

Directorate of Extension Education
Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari – 396 450

**Proceedings of 35th meeting of Zonal Research and Extension Action
Committee (ZREAC) held on 14th October, 2024 at Sardar Smruti
Kendra, NAU, Navsari**

Chairman : Dr. Z. P. Patel, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NAU, Navsari.
Co- Chairman : Dr. H. R. Sharma, Director of Extension Education, NAU, Navsari
Rapporteurs : (1) Dr. A. J. Dhodia (2) Dr. K. N. Rana

► **Session I: Inauguration and Discussion on Action Taken Report**

At the commencement, Dr. G.B. Kalariya, Training Associate (P.P.), T&V system, Directorate of Extension Education, NAU, Navsari cordially greeted the esteemed guests, officials from various line departments, university scientists, and farmers

Dr. H. R. Sharma, Director of Extension Education, NAU, Navsari, cordially greeted all attendees and elucidated the objectives and significance of ZREAC, with a particular emphasis on the feedback mechanism. He expounded upon the diverse developmental initiatives and extension activities undertaken in South Gujarat, underscoring the pivotal roles of KVK, ATMA, and various line department endeavors in enhancing the agricultural community. Dr. Sharma delineated a comprehensive strategy for the establishment of FPOs to address the market challenges prevalent in South Gujarat. Furthermore, he provided an overview of cost-effective technologies for cultivating climber vegetables and fruit crops facilitated by KVK, ATMA, and line departments. Commending the commendable efforts of KVKs in South Gujarat, he highlighted achievements such as KVK Tapi's recognition as the 10th ranked KVK nationwide and the top-ranking KVK in Gujarat for its portal activities. Additionally, he lauded KVK Surat for its effective marketing of natural farming products, KVK Navsari for its value addition initiatives in fruit crops, KVK, Waghai executed a meticulously planned work in close collaboration with *Sakhi Mandal* in the Dangs district and KVK Narmada for its advancements in millet processing.

Dr. T. R. Ahlawat, Director of Research, NAU, Navsari, extends his heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Z. P. Patel, for his highly successful four-year tenure at NAU. He commends the outstanding extension work carried out by KVK for the farming community. Dr. Ahlawat underscores the vital significance of gathering feedback from farmers for research purposes. Furthermore, he advocates for the recognition of local varieties developed by farmers, suggesting that agricultural university scientists should collaborate with farmers in developing these varieties and acknowledge their contributions accordingly.

Shri K. V. Patel, Joint Director (Agriculture), Surat emphasized the Agri-State (Digital Survey) launched in the South Gujarat region, aimed at digitally synchronizing data on cultivated areas, crop production, and productivity. He elaborated on the current focus of state departments on agricultural mechanization, including the utilization of Paddy reapers, Sugarcane harvesters, and Laser land levelers. Furthermore, he underscored the significance of integrating drone technology and nano urea in agricultural practices.

Shri Dinesh Padaliya, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Surat, elucidated the

dissemination of novel agricultural schemes to the grassroots level. He emphasized the practice of natural farming in horticultural produce such as banana, papaya, mango, and various vegetables. Additionally, he expounded on the expansion of dragon fruit cultivation in South Gujarat. His discourse extended to the significance of post-harvest technology, cold storage facilities, and ripening chambers in the agricultural sector.

In his presidential address, Dr. Z. P. Patel, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, NAU , Navsari, elucidated the significance of ZREAC and the feedback from farmers gathered by state departments and Krishi Vigyan Kendra. This valuable input is instrumental in resolving farmers' issues in a methodical and scientific manner. He also underscored the necessity for all scientists to be actively engaged in societal matters. He commended the commendable efforts of KVK, ATMA, and other relevant departments in advancing the agricultural community. He underscored the importance of disseminating new technologies, novel varieties, recommendations, and cutting-edge technologies through KVK to the grassroots level. He expounded on the significance of protected cultivation and emphasized the use of Bio-char to enhance land productivity and elevate carbon levels in the soil. Furthermore, he provided guidance on bio-char production techniques and stressed the need for the development of reliable seedlings that are easily accessible to farmers. Moreover, he elucidated on various agro-based ventures such as Beekeeping, Mushroom cultivation, and Nursery Management in vegetable and fruit crops, which have the potential to augment farmers' supplementary income.

35.1: Presentation of Action Taken Report:

With the permission of Chair, Dr. G. B. Kalariya, Training Associate (P.P.) presented the action taken report of 34th ZREAC meeting and house approved the same.

► Session II: Technical Session

35.2: Discussion on Recommendation and Presentation of Feedback by Officers of Line Departments:

35.2.1 Recommendation Session:

Scientists from various disciplines such as Crop Improvement, Natural Resource Management, Plant Protection, Horticulture, Forestry, and Agricultural Engineering presented the recommendations endorsed during the 20th Combined Joint AGRESCO meeting for the information of household and officials of line departments. Additionally, the scientists briefed the audience on the diverse research activities conducted by the University.

35.2.2 Feedback from the Officials of the Line Departments of Agriculture:

The DAO, Tapi presented a comprehensive report encompassing seven districts: Navsari, Valsad, Dangs, Surat, Tapi, Bharuch, and Narmada. The report delved into various aspects such as district profiles, land utilization trends, rainfall patterns, geographical area, crop production, productivity levels, and recommendations for further research. Throughout the deliberation, the house proposed the following insights and recommendations.

35.2.2.1 Increase production of Vegetable seedlings.

(Action: CoA, NAU, Waghai)

35.2.2.2 University recommendations necessitate the utilization of Lal Kada gold-(GNR-9) in the context of Natural farming conditions.

(Action: RRRS, Vyara)

35.2.2.3 University should provide mango grafts that are less than one year old.

(Action: All Mango Nursery of NAU)

- 35.2.2.4 Provide paddy seed Lal kada gold (GNR-9) as demonstration in Natural farming condition.
(Action: All KVKs of South Gujarat)
- 35.2.2.5 Provide fodder sorghum seeds to all KVKs for demonstrations.
(Action: MSRS, NAU, Surat)

35.2.3 Feedback by officers from Department of Horticulture

Shri Dinesh Padaliya, DDH, Surat presented a comprehensive report on the advancement of horticulture across all seven districts of South Gujarat. He emphasized the implementation of natural farming techniques in horticultural crops such as banana, papaya, mango, and various vegetable crops. Additionally, he provided insights into the expansion of dragon fruit cultivation in the region. Furthermore, he shed light on the significance of post-harvest technology, cold storage facilities, and ripening chambers. The audience expressed their appreciation for the valuable information shared during his presentation and offered constructive suggestions for further improvement.

- 35.2.3.1 University recommendations necessitate the development of a comprehensive set of guidelines tailored for the cultivation of Dragon fruit in the specific agricultural conditions prevalent in South Gujarat.
(Action: RS, RHRS, ACH)
- 35.2.3.2 University recommendations necessitate the implementation of natural farming practices in horticultural crops such as banana, papaya, mango, and various vegetable crops.
(Action: RS, RHRS, ACH)
- 35.2.3.3 University recommendations necessitate the dosage for drone application in agricultural crops.
(Action: Dept. of Ento & Patho, NMCA)
- 35.2.3.4 University recommendations require for virus management in chilly
(Action: Dept. of Patho, NMCA)

► Session III: Presentations by officers from other Departments- Nil

► Session IV: Farmers feedback & presentation by SS&H, KVKs, NAU, Navsari

35.2.4.1 Farmers feed back

During the session, following progressive farmers from each district shared their views, experience and important feedback to the house.

- 35.2.4.1 Shri Natvarbhai Patel from Navsari district, appraised training on natural farming and adopted natural farming in his paddy cultivation and horticultural crops.
- 35.2.4.2 Shri. Mathurbhai Devajibhai Vasava from Narmada District, apprised that training on natural farming in horticultural crops.
- 35.2.4.3 Shri Vikrambhai Ramanbhai Vasava (Bharuch District). He appraised the FLD given on Indian bean (GNIB-22) and results of organic manures in production and management practices in natural farming conditions and Groundnut crops.
- 35.2.4.4 Shri Manishbhai Malvi from Surat District excels in the production and sale of organic fertilizers, yielding substantial profits. Furthermore, he has successfully cultivated an organic mango orchard, further diversifying his sources of income.
- 35.2.4.5 Shri Mineshbhai Devajubhai Gangoda from Dangs region shared insights on the

practice of natural farming in horticultural crops. He also expressed the need for receiving marketing management training to effectively promote and sell products derived from natural farming.

35.2.4.6 Shri Sanjay Jayubhai Chaudhari from Dangs elucidated his findings in the realm of natural farming and advocated for fellow farmers to enhance their earnings by embracing value addition techniques in the cultivation of natural farming produce.

35.2.4.7 Shri. Uttambhai Bhilkabhai Gamit from Tapi District expressed his appreciation for the training on enhancing fodder quality through the ensilage process and other innovative fodder conservation technologies.

35.2.5 Krishi Vigyan Kendra

All KVKs presented their activities, progress report, feedback & action plans and house has approved the reports with following suggestions.

35.2.5.1 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Navsari

35.2.5.1.1 Popularize the Mahatma variety of paddy in the district.

(Action: KVK, Navsari)

35.2.5.2 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tapi

35.2.5.2.1 Increase seed production of GNIB-22.

(Action: All KVKs and Research Stations)

35.2.5.2.2 Popularize the fodder sorghum variety, Tapi-Chari.

(Action: KVK, Tapi)

35.2.5.3 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Surat

35.2.5.3.1 Provide marketing support for Natural farming products of farmers.

(Action: KVK, Surat)

35.2.5.4 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Narmada

35.2.5.4.1 Provide training on value addition in Millets.

(Action: KVK, Narmada)

35.2.5.5 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Waghai

35.2.5.5.1 Provide marketing support for value added products of Millets.

(Action: KVK, Waghai)

35.2.5.6 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ambheti--Nil--

35.2.5.7 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bharuch --Nil--

35.3 General feedback for all KVK/scientists

Following feedback were useful in TOT activities.

35.3.1 To conduct trainings on agricultural enterprises such as mushroom cultivation, nursery management, beekeeping, protected cultivation, and more.

35.3.2 To promote the utilization of Bio-char for enhancing soil fertility.

35.3.3 To enhance the scope of activities for agricultural mechanization.

35.3.4 To prioritize soil health and environmental considerations alongside production-oriented technologies.

35.3.5 To emphasize on promoting agro-tourism in indigenous regions to augment farmers' income.

35.3.6 To provide technical assistance and marketing support for natural agricultural products.

Formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr. G. B. Kalariya, NAU, Navsari.

Hence, all concerned are hereby urged to submit the detailed action taken report specific to their respective centers/offices regarding the meeting proceedings *via* email at: **tvsn@nau.in**, no later than the 15th of January, 2025.



No. NAU/DEE/D-1/68-170/2025
Navsari, Date: 04/01/2025

**Director of Extension Education
Navsari Agricultural University
Navsari**

CFWR to:

1. All University officers of NAU, Navsari
2. All Heads of Unit/Sub- Unit offices of NAU, Navsari
3. All the concerned scientists/ professors of NAU, Navsari
4. Joint Director of Agriculture, Surat/Vadodara
5. Joint Director of Horticulture, Surat
6. District Agricultural Officer, Navsari/ Valsad/ Bharuch/ Surat/ Narmada/ Tapi/ Dangs
7. Deputy Director of Horticulture, Navsari/ Valsad/ Bharuch/ Surat/ Narmada/ Tapi/ Dangs
8. All the progressive farmers who attended the ZREAC meeting