

Dean's Message

The College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology was established by Navsari Agricultural University in 2012-13 at Dediapada with an aim to ignite interest towards education and scientific temper among the tribal community residing in the Narmada district of South Gujarat.

Agriculture still remains the back bone of Indian economy mainly because of existing bio diversity in various agro climatic situations of the country. The nation is contesting to become the third largest economy surpassing Japan and Germany by 2027, in addition to feeding its own burgeoning population which stands at 1.45 billion, with the tag of the most populous country, from limited natural resources and climatic challenges.

Indian Meteorological Department, IMD predicts normal monsoon in 2024, due to which the estimated food grain production in 2024-25 is around 340 million tonnes, with forecasted wheat production of 112.5 million metric tons (MMT) and rice production of 135 MMT. Globally India remains a significant player in food production contributing to the global food security. The real challenges are to sustain these productivity levels for food and nutritional security while providing employment opportunities to the youth.

India has more than 50% population below 25 yrs of age and more than 65 % below 35 yrs of age. Whereas, as per the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates of 2022, agricultural sector provided employment to 42.86 % of the total employment in India, whereas contribution of agricultural sector on Indian economy is only 18%. The investment in Agricultural Education and Research specially in Agricultural Engineering is still meagre as per the attention it draws in the developed world, where there are diminishing boundaries between various faculties of Agriculture achieving higher productivity levels.

The potential of Agricultural Engineering in most of the states of India still remains under-utilized, the productivity of most of the crops have been reaching maximum achievable limits under the given set of agro climatic situations and soil conditions, even with the adoption of all the technological improvements if Agriculture through crop varieties, fertilizer doses, plant protection measures and agronomical practices. To achieve still higher growth rates, application of Agricultural Engineering technologies from pre sowing operation to post harvest technologies remains the only option for the country. Within the nation, the leading states in Agriculture sector are utilizing the potentials of Agricultural Engineering in various ways.

Agricultural Engineering education empowers students to deal with Farm Mechanization, Water Conservation, Irrigation and Drainage, Watershed Management, Food Processing and Post-Harvest Technologies, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Farm Structures and all basic courses of Engineering as well as Agriculture. A skilled engineer is always in demand in private sector, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), working on watershed issues. Use of drones, operation and maintenance of drones, Artificial Intelligence, use of Sensors, remote application of irrigation, use of satellite imageries for estimation of crop loss, damage, diseases using GIS software's are very much in the domain of Agricultural Engineering. Job avenues are always there in industries dealing in tractors, farm machinery, processing, food packaging, and irrigation industries. Young Turks

having their own farmlands may also empower themselves to get initiated for becoming entrepreneurs and modern farmers.

In addition to classroom education, students get the opportunity to work in the state of laboratories, field trips, educational tours. The college nurtures the hobbies of students by facilitating them to take part in sports and games, cultural activities, debates and literary events held round the year. Sincere and hardworking young students having interest in farming should avail the opportunity of technical education in picturesque and calm surroundings of Dediapada.

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