

Rabi Farmers' Day in Tansa Farm

On March 14, 2024, a Farmers' Day event was held at Tansa Farm for the current *Rabi* weather season. The event focused on "Horticulture-Based Integrated Farming System and Nursery Raising- A viable source for doubling farmers income" and was part of the ASPEE Foundation's efforts to introduce modern agricultural technologies to small farmers in the Tansa Farm vicinity. Dr. Rishabh Makwana, Assistant Professor from Seth D. M. Polytechnic (Horticulture) College, Vadodara, Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat were served as the guest speaker. Dr. Swapnil Dekhane, a Senior Scientist welcomed the guests and provided introductory remarks about the attendees. He also explained the activities of the Aspee Agricultural Research and Development Foundation.

Before Farmers' Day start ARDF staff take a round with farmers and showed them different rabi crops. ASPEE staff also displayed different ASPEE spray products and showed to farmers. The technical staff of the Aspee Foundation explained to the farmers about the research projects being conducted on the farm.

The chief guest delivered a concise yet informative presentation on various horticulture crops and nursery. Horticulture crops offer a wide range of options such as fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, and ornamental plants. Integrating these crops with nursery raising diversifies income sources, reducing dependency on a single crop and mitigating risks associated with market fluctuations and climatic variations. Horticulture crops generally have higher market value compared to traditional crops. By focusing on high-value crops and quality nursery stock, farmers can fetch better prices in the market, thereby increasing their income. Many horticulture crops require comparatively lower inputs in terms of water, fertilizers, and pesticides compared to conventional crops like rice or wheat. This can lead to cost savings for farmers, contributing to increased profitability. Nursery raising can also provide a steady income stream as farmers can sell seedlings, saplings, or young plants throughout the year. Horticulture crops offer opportunities for value addition through processing into jams, pickles, juices, or dried products. Additionally, nursery plants can be sold at various stages of growth, providing opportunities for value addition.

In this program one of invitee Smt. Asmita Mahale, Agri. Assistant from Govt. of Maharashtra also explained different schemes useful for farmers benefits. Progressive farmer Shri. Kishor Chaudhary also talk on his vermicompost business which he doing and challenge to farmers to do as per his guideline for earning money.

Near about 100 farmers from the adjoining villages were participated in the event. After clearing all doubts of farmers, the farmers' day ended after lunch.



The chief guest Dr. Rishabh Makwana welcomed by ASPEE Foundation advisor, Dr. D. J. Patel.



President of the function Dr. D. J. Patel welcomed by Progressive farmer Shri. Narendra Patil.



Cucumber plot visit of the farmers.



Farmers visit to ASPEE Sprayers stall.



Progressive farmer Shri. Kishor Chaudhary addressing to the farmers.



Dr. Rishabh Makwana addressing to the farmers.



Smt. Asmita Mahale, Agri. Assistant, Govt. of Maharashtra addressing to the farmers.



A token of love gave to chief guest by the hands of Dr. D. J. Patel.