No. 3.12/2016/Oilseeds/CA  
Govt. of India  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare  
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers’ Welfare  
(Oilseeds Division)  

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Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: 06th February, 2017  

To,  

Vice Chancellor,  
Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University,  
SKNagar- 385506, Gujarat  

Sub: Brief report on National Castor Kisan Mela held at Sardarkrushinagar, Dantiwada Agriculture University, Gujarat on 21st – 25th January, 2017 - -reg.  

Sir,  

I am forwarding herewith a copy for the report on National Castor Kisan Mela held at Sardarkrushinagar, Dantiwada Agriculture University, Gujarat on 21st – 25th January, 2017  

(Dr. Anupam Barik)  
Addl. Commissioner (Oilseeds)  

Distribution:  
1. Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Gujarat, Krishi Bhawan, Gandhinagar  
2. Director, Directorate of Extension Education, Sardarkrushinagar, Dantiwada Agriculture University, Gujarat-385506  
3. Director, Directorate of Oilseeds Development, Hyderabad.  
4. Director, ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad.  

Copy to:  
1. PPS to Joint Secretary, Oilseeds, DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
2. Director (Oilseeds) DAC&FW, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
3. Programmer (Oilseeds) DAC, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Report of National Castor Kisan Mela held at Gujarat
Agriculture University, Sardarkrushinagar, Dantiwada
on 21st – 25th January, 2017

The National Castor Kisan Mela - 2017 was organised at Castor and Mustard Research Station, Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar on 21st – 25th January, 2017 in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. In this National Castor Kisan Mela more than 400 farmers and castor cultivators from Gujarat, Rajasthan and AP states actively participated. Dr. IYLN Murthy, Principal Scientist, IIOR, Hyderabad and Mr. T.P. Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi also represented in this National Castor Kisan Mela. The agricultural scientists from different SAU’s, officers from State Agriculture Department, Extension personnel, Stake holders, ATMA functionaries and students were also present in this National Castor Kisan Mela. The scientists of the castor and mustard research station provided guidance to the farmers regarding recent technologies developed by the University scientists and interacted with the farmers regarding their problems and provided solutions of castor cultivation. Farmers were fully satisfied with this interaction.

During field visit to live demonstrations on castor and mustard crops, farmers were exposed to different castor hybrids and mustard improved varieties developed by this University and promising hybrid of castor. Farmers also visited the live demonstration both on improved castor cultivation techniques and farmers, practices and compared both the techniques for knowing the significant differences among them. Farmers appreciated the improved castor cultivation techniques and majority of them decided to adopt these improved techniques in future. The demonstration on transplanted castor,
the new innovation under investigation in filler trial was visited by farmers, which was appreciated as it saves seed cost and reduces the yield loss due to gapping.

Total 35 progressive farmers from 7 districts of North Gujarat including 22 progressive castor growers selected by Department of Agriculture, Gujarat on the basis of last three years productivity of castor and 13 progressive castor growers selected by KVKs on the basis of adaptation of scientific package of practices for castor cultivation were honoured with certificates and shawl by dignitaries in the National Castor Kisan Mela.

Among the honoured farmers, five progressive farmers interacted with the farmers community and delivered experiences on the package of practices adopted by them in vernacular language. All these progressive farmers adopted the high yielding and wilt resistant castor hybrid GCH 7 and improved production technologies and got up to 7000 kg/ha seed yield. They also requested all the farmers to follow these techniques and get potential and profitable seed yield of castor.

Animal husbandry plays an important role for sustainability in farming community. University has established Livestock Research Station with an objective of to conserve improved local breed of animals. Thirty eight years back Kankrej was a breed of local cattle, when this research station started, the average lactation milk yield of Kankrej breed was 917 liters. By selective breeding and improved management practices it reached the 2600 liters/lactation. One outstanding cow gave 6200 liters/lactation, which is the highest producing dual purpose cow indigenous breed in India.

In the inaugural session, Prof. (Dr.) Ashok A. Patel, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar and the chairman of this function narrated technologies developed by the scientists. He mentioned the farmer can earn income about 1.2 lakh rupees / hectare by growing castor crop. He pointed
out that farmer can enhance his income by adopting mixed farming to achieve Prime Minister's directive to double the income of farmers by 2022.

Dr. K.A. Thakkar, Director of Extension Education, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar narrated achievement of Castor and Mustard Research Station and he mentioned that world's first castor hybrid was developed at this research station, which made quantum jump in castor production in the Gujarat vis-a-vis India.

Dr. I.Y.L.N. Murthy, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad thanked the Vice-Chancellor and Director of Extension Education, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar for organizing National Castor Fair and ensuring large gathering of farmers. He explained the importance and economic potential of soil testing before sowing the crops.

The undersigned, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi presented the scenario of castor production in different countries. He reminded that the crop varieties in FLDs should not be older than 10 years for availing assistance provided by Government of India. So there is need to develop new castor hybrid for Gujarat state before 2017-18.

Mr. D.B. Barot, Joint Director of Agriculture (Extension), Gandhinagar and Mr. A.A. Katesiya, Joint Director of Agriculture (Extension), Mehsana advised farmers to be in close contact with State Departments, KVKs and university scientists to achieve maximum castor production.

The major suggestions from the visit are as under:

- Since the widely adopted castor hybrid GCS-7 is completing 10 years, it will not be eligible for assistance under FLD, Minikits and seed distribution programme. Hence, a suitable replacement may be developed immediately.  
  (Action- GAU/ICAR)

- The high yield potential reported by some progressive farmers may be replicated on a large scale.  
  (Action: State Department of Agriculture, Gujarat)
• Representation of castor industry may ensured in future National Kisan Mela on Castor.  
  (Action: State Department of Agriculture, Gujarat/ Castor Industry)
• The MSP for castor may be determined by DAC&FW and procurement may be assured.  
  (NAFED, APMC, Gujarat/ DAC&FW)
National Castor Kisan Mela

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, GOVT. OF INDIA

Caste: Banni

Date: 15th Oct, 2016

Event: Castor Kisan Mela

Participants:

- Person A
- Person B
- Person C
- Person D
- Person E

Activity: Exchange of documents

Location: Outdoor setup with tables and chairs