

Introduction

Navinchandra Mafatlal College of Agriculture known as N. M. College of Agriculture was the first educational institute related to agriculture in the region of south Gujarat established in May-1965 with a vision to impart agricultural education and uplift the socio-economic status of the agricultural based community. The college was affiliated to Gujarat University, Ahmedabad from 1965 to 1968 , South Gujarat University, Surat from 1968 to 1972 and erstwhile Gujarat Agricultural University (GAU) from 1972 to 2004 respectively. With the promulgation of GAU in 2004, N M College of Agriculture became the constituent college of Navsari Agricultural University (NAU). In the current year 2014-15 N. M. College of Agriculture has completed its fifty years of establishment. Since last fifty years the institute achieved a noteworthy recognition for its quality education, research and extension and has been rendering a ceaseless service in the form of generating quality trained human resources and technologies for the betterment of its ultimate users and blossomed into one of the leading agricultural college of Gujarat.

History

The well-known industrialist of Gujarat, Shri Arvindbhai Mafatlal, generously donated an amount of Rs. 12.5 lakhs for the construction of an agriculture college at Navsari which is geographically located in almost central region of South Gujarat and is on the Bombay– Ahmedabad railway route. Accordingly, a site was selected near Eur Char Rasta which is 3 km. from Navsari railway station in the south west direction on Gandhiji's well known "Dandi March" route. The area of 399.5 hectares was acquired from 595 small holders in 1963-64. The land of the proposed site was

levelled and laid out in 2 hectare blocks for the better management and development of farm area and residential quarters and other farm structures according to the Master Plan. Each block of the land was provided with irrigation and drainage facilities and connecting roads.

The foundation stone of ***Navinchandra Mafatlal Krushi Mahavidyalaya*** was laid by the then Honourable Minister of Agriculture and cooperation, Gujarat Late Shri Thakorbbhai M. Desai on 30th April, 1968. The construction of main college building with laboratories and lecture halls costing about Rs. one crore was completed around the year 1972. The hostels for the students, the residential quarters for the staff members and other construction works were also completed around this period. One hundred students, who had passed the S.S.C. examination, were admitted. Various gypsy huts were prepared for conducting lectures and practical of different subjects. Agronomy, horticulture, dairy and other farm practical were being conducted at the newly acquired site and for the purpose of conveyance of staff as well as students, a bus was engaged. The students were residing during their tenure of study at places such as Old Civil Hospital Building, Prajapati Ashram and other hired places. Soon the college became a reputed institution due to its educational and extension activities and for adopting nearby villages for the purpose of guidance. Because of its all round progress, the postgraduate teaching centre was also added in June, 1967, in addition various research projects on irrigation, sorghum, oil seeds, vegetables and fruit crops were carried out. Excellent herds of Mehsani buffaloes and Kankrej cows were also maintained for comparing their economical usefulness in integrated farming.

The new site acquired was under the process of metamorphosis. The building construction work was completed in the year 1974 and all the amenities created at Rustom Bag premises were shifted to the newly constructed building. In the year 1972, the Gujarat Agricultural University came into existence and the college became a constituent unit of this University. The phases after 1974 were of continuous development and it got momentum under the leadership of the first Vice-Chancellor Shri V. R. Mehta at University level and first Director of Campus, Shri Mahavirbhai M. Joshi, at campus level. In addition to the constructive views of the first Principal Dr. H. G. Pandya, the views of other succeeding Principals Prof. D. D. Gopani, Dr. J. V. Majmudar and particularly, Dr. H. C. Mehta were also executed in the development of Navsari Campus, simultaneously, the campus took complete shape under the leadership of earlier Directors of Campus, Shri Bipinbhai D. Desai, Shri Bulabhai V. Patel, Shri Manibhai D. Vasava, Dr. T. K. Bhakta, Shri T. L. Patel, Dr. D. G. Vala and Dr. C. B. Patel. With the promulgation of Gujarat Agricultural University in 2004, N M College of Agriculture became the constituent college of Navsari Agricultural University (NAU). After bifurcation of GAU, Dr. R. P. S. Ahlawat took over the charge of first Vice- Chancellor of NAU and emphasized more on infrastructural development to impart quality education and research. Under his stalwart leadership various infrastructural set up were established in NMCA. Subsequently spectacular transformation in education and research has been realized under the scholastic guidance of Ex-Vice Chancellor Col (Dr) A. R. Pathak. In due course of time N M College of Agriculture experiences the multidimensional development in the facets of education, research and extension and has its special identity and contribution in the field agriculture. The pace of development was expediated in the able leadership of Ex. Vice Chancellor, Dr. C. J. Dangaria. At

present under the able leadership of Hon. Vice Chancellor, **Dr. Z. P. Patel** and Principal and Dean **Dr. R. M. Nailk**, NMCA is creating a milestone in NAU by completing its sixty years of establishment and got the opportunity to celebrate this year as **the Diamond Jubilee** year of establishment. On the eve of this Diamond jubilee celebration year, NMCA owe sincere gratitude to all those dedicated personalities for their erudite guidance, immense support and sustained interest in bringing up of NMCA to this status. Scientists of the college with their high dedication towards agricultural research have developed around 12 new crop varieties. There are around 28 plan and 11 non plan scheme running across various departments of the college with total financial outlay of 24 crores. Whereas 13 projects funded by external agencies are also operational in the college.

Academic activities

To keep in pace with the advancement and requirement of the agricultural education system, the college adopted the revised academic curricula recommended by different Dean's committee from time to time to maintain the standard of teaching. NMCA is one of the first colleges across India to adopt Sixth Deans syllabus for UG curriculum. To offer on hand training to the students while learning, the college has been successfully running the Experimental Learning programme (ELP) with the establishment of Biofertilizer Production Unit and received magnificent appreciation from ICAR and Nationwide. Above the all, the college had also implemented the "Best Teacher Award Scheme" as per ICAR guide line since 2011 to encourage the morality and dedication of the faculties towards teaching.

The college has twelve departments to impart quality teaching to the students enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate degree programme. It has produced 252 UG and 19 PG Students during the period of its affiliation to South Gujarat University, Surat and during the period from 1972 to 2003 under the Gujarat Agricultural University S K Nagar, the college had made its contribution to the field of agriculture in terms of generating 2141 and 731 numbers of UG and PG students, respectively. After 2004 under the flagship of Navsari Agricultural University, the college flourished with all types of infrastructural facilities to attract more students at national and international level to pursue their UG and PG degree programmes. From the inception NMCA had generated more than 5000 undergraduate and 2500 postgraduate students so far who render their service in various fields nationwide to ameliorate the scenario of rural economy. It the matter of proud for NMCA that 17 medals are awarded every year during the convocation to the meritorious students.