gave information about different schemes related to natural farming. He suggested to farmers to make a



group of farmers who do natural farming under the ATMA project to get more benefits. He has also given information about how to prepare Jivamrita and Bijamrita and how to use them at irrigation time and foliar spraying.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations were conducted related to "Natural Farming" at KVK Surat

Demonstrations of one acre each were given on Natural Farming in Green gram. A total of 16 farmers were given one acre of seed (University variety-GM-7) and Plastic barrels, tubs and buckets for making Bijamrita, Jivamrita, Ghanjivamrita, Neemastra, Bramhastra, Agniastra etc. They were imparted with Frontline demonstration (FLD) training at FTC-Bardoli on 9-3-23. They were also aware of making different components of Natural farming with Cow dung and cow urine of desi cow. They were also trained on how to use? How much to use? And how many times to use it? In a demonstration of a Green gram.



Demonstration on Natural Farming at KVK Sindhudurg

The Hon'ble Dr. S. D. Sawant Vice Chancellor from Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi-Vidyapeeth had visited KVK Sindhudurg along with Dr. B.S. Salavi Registrar of DBSKKV and Dr. B. N. Sawant, ADR from RFRS Vengurla along with Scientist team viz. Dr. Vijay Desai, Dr. Mahendra Gavankar. The Chairman of the host institute Brig. Sudhir Sawant and Vice Chairman Shri. Pradeep Sawant was also present during the visit.

The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor with the Scientist team visited KVK with a view to take the review on Natural Farming activities conducted by KVK Sindhudurg. Natural farming is a method of chemical-free agriculture drawing from traditional Indian practices, an alternative to inorganic farming. It is cost-effective agro-ecological farming.

Brig. Sudhir Sawant is the Pioneer in transferring Natural Farming technologies and developed a strong movement for the spread of natural farming with the support of KVK. KVK has started Natural Farming practices as a greater movement aiming to provide multiple benefits both to the environment and the farmers and conducted activities like Training, Shibir, Rally, Method demonstrations, Mahashibir, and Screen shibir to the farmers, farm women & youths.

The Sr. Scientist & Head, Shri. B.V. Kajarekar presented the different activities conducted by KVK for the last five years



through PPT and video films. The VC was impressed and gave remarks that the initiatives of KVK Sindhudurg in Natural Farming practices are appreciable. He assured that the university will support with all useful technology for farmer's welfare. Also, he stated that the university will provide kind cooperation to transfer the Natural Farming practices by conducting authentic research.

During the visit, KVK displayed the samples of Desi Rice introduced in adopted villages. Also show cased the natural farming activities to all team through exposure visit to the KVK instructional farm. V.C. had appreciated all efforts of KVK Sindhudurg taken on Natural Farming.

Frontline Demonstration on Natural Farming at KVK South Goa

Frontline demonstrations on the preparation and use of Jivamrita were conducted on chilly crop. The chilly crop is susceptible to leaf curl disease. This leaf curl disease is transferred through white flies and thrips. So to control this virus, it was decided to use Jivamrita on chilly crop.

It was observed that the growth of the chilly plot applied with Jivamrita was growing vigorous as compared to the control plot, it was free from pests, and disease and less leaf curl symptoms. (10 to 15%) whereas the control plot showed symptoms of leaf curl more (50 - 60%). KVK also observed plants were little stunted in growth in control plots. Vigorously grown and ripened chilly were ready to harvest within 60-70 days after flowering. The yield as well as the quality of chilly cultivated

using Jivamrita was higher (25-30%) than that of the control plot. Since the preparation of Jivamrita is low-cost, and environment-friendly better results were obtained as compared to the conventional method i.e. Use of chemical fertilizer

/pesticide. Farmers have adopted the Jivamrita preparation and application in the cultivation of vegetable crops like Bhendi, leafy vegetables, cluster beans, long beans, etc.



Kisan Mela

One day Kisan Mela on Natural Farming and Date Palm Exhibition was organized by KVK Kutch -I

One day *Kisan Mela on Natural Farming and Date Palm Exhibition* was organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mundra, Kutch on 13.6.2022. Inauguration was done by the Chief Guest, Shri Kailash Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India. Best local varieties of date palm, mango along with natural farming products, and different agricultural technologies were also exhibited by the farmers of Kutch. More than 1000 farmers participated in the Natural Farming programme. Many farmers of the Kutch district presented their views regarding Natural Farming in the presence of the minister.

As a part of this programme, 12 farmers of the Kutch district were honoured with certificates for their significant contribution to Natural farming. Two NGOs were also honoured



who had done appreciable work in Rain Water Harvesting and Integrated Farming System Development. On this occasion, MLA, District Collector, District Development Officer, and different officers from line departments were present.

Krishi Mela was organized at KVK Buldhana-I

KVK Buldhana -I Organized Natural farming Krishi Mela at the KVK campus on 21st March 2023. The theme of the programme was "Natural Farming for Sustainable Agriculture". This programme was successfully inaugurated in the presence of Krishnrao Ingle president of host institute, Mr. Santosh Dabre SAO, Vaishali Devkar SDO, Mr. Dhiraj TAO Jalgoan Jamod, Mr. Amol Bansode TAO Sangrampur, ATM and BTM of ATMA and near about 10 dignitaries and 250 farmers and farm women enlightened the programme.



One day Kisan Mela was conducted by KVK Hingoli

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hingoli organized Kisan mela at Warkhedha village Tq. Sengaon Dist. Hingoli in collaboration with BAIF Development Research Foundation on 04th March 2023. In the inaugural address- Dr. P.P. Shelke, Senior scientist and head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hingoli emphasized the importance of natural farming demonstrations for the development of soil health and chemical-free food. He also highlighted the importance of recycling organic matter crop residues and use of natural residue waste in natural farming for the enrichment of soil physical properties and increase nutrient use efficiency of soil. He urged the farmers to establish a Natural farming-based model and to develop natural farming in group group-based approach.

Jivamrita is the traditional Indian bio-pesticide and organic manure that is prepared by the unique technique of fermentation of the combined mixture of cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, pulses flour, soil, and water. Not only it is cost-effective but it is beneficial for both plants and soil. Jivamrita is prepared by mixing 5 kg local cow dung with 5 litres of cow urine, adding 3

A 'Kisan Mela cum Natural Farming Exhibition' was organized by KVK Dahod

A 'Kisan Mela cum Natural Farming Exhibition' was organized on 26/04/2022 by KVK, Dahod under the *Kisan Bhagidari Prathmikta Hamari* campaign as a part of the celebration of 75 Year Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav, at Muvaliya Campus, Dahod. The mela also included exhibition stalls of natural farming farm inputs and farm produce. The event was graced by Hon. Guests Shri. Kanaiyabhai Kishori, Chairman, APMC, Dahod and Shri. Vijaybhai Parmar, representative, Taluka Panchayat Pramukh, Dahod, who were extended a floral welcome by Dr. H. L. Kacha, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK, Dahod. The programme schedule included an online nationwide live programme wherein Hon. Union Agricultural Minister, Shri. Narendra Tomarji addressed the attendee farmers. Also, Project Director, ATMA, Dahod, Dr. D.L. Patel, and District Agriculture Officer, Dr. P. R. Dave informed the farmers about the different existing state government schemes regarding natural farming. Lectures on Natural Farming and live demonstrations on preparations of *Bijamrita*,



kg local jaggery, 2 kg pulse flour, and a handful of garden soil, and the volume made up to 200 litres. Then after keep the drum in the shade covering it with a wet gunny bag and stir the mixture clockwise thrice a day and incubate till mixture is ready.



Jivamrita, *Bramhastra*, etc. were made available to the attending participants. Later, during the Scientist-Farmer interaction session, various farmers' queries regarding natural farming were answered by Scientists Dr. R. Radha Rani and Shri. N.D. Makwana of KVK, AAU, Dahod. The programme saw enthusiastic participation of a total 337 farmers and farm women.

Field Visits

Field visit on Natural farming was conducted by KVK Kolhapur-II

ICAR- Shri Siddhagiri Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kaneri Kolhapur organized a seven-day Farmers Fair from 20 to 26 Feb 2023. In this program a very huge Animas exhibition was organized along with Live Demonstration of Natural Farming where more than one thousand stalls were also arranged for farmers. Today Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra Shri Eknath Shinde Ji Visited the Natural Farming Demonstration Field of KVK in the Presence of P. P. Adrushya Kadsiddheshwar Swamiji (Chairman, ICAR-Shri Siddhagiri KVK, Kaneri), Deepak Keserkar ji (Guardian Minister Kolhapur), Collector Kolhapur & Other Dignitaries.



Field Visit of Farmers on Natural Farming Plots by KVK Surat

A total of 7 visits to farmer's farms following natural farming were done by Scientists of KVK. Among these farm visits, one was done on 16-2-23 along with journalists of 70 countries farmers and the second on 01.03.2023 where Padmashri Dr. Subhash Palekar visited field of Mr. Rajdeepbhai Patel in Saras Village of Block Olpad.



Exposure visit of KVK Scientists to Natural Farming at KVK Sindhudurg

Under the leadership of Brigadier Sudhir Sawant, Ex-MP Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Sindhudurg has taken a lead role in the transfer of technology of Natural Farming in the district. KVK scientists Dr. Vilas Sawant and Shri. Vivek Sawant Bhosale visited Natural Farming plot of Mrs. Pratibha Bhalekar in village Chinchavali, Taluka Kankavali. She had cultivated Ginger in the 5 area in June 2022 with the Natural Farming methods. She is recognized as the first farmer for the cultivation of Ginger in Chinchavali village. She has been practicing natural farming in 03 acres of her land for the last three years where she has planted Cashew grafts var. V.4, V.7, Kokum grafts. Coconut is a major fruit crop and intercropped with seasonal crops like Ginger, Nagali, Turmeric, Tur, etc. During this year she has cultivated first time, the ginger crop by Natural Farming method. She prepared raised seed beds for planting ginger rhizomes. She applied Ghanjivamrita while planting with Bijamrita treatment for the rhizomes. Also, she has done paddy straw mulching on the beds. Then she had regularly applied Jivamrita on ginger plots at every 15 days interval. The growth of the crop was satisfactory.



KVK Scientists advised her to maintain a proper irrigation schedule and informed about harvesting, and post-harvest management techniques. During the visit to Chinchavali village Dy. Sarpanch, Mr. Anil Pednekar, a Progressive farmer (cultivating sugarcane and vegetables), and neighbouring farmers were present by visiting the Natural Farming plots, farmers were impressed by looking at the growth performance of different crops and Ginger cultivation on raised bed by applying natural farming techniques.

Special Event

Workshop on the Importance of Natural Farming was organized by KVK Wardha

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wardha, and ICAR- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources jointly organized a Workshop on the Importance of Natural Farming in Field crops on 23rd March 2023 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wardha in the gracious presence of Hon'ble Collector of Wardha Shri. Rahul Kardile. In his address, the collector highlighted the benefits of adopting Natural Farming on improvement in soil health and farmland ecosystem, sustainable ability, saving of water etc.

Dr. J. R. Katore, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Wardha, emphasized that Natural Farming and Vegetable Production using vermicomposting will result in higher yield. Dr. R. S. Zadode, SMS Agronomy, guided on the Importance of Natural Farming in the field crops. Dr. Sunil Gomase, Senior Scientist, ICAR-NBPGR, Akola explained Vermicomposting and its Types and also urged to adopt Natural Farming for a healthy life.

On this occasion, distribution of critical inputs like PSB, Trichoderma, Vermicompost, Vegetable Seed Kit, Basket, Bag, Folder, and Cap were done distributed to 100 Schedule Caste Farmers and Farmwomen in the rural areas, and an exhibition was organized to spread awareness and promote different Millets under international Year of Millets. Near about 160 participants participated in the programme.



'Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference': 'Shree Anna - Millets for Opportunity in Natural Farming'

On the declaration of the year 2023, by UNGA as the 'International Year of Millets', the day was celebrated by organizing an event on 14/02/2023, wherein a total of 118 farmers participated ardently. The participants were imparted with in-depth knowledge of Natural farming and its five basic principles. Also, live demonstrations and hands-on practical training for the preparation of *Bijamrita*, *Jivamrita*, and *Bramhastra* was provided.

Furthermore, on 18/03/2023, at KVK, AAU, Dahod, the inauguration programme of the 'Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference' by our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi was organized by APEDA which was attended in virtual mode by 109 farmers.



Policy Makers visit and Interaction with KVKs under Natural Farming project

KVK name	Policy Makers	Designation of Visitors	About Visit
Kolhapur - II	Shri. Bhagwanth Khuba	Hon'ble MoS, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India	Visit to Natural Farming Plot
	Shri. N Cheluvaryaswamy	Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Karnataka State	Visit to Natural Farming Plot
Pune - II	Dr. Amol Kolhe	Hon'ble MP, Shirur	Visit of Natural Farming Plot
Amreli	Shri Purushotambhai Rupala	Hon. Union Cabinet Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying - Govt. of India Member of Parliament	Information regarding natural farming and its spread at grass root level among the farmers
Dahod	Shri Bachubhai Khabad	Hon. State Agriculture and farmers Welfare Minister, Gujarat	Visit to Natural Farming Demonstration Unit and Natural farming Plot
Gandhinagar	Hon'ble Acharya Devvratji	Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat	Visit of Natural Farming Field at Mangara Village during Seminar on Natural Farming
Valsad	Hon'ble Acharya Devvratji	Governor of Gujarat	Visit of Natural Farming unit at KVK
	Shri. Bhupendrabhai Patel	Chief Minister of Gujarat	Visit of Natural Farming unit at KVK
	Dr. K. C. Patel	MP, Valsad-Dang	Visit of Natural Farming unit at KVK
	Shri Kanubhai Desai	Minister of finance, Gujarat	Visit of Natural Farming unit at KVK



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