

Introduction

Mega Seed : ➤ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) sanctioned the 'MEGA SEED' project, entitled "**Seed Production in Agricultural Crops**," for field and horticultural crops during 2006–07 to Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, with a total outlay of Rs. 317.06 lakhs. Under this project, NAU, Navsari, has created infrastructure such as seed godowns, threshing floors, farm fencing, irrigation facilities, nursery facilities, seed processing plants, seed testing laboratories, training facilities, etc., at different seed production centres. Various farm machinery and equipment, such as combine harvesters, tractors, power tillers, submersible pumps, etc., were also purchased. Under the Mega Seed Project, NAU, Navsari, has started a seed production programme in seven districts of South Gujarat, namely Navsari, Valsad, Dang, Surat, Tapi, Bharuch and Narmada, covering 35 research centres. Apart from quality seed production, capacity building programmes, training modules for various stakeholders, technology dissemination, and participatory seed production approaches are the foremost initiatives undertaken under this project.

Pulses : ➤ The Pulse Research Project was sanctioned in 1983–84 for conducting evaluation trials on important pulse crops of the region. Subsequently, in 1987–88, it was strengthened to undertake research on location-specific problems of the South Gujarat heavy-rainfall zone, which comprises the districts of Narmada, Bharuch, Surat, Tapi, Navsari, Valsad and Dang.

Castor : ➤ The Castor Research Project was sanctioned in 2009–10 under the Niche Crops Scheme Project. The main objectives are to identify suitable castor hybrids or varieties for late *Kharif* and *Rabi* seasons in South Gujarat and to evaluate and develop varieties/hybrids and their production technologies for *Rabi* castor in South Gujarat.