

INTRODUCTION

Background:

Fruit Research Station, Gandevi was established in 1935 by Gaikwad State of British Government with a view to develop horticultural activities in this region before independence of India. It is located at the bank of Vengania river of Khergam Village of Gandevi Taluka in Navsari District under South Gujarat region. It is 3 km away from Gandevi town. The Vengania river water is lifted for irrigation and it is available throughout the year.

Initially, FRS, Gandevi was run by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat. Later on in 1972, the station was transferred to administration of Gujarat Agricultural University. Lastly, the station has come under jurisdiction of Navsari Agricultural University (NAU), Navsari. NAU was established by the Government of Gujarat vide Gujarat Act No. 5 of 2004, by carving four agricultural universities out of the erstwhile Gujarat Agricultural University (GAU). The head quarter of University is at Navsari, which is located near historical place Dandi known for Salt Movement in Indian pre-independence history.

AICRP: All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) scheme is a landmark in the history of agricultural research initiated by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for development/testing/identification of technologies through multi-location trials. The implementation milestone of AICRP on Fruits is as follows.

December, 1987	In Gujarat, AICRP on Tropical Fruits with banana and sapota crops was started at Fruit Research Station, Gandevi under Navsari Agricultural University (Erstwhile Gujarat Agricultural University),
June, 2010	Research trials on papaya were also commenced at this centre along with banana and sapota.
August 21, 2013	Merger of these two coordinated projects formed ICAR-AICRP on Fruits with its headquarters at ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru (Karnataka).

The activities of the research station are going on under the following projects.

1. AICRP on Fruit (Banana, Papaya and Sapota) (B. H. 2014-5)
2. Research on Fruit Crops (B. H. 5014)
3. Revolving Fund (B. H. 9510-N-12)
4. Tribal Sub-plan (B. H. 2075)
5. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture - MIDH (B. H. 18930-7)
6. Banana Biofortification project (B. H. 18225)
7. Banana Macro-propagation Technique for Production of Low Cost Planting Material (B. H. 12084)
