Tour Report of Sh. M.N. Sukumaran, Director (Oilseeds) and Shri Jitendra Kumar Asst. Director (Oilseeds) on their visit to Gujarat from 12.02.2016 to 15.02.2016

A joint visit of Sh. M.N. Sukumaran, Director (Oilseeds) and Shri Jitendra Kumar Assistant Director (Oilseeds) was undertaken to Gujarat from 12.02.2016 to 15.02.2016 for participation in Global Castor Conference-2016 organized by SEA at Ahmedabad on 12th-13th February 2016 and monitoring of NMOOP in Mehsana District of Gujarat. A brief tour report is given below:

1. **Global Castor Conference-2016**

   About 100 participants from Castor oil Industry and trade including delegates from China and African Countries participated in the conference. However, there was no participant from State Department of Agriculture, Gujarat who has more than 75% share in production of castor in India. Various aspects relating to production of castor seeds, oil, and derivatives of castor oil, demand and supply and export were discussed during the meeting. The deliberations reveal that India is the largest producer with a share of more than 75% in total castor production in the World. China is the major buyer of Indian Castor Oil (>90%) and largest (90%) producer of Sebacic fatty acid, a major industrial application of castor oil. India is exporting castor oil and derivatives worth of Rs. 4000 to 5000 crore. The declining trend of price of castor seed in Indian Market was also observed by the Indian Industry. Efforts by Indian Industry for production of Sebacic acid will go in favour of Indian Farmer.
2. **Monitoring of FLD on oilseeds organized by ICAR-KVKs**: 

Gujarat is covered under ATARI Zone–VI, located at Jodhpur. The Senior Scientist, KVK informed that out of 75 FLDs (30 ha.) of Mustard allocated to KVK, Mehsana, 89 FLDs (30 ha.) have been conducted in the district with a recent release(2011) variety GDM-4. A field visit was arranged in village-Amarpura, Block– Visnagar. The list of farmers, whose fields were covered, is given below: -

1. Rajput Dasrathji Javanji
2. Rajput Khengaji Javanji
3. Rajput Chamanji Nathaji
4. Rajput Ratanji Hamirji
5. Rajput Gopalji Rupaji
6. Rajput Fataji Chandanji
7. Rajput Bhikhaji Hamirji
8. Rajput Manuji Laxmanji
9. Rajput Laxmanji Naranji
10. Rajput Sujitsinh Khegarji
11. Rajput Nagji Viramji
12. Rajput Karshanji Tejaji

The inputs comprising certified seeds-GDM-4 (3.3 kg), Sulpher-20kg, Zink Sulphate-8kg, Ferrus Sulphate-15kg, PSB Culture-2.5 lit, Azotobactor-2.5 lit, Beauveria bassiana-2.4kg, Neem Oil (10000 PPM)-2.4 lit, Sticky trap-10 nos per hectare were supplied to the beneficiary farmers, after their capacity building. The crop was at physiological maturity and without any disease/pest. The farmers are expecting an average yield of 18-20 qt./ha. They have appreciated the know-how provided by the KVK. The farmers have also suggested for enhancement of norm for demonstration of groundnut, wherein seed alone cost more than Rs. 7000/- per ha.
3. Monitoring of other activities of MM-I of MNOOP.

The progress of implementation of NMOOP in district Mehsana was reviewed with Dy. Director Agriculture, State Head Quarter, Asst. Director Agriculture and his team, at Mehsana. A copy of the component-wise progress of MM-I, NMOOP is attached. Thereafter, field visit were undertaken in Block – Becharaji. During the field visit, interactions were held with the beneficiary farmers covered under cluster demonstrations, mechanization including diesel pump sets and seed minikits. The intervention-wise observations are given as under:

3.1 Thakor Zalaji Ghamaji, Prajapati Visabhai Mohanbhai, village – jetpur, taluka - Becharaji In village-Jetpur, Block – Becharaji informed that he has received a subsidy of Rs. 10500/- under NMOOP Scheme on purchase of diesel pump set (5 hp.), which is being used for lifting of water from canal. This activity has been under taken under flexi funds and same is approved under AAP of the State.
3.2 Water carrying pipes were also being used for carrying the water from source to the field. The farmers have raised the issue for enhancing the subsidy on water carrying pipes. They were informed about the change of subsidy from Rs. 25/- per meter to Rs. 50/meter (HDPE), Rs. 35/meter
(PVC) and Rs. 20/meter (HDPE laminated woven) and the maximum limit is Rs. 15000/- per farmer from next financial year.

3.3 The farmers namely Thakor Zalaji Ghamaji, Patel Ambarambhai Chhaganbhai, Patel Ambalal Virambhai and Patel Karshanbhai Chhaganbhai of block – Becharaji informed that they have been given the inputs like Seed of GM-3 variety – 3.5 kg., Zinc Sulphate – 10 Kg., Cloropyriphos – 1 lit., PSB Culture – 1 lit., Urea – 100 Kg. and SSP – 300 Kg per hectare under cluster demonstration of mustard. The crop was at physiological maturity and without any disease / pest. The farmers are expecting an average yield of 15 qt./ha.
3.4 A farmer Shankarbhai Ishwarbhai Patel said that he has received a subsidy amount of Rs. 42400/- out of total cost Rs. 90930/-, out of total cost of rotavator purchased under NMOOP. However, name of scheme was not inscribed on the rotavator. Farmer is very happy with the usefulness of rotavator and the benefit of subsidy, he received. Another farmer Solanki Dilipsinh Narsangji of village – Kalari, taluka – Becharaji also received a rotavator under the scheme.
3.5 A cluster demonstration of castor laid out on the farmers field of Jadeja Fataji Babaji, Solanki Kunvarji Amathaji, Solanki Naransinh Navaji, Solanki Batukji Mafaji and Solanki Mafaji Joraji in Kharif Season over an area of 5 ha in Village – Modhera, Ta. - Becharaji. The input supplied to beneficiary farmers includes Seeds of Castor hybrid - GCH-7 – 5 kg., Zinc Sulphate – 20 Kg., Sulphure – 20 Kg., Cloropyriphos – 1 lit., Quinalphose – 1 lit., Azotobactor – 1 Lit., PSB Culture – 1 lit. These farmers have already taken 1-2 pickings. These farmers have shared their concerned about the sharp decline of castor prices during current year.
3.6 Farmer fields of Shri Solanki Udesang Joharaji and Solanki Bharatji Babaji, who have grown mustard minikits (Variety – CS-54) supplied under NMOOP free of cost were also visited. The infestation of aphid was noticed, however, chances of damage was very low, as crop was at maturity stage. These farmers showed their preference to GM-3 over CS-54.

3.7 State Government has launched I-khedut portal (www.ikhedut.gujarat.gov.in). The farmers can choose the components as per their requirement through online portal. Due to lack of awareness among the farmers, a limited progress has been made.

3.8 Erratic and uneven distribution of rain has attributed lesser coverage under majority of crops including oilseed during 2015-16 attributing to low expenditure under NMOOP.

3.8 Restriction on supply of inputs through Government outlets was another factor attributing to slow progress of the scheme.