

Two-week training programme on “Natural Farming; Present Status and Future Prospects” organized by NAHEP, BAU, Ranchi from 4th to 16th September, 2023

A two-week training programme on “Natural Farming; Present Status and Future Prospects” was organized by National Agricultural Higher Education Project, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi from 4th to 16th September, 2023. Birsa Agricultural University was identified as nodal centre by PIU, NAHEP, ICAR, for conducting training on Natural Farming for State/ Central Agricultural Universities/ Deemed Universities of this region with the following objectives-

- To impart basic orientation with the overview of Natural Farming in India and abroad
- To acquaint the participants about present status and future prospects of Natural Farming

In the first batch of training, scientists of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur, Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalay, Durg, and Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi took part. Inaugural session for the training was held on 4th September at Krishak Bhawan, BAU, Campus where the training was going on. Introducing the topic, Dr. B.K. Agrawal, Director Students’ Welfare and University Professor, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, Birsa Agricultural University spoke about the need of Natural Farming and differences between Organic Farming and Natural Farming. Dr. M.S. Malik, Principal Investigator, NAHEP and Director of the training programme welcomed the participants from Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, Dau Sri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya, Durg, and Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi and introduced the topics to be discussed in the training programme. Dr. D.K. Shahi, Dean, Agriculture while talking about the agricultural pollutants also raised questions about feasibility of Natural Farming practices on fulfilling the nutritional requirement of present-day high yielding crop varieties and fulfilling the food requirement of growing population. Dr. M.K. Gupta, DRI and Dean Post Graduate Studies said that only 10-15% of the area should be converted into natural farms. Chief Guest of the programme Dr. Sushil Prasad, Dean Veterinary and Animal Husbandry discussed elaborately about pros and cons of natural farming and emphasized the need of testing the practices well on different experimental sites. Vote of thanks was given by Dr. P Mahapatra, Scientist, Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry.

The detailed schedule of lectures and exposure visit is as follows.

Date	Time	Topic/ Activity	Theory/ Practical	Instructor
4.9.2023	11.00 AM	Registration		
	3.00- 4.00 PM	Inauguration		
		Pre-evolution of participants' aptitude		
	4.00- 5.30 PM	A methodological approach to defining, monitoring, and evaluating soil quality index and managing soil health	P	Dr. P. Mahapatra, SSAC
5.9.2023	10.30-11.45 AM	Bhumisuposhan	T	Dr. Siddharth Jaiswal, BPD
	12.00 Noon -1.15 PM	Management practices for fruits and vegetables, and flowers in natural farming	T/P	Dr. Majid Ansari, Hort.
	3.30- 4.45 PM	Mass production of biofertilizers and biopesticides, packaging, quality control, and methods of application	P	Dr. Binay Kumar, Ento
6.9.2023	10.00-11.30 AM	Visit to biofertilizer production unit in Department of SSAC	P	Dr. B.K. Agrawal, SSAC
	11.30 AM – 1.00 PM	Visit to biopesticide lab in Department of Entomology	P	Dr. Binay Kumar, Ento
	2.30- 3.30 PM	Cow based and animal based natural farming practices	P	Swami Bhaweshanand, RKMVERI
	3.30-5.00 PM	Mass production of bio-cultures and application methods	P	RKMVERI
		Demonstration of biogas production and composting techniques	P	
		Visit to model demonstration farm	P	
7.9.2023	Janmashtmi Holiday			
8.9.2023	10.30-11.45 AM	Soil biota community, activity, and their management	T	Dr. D.K. Shahi
	12.00 Noon -1.15 PM	Package of practices of crops in natural farming	T	Dr. R.P. Manjhi, Agron.
	2.00- 3.15 PM	Package and practices of medicinal and aromatic plants in natural farming	T	Dr. Kaushal Kumar, FPU
	3.30- 4.45 PM	Mass production of high value medicinal mushroom	P	Dr. B.K. Agrawal/Sri Muni Prasad
9.9.2023	10.30-11.45 AM	Visit to Giloy Processing and Research Centre	P	Dr. Kaushal Kumar, FPU
	12.00 Noon -1.15 PM	Business approaches and case studies for natural farming & natural foods	T	Dr. Siddharth Jaiswal, BPD
	2.00- 5.00 PM	Preparation of <i>Whapsa</i> channel and <i>Achhaadan</i> , and Visit to natural farm	P	Dr. Siddharth Jaiswal, BPD

		(Dubaliya Farm)		
11.9.2023	10.30 AM-1.30 PM	Participation in Training-cum-Workshop on “FPO-mediated IT Interventions & Inauguration of “Technology Resource Centre”		
	3.00- 4.15 PM	Insect pest management under natural farming	T	Dr. P.K. Singh, DR
12.9.2023	10.30-11.45 AM	Recent advances in crop residue management in natural farming	T/P	Dr. S. Naik, ICAR-RCER, Plandu
	12.00 Noon -1.15 PM	On-farm waste recycling technologies	P/T	Dr. Shiv Mangal Prasad, ICAR-NRRI, Hazaribag
	2.00- 3.15 PM	Use of herbal extracts in plant protection	P	Dr. Someshwar Bhagat, ICAR-NRRI, Hazaribag
	3.30- 4.45 PM	Disease management under natural farming	T	Dr. H.C. Lal, PP
13.9.2023	10.00 AM-5.00 PM	Natural farm unit as an agro-ecotourism park	P	Visit to Amrit Krish Krishi Samooh, Chakuliya/ Dr. B.K. Agrawal & Dr. M.K. Barnwal
		Visit to bioresource unit	P	
14.9.2023	10.30-11.45 AM	Visit to IFS model, Department of Agronomy	P	
	12.00 Noon -1.15 PM	Visit to IFS model, Faculty of Forestry	P	
15.9.2023	09.30-11.45 AM	Visit to ICAR-RCER, Palandu	P	Dr. B.K. Jha, ICAR-RCER
	12.00 Noon -2.15 PM	Visit to ICAR-NISA, Namkum	P	Mr. Patmajhi
16.9.2023	10.30-11.45 AM	Computation of cost of production of natural farming and conventionally grown food	P	Dr. S. Karmakar, Agron
	12.00 Noon -1.15 PM	Importance of farm mechanization and local innovations in natural farming	T	Er. Uttam Kumar, Ag. Engg.
	2.00- 3.15 PM	Post evaluation of the participants' aptitude		
	3.30- 5.00 PM	Trainees' feedback and Valedictory Session		

Valedictory session was held on 16th September. Dr. M.K. Gupta, DRI-cum-Dean PGS was the chief guest in this session. Other dignitaries present were Dr. M.S. Malik, Course Director, and PI, NAHEP, Dr. J. Oraon, Director Extension, Dr. Sushil Prasad, Dean,

Veterinary and Co-PI, NAHEP, Dr. S. Karmakar, Director, Seed & Farm and Chairman Agronomy, Dr. B.K. Agrawal, Director Students' Welfare and Co-PI, NAHEP, Dr. Arvind Kumar, Co-PI, NAHEP (Soil Science), Dr. R.P. Manjhi, Co-PI, NAHEP (Agronomy). All the trainees were provided with certificates.



