

## **Introduction**

*The Dangs is situated in southeast parts of the Gujarat. The district bordered by districts Navsari and Valsad in the West, Tapi district in the North and Maharashtra state in the South and East covered with high hills and rich forest.*

*Before Independence several wars were fought between the five tribal kings of Dang and the British. According to the history, the biggest ever war took place at Lashkaria Amba, in which kings of all five erstwhile states got together to protect Dang from British rule. The British were beaten and decided to discontinue war and resorted to compromise.*

*As per historic compromise treaty signed in 1842 the British were allowed to use the forests and their natural products against which they had to pay certain amount around 3,000 silver coins to the five kings of the then monarchy. However presently, the kings are offered monthly political pension by the Government of India, which is the main source of their income. This payment is continued even though all privy purses for the Princely states of India was stopped in 1970 since the agreement was between then monarchs of Dangs and the British.*

*Every year during the end of financial year, the Kings gather in Ahwa for a traditional royal ceremony in their richly decorated buggies, bands with tribal dancers to receive the payment as per the agreement of 1842. In ancient Indian Scriptures, Dang is known as Dand Aranyaka, meaning Bamboo Forest.*

*The Dang consists of a series of foothills between the flat alluvial plains of south Gujarat and the high mountains of Sahyadris. The district has dense forest area and characterized mainly by the tribals. As per 2011 census, the district has a population of 2,26,769 with males and female population nearly same. Dangs district has an average literacy rate of 76.80 %. The district comes under South Gujarat Heavy Rainfall Zone-I Agro Ecological Situation-I.*

*The Dangs is the smallest district of the Gujarat State and is situated between the parallels of latitude 20 33 40 to 21. 50 N and the meridians of longitude 73 27 58 and 73 56 36 E. It has total geographical area of 1,72,366 hectare (i.e. 1736 sq km). Out of which, the forest area is about 59.74% i.e. 1062 sq km (850 sq km Reserved Forest and 212 sq km Protected Forests) and only 33.80% of land comes under cultivated and cultivable fallow. It has range of elevation of 105 to 1317 meters above MSL. The interstate Highway No. 15 connecting the Gujarat and Maharashtra via Saputara-Nasik*

*passes through the district. It is connected by railways to Bilimora (Navsari district) through narrow gauge line up to Waghai.*

*There are three types of agriculture land in the Dangs viz; black cotton, lateritic and rocky. The rainfall received is 2000-2500 mm with average rainy days of 50-55. The river passes through the Dangs are Ambica, Khapri, Purna and Gira. The rivers have a high density of drainage and steeper gradient resulting into quick run off during monsoon. This causes a higher rate of land erosion and the transport of silt land.*



Gira Falls

*Agriculture is the only occupation in the district. The district has only 18 per cent area under irrigation. Rural economy only can be enhanced by age old occupation of agriculture. It is the need of the hour to go for the overall development of the farmers, rural youths and women by updating their knowledge level through various extension activities. The main thrust of this district is to give special emphasis on the women empowerment and the establishment of small cooperative dairies to meet out the growing demands of the processed foods, milk & milk products and other items for the large masses. The cropping pattern of the district is mostly single rainfed crops. The major crops in kharif are Paddy (35 %), Finger millet (18 %), and other covers 5-8 % are Little millet, Sorghum, Black gram, Pigeon pea, etc. In rabi, Gram (60 %), Wheat (19 %) and rabi Pigeon pea (13 %) are generally cultivated. In general, productivity of the crops is low as compared to other parts of the state.*

### **Agriculture Campus at Waghai**

*To perform the various agricultural activities, the state Government (Mumbai state) established research farm in 1955 at Waghai in Dangs district and was initially under the control of State Agriculture Department. It was transferred to erstwhile Gujarat Agricultural University in 1972 and to the Navsari Agricultural University in 2004. The whole campus is located at two different places located 4 km from each other. One is situated on the left side of road to Ahwa in village Rajendrapur, just 200 m from Waghai village circle. The total area is about 13.47 hectares. It has (i) Main Hill Millet Research Station (ii) Krishi Vigyan Kendra (iii) Agriculture Cooperation & Marketing cum Agricultural Polytechnic and (iv) College of Agriculture. The other is situated in*

*Rambhas village on the road to Saputara. The total area of it is about 10.05 hectares where only research activities are going on.*

*Agricultural schooling started in Dangs in 1985-86 which was later upgraded to the Polytechnic in Agriculture cooperation and marketing in 2010-11 and thereafter to Polytechnic in Agriculture from 2014-15. However, there was no facility of higher education based specially on Agriculture and allied fields. This was more needed particularly for sons and daughters of poor tribals, small and marginal farmers who could ill afford to send their wards to far off places in Gujarat or outside the state. Hence, there was a strong need to establish an institute which can cater to the educational need of tribal population with respect to Agriculture and allied fields in particular. So, the Government of Gujarat under Tribal Sub-Plan decided to establish full-fledged College of Agriculture at Waghai which became a constituent college of Navsari Agricultural University. Thus, College of Agriculture started functioning from 2012-13 and students were admitted to four years B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture degree programme for the first time in July, 2012.*