
In Gujarat, approximately in 15 million hectares of area groundnut is sown annually giving 20 million tons of production with 1400 kg per hectare productivity. DGR, Junagadh has developed various improved technologies for this region which can increase groundnut productivity. Therefore, the Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh has organised a ‘Groundnut farmer fair cum exhibition’ on September 10, 2015, to acquaint the farmers of Saurashtra region of Gujarat with the improved package of practices for cultivation of groundnut for its sustainable production and improved productivity. This fair was sponsored to ICAR-DGR, Junagadh under NMOOP with a financial assistance of Rs. 4.00 lakh. In all, there were more than 750 farmers from Devbhoomi-Dwaraka, Jamnagar, Amreli, Targhadia, Junagadh, Dhoraji, Bhavnagar, Kodinar, Vishavadar, Keshod, Mangarol, Vanthali, Navsari, Amrapur, Gir-Somnath areas. The sarpanchs of the 30 adopted villages under the “Mera Gaon Mera Gourav” programme also participated.

Sh Alok Kumar Pandey (District Magistrate, Junagadh) was present as the Chief Guest and Dr BB Singh (ADG-OP, ICAR, New Delhi) as the Guest of honour. The special guests present on the dais include Dr AM Parakhiya (Director of Extension Education, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh); Sh SS Solanki (Joint Director, Agriculture Extension, Government of Gujarat, Junagadh), Deans of the Agricultural Engineering, Veterinary college and the Associate Director of Research, JAU also were present.

The program started by the lighting of the lamp by the guests present on the dais and progressive farmers. At the inaugural session, Dr Radhakrishnan T., Director, ICAR-DGR, Junagadh, welcomed all the farmers and dignitaries and requested the participants to take full advantage of such farmers’ fairs-cum-exhibitions to improve their productivity.

In this occasion, programme coordinators of various Krishi Vigyan Kendras like Targhadia (Rajkot), Porbandar, Jamnagar, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Kodinar and Pipaliya (Dhoraji) and scientists from JAU were also present. After the inaugural session, lectures on improved groundnut production technologies were delivered by the experts from ICAR-DGR and Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh in local languages.

Interactive sessions were well organized between Scientist and farmers after the formal inaugural session. The highlights of the farmers fair are given below:
1. More than 750 farmers including about 100 women from the major groundnut growing districts participated in the farmers fair.

2. Scientists from ICAR-DGR, Faculty of Junagadh Agricultural University (Junagadh), Officials of Gujarat State, personals associated with various groundnut industries participated in the farmers fair.

3. The exhibition had 20 stalls set up mainly by the input dealers, the DGR and the JAU

4. Presentations on improved groundnut production technologies were followed by question answer session. During the discussion session, various queries raised by the farmers were answered by the scientists of the Directorate.

5. On this day, a competition was also organised for farmers. The farmers were given an opportunity to display their groundnut plant samples which were evaluated by an expert committee. As a token of recognition of their efforts in promoting good agricultural practices; some utility items were given away to these farmers as prizes.

6. The farmers were taken around the ‘Technology Park’ of ICAR-DGR to enable farmers appreciate the impact of various technologies on growth and other yield attributes of groundnut plants. Farmers also visited various stalls exhibiting the agro-chemicals that are now available in market for use in agriculture. Information pamphlets and brochures describing (in Gujarati) various aspects of groundnut were distributed to farmers free of cost.

7. A number of progressive farmers expressed their confidence and acknowledged the services rendered by ICAR-DGR and the KVKs operating in the Gujarat state.

Mr. HB Lalwani, Technical officer, ICAR-DGR, thanked all the guests and farmers for their active and constructive participation. Overall, the event was widely appreciated by the farmers, who suggested that such Kisan Melas should be organized at regular intervals with representation of all stakeholders including Private Sector.
Honorable dignitaries sitting on the dais on the occasion of ‘Groundnut farmer fair cum exhibition’

Director DGR, Dr Radhakrishnan T., welcoming the Chief Guest Sh Alok Kumar Pandey, Collector and District Magistrate, Junagadh with a bouquet of flowers
Lighting of lamps by the honorable dignitaries

Farmer’s participation on the occasion of ‘Groundnut farmer fair cum exhibition’
Dr. B.B. Singh, ADG-OP, ICAR, New Delhi addressing the groundnut farmers of Saurashtra region

Women farmers’ participation in the fair
Women farmers at the exhibition of live materials

Distribution of awards to the winner farmers
Distribution of awards to the winner farmers