

Out-scaling of Natural Farming through KVKs

"Natural farming is a chemical-free conventional farming technique that uses no chemical products. According to NITI Aayog, it is considered as an agro-ecology-based, diversified farming system that involves crops, trees, and livestock with useful biodiversity. In a natural farming system, agricultural techniques are conducted in accordance with the laws of nature. Natural farming practices exclude any commercial inputs, whether they be organic, biological, or otherwise, and instead rely on biomass mulching, year-round green cover, and locally derived cow-based dung and urine compositions. It has been shown that naturally occurring farmed areas with enough variety are less susceptible to insect pest attacks. The absence of harmful chemicals makes it safe for human health.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra works with the farmers and farm women to increase agricultural production. To influence the attitudes and behaviours of farmers and farm women and to encourage the adoption of natural farming among farmers, KVKs organize various types of Awareness campaigns, Training programs, and Demonstrations. By launching a new initiative titled "Out scaling of Natural farming through KVKs," ICAR has made additional efforts this year to promote natural farming. It is an all-India project that is being carried out by 475 KVKs and 11 ATARIs across the country for monitoring, reviewing, and coordinating the KVK system. For the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa, ICAR-ATARI, Pune, Zone-VIII is the authority which is having 82 KVKs, out of which 48 KVKs in 3 states viz. 17 KVKs in Maharashtra, 30 KVKs in Gujarat, and 1 KVK in Goa are included in this project on Natural farming. These KVKs are monitored and mentored by the Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune, Zone-VIII.

Under the project, in 2022-23, 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. A total of 80306 farmers participated in activities related to Natural farming under the project.

Name of State	No of KVK	Awareness Program		Training		Demonstration	
		No. of Awareness Program	No of Participants	No. of Training	No of Participants	No. of Demonstration	No of Participants
Maharashtra	17	200	24219	17	4071	129	2883
Gujarat	30	426	31485	41	15571	253	1511
Goa	1	6	398	6	155	13	13
Total	48	632	56102	64	19797	395	4407

