

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING-2014

The food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) has earmarked the year 2014 as the *International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)*. The FAO feels that more emphasis should be laid on family farming throughout the world, since it is this unit which contributes substantially to solving world food problem and through environment friendly agricultural practices.

Consequently, in the direction of increase knowledge and public awareness on the vital role of family farmers, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Director of Extension Education, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat is organized and celebrated **“Interface of farmers-scientists on family farming”** on 4th July 2014 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari.

Welcome speech given by Dr.C.K Timbaida, programme co-ordinator, KVK, Navsari. He said “Strengthen agricultural extension work, farmers’ organizations and their capacity to increase the food production effectively is necessary during upcoming years”. President of the function Dr. A.R Pathak, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari said. “Identify the role and encouragement of women in family farming is most important, there by create rural economic opportunities for other family farmers that provide alternatives to migration to urban areas and also encourage farmers research that improves food security and supports sustainable rural development, safeguards cultural heritage, protects the environment and maintains biodiversity is a most important aspect. Protection of plant varieties and farmers right act has strengthen the farmers rights over their own seeds and planting materials, so the famers should protect their material by registration” expressed during his presidential speech. Other dignitaries of the function Dr.A.N Sabalpara Director of Research, NAU, Navsari and Dr.G.R.Patel, DEE, NAU, Navsari also gave inspire speech to couple farmers by stating “Family farming has also a direct impact on other socio-economic, environmental and cultural factors and conditions needed to conserve biodiversity and to sustain agriculture”. Introductory session was concluded by vote of thanks given by Dr. K.A.Shah, Subject Matter Specialist, Agronomy. KVK, Navsari.

About Fifty small and medium full time farmer couples participated in the programme from the Navsari district. Couples are called for the programme based on their full time connection in the field of agriculture and allied activities. Couples share their experience and agriculture knowledge during the introductory session. All most all of the farm couples are contented with their work. Afternoon session held exclusively for farmers' interaction and farmers-scientist interface. This session is headed by four members of chairman committee viz., Dr. R.R Kaswal. Retd. Dean and Member of Education Council, NAU, Navsari. Dr.M.C. Desai, Retd Dean, Veterinary college, NAU, Navsari, Dr. M.K. Arwadia, Dean, N.M college NAU, Navsari and Shri. Sanjayabhai Nayak progressive farmer, Gandeva. During the session couple farmers were explained their nature of work in their field, other family members work distribution, engaging in different farming activities, adoption of new technology/varieties in their field, development of indigenous technologies and their successful implementation was explained by them for the benefit of other farm families. A questionnaire was prepared by the scrutinized committee and that was asked for couple farmers for the selection of five best farming couples. Finally the best five couple farmers were selected and they were felicitated with momentum and certificate by Dr. A.R.Pathk, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NAU.

Most important thing noticed in the programme was that, not a single couple farmer expressed dis-satisfaction over agriculture and agriculture allied activities. They are satisfied with their work and income as well. As we all know present scenario is not easy time agriculture even though they all are contented. Programme was concluded by vote of thanks by Prof. B.M Tandel, Subject Matter Specialist (Horti), KVK, Navsari.

