

### **Visit of India-Israel Innovation Meet participants to AAU, Anand**

Ten award winners and equal number of participants of India-Israel Innovation Meet held in Ahmedabad on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Ministers of India and Israel visited Anand Agricultural University, Anand on 18<sup>th</sup> January. The purpose of the visit was to see various activities pertaining to teaching, research and extension being carried at AAU and exploring the areas of innovations in agribusiness. The group was led by Mrs. Tejashree Shah, senior faculty at iCREATE, Dev Dholera, Ahmedabad.

An interaction meeting with the participants was held with the Hon. Vice Chancellor, Dr. N.C. Patel; Director of Research and Dean Post Graduate Studies, Dr. K. B. Kathiria; Director of Extension Education, Dr. Arun Patel, and all other University Officers and all the Deans of Colleges of AAU, Anand. Dr. R.S. Pundir, Prof. & Head, Dept. of Agribusiness Economics and Policies, IABMI, AAU, Anand made a brief presentation about various educational, research and extension activities of AAU and highlighted significant achievements made by the University. Dr. N.C. Patel, Hon. Vice Chancellor, in his opening remarks welcomed the participants, congratulated the award winners in the India-Israel Innovation Meet and briefed them about the salient achievements made and major activities being carried out at AAU.

The participants enthusiastically interacted in the meeting and evinced their interest in knowing the technologies developed at AAU particularly in relation to the income and employment generation and efficient use of resources with focus on water, protective agriculture and organic farming. Against a question of system of technology adoption by the farmers, Hon. Vice Chancellor,

Dr. N.C. Patel explained quite in detail and highlighted the role of Line Departments, K.V.K.s and Front Line Demonstrations. He also shared the observation that new technologies, particularly varieties, buttressed by good farming practices and scientific recommendations can help to the extent of doubling the yield in some cases. While highlighting the role and use of modern technologies, the Hon. Vice Chancellor said that AAU has played vital role in the state in developing and disseminating the useful technologies to the farmers. Some of the participants were interested to know the role of the University in relation to IPR. Against this issue, the Hon. Vice Chancellor told the participants that though AAU has made progress in this area, the focus is on immediately transferring the technologies to the needy farmers. Some participants were more curious to know about the technologies related to growth regulators and pesticides to help minimize the damage of fruits and vegetables. While focusing on significance of organic farming, one participant shared the observation based on work done in Israel that damage caused by fruit fly in mango can be reduced between 30 to 90% and thus there is need for sharing the benefits of such technologies. One participant wanted to know whether new technologies and innovations are shared with the farmers freely or not? In this context, the Hon. Vice Chancellor told that nothing is confidential and all information are shared with the farmers without any bias. One very senior participant with rich experience in wheat breeding specially met the Director of Research and Dean PG Studies, AAU, Dr. K.B. Kathiria and held a long discussion in his office and shared various research related issues.

The participants visited Sardar Patel Educational Museum, Biofertilizer unit, Tissue Culture Laboratory, Experiential Learning Unit and Food Quality Testing Lab

of College of Food Processing Technology and Bio-Energy. They were highly impressed by the educational system and the research activities being carried out at AAU, Anand. The participants took keen interest during their visit to Biofertilizer Unit, Food Quality Testing Lab and Experiential Learning Centre at College of FPT & BE. Some of the participants felt high scope of doing business between India and Israel in the broad area of agriculture with focus on irrigation water technology, food processing & value addition, organic farming and protective agriculture.



