

VISIT OF SAARC DELEGATION TO AAU, ANAND

A delegation of SAARC comprising of 35 members led by Dr. Rudra B., Policy Advocacy, along with two officials (ShriHrishikesh Kumar and ShriDenzil Dias) from NDDDB, Anand visited AAU, Anand on 24th July, 2019.

During the Interactive Meeting held at Yagyavalky hall, University Bhavan, AAU, Anand, in his opening remarks, Dr. N.C. Patel, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand welcomed all the delegates to AAU. He informed the house that AAU had 3 portfolios viz., Teaching, Research and Extension. He emphasized that the salient research outcome carried out by the Scientists of AAU, Anand is extended up to the farmers, even through online Apps, facilitated through our strong Extension activities. Dr. N.C. Patel invited them to collaborate with AAU, Anand for education and research programmes.

When delegates enquired about monitoring the status of the technology transfer in relation to the crops developed and sold, Dr. Patel replied that through multilocation trials, the seeds are validated and later with the help of All India Coordinated Research Projects and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation, the new crop developed is authenticated. AAU, Anand has sold more than 6000 quintals of seeds at a nominal rate. When another delegate questioned about the awareness on pesticide residues in crops, Dr. Patel informed that our University has ventured into organic farming to face such eventuality and one Organic Agricultural University has just been started, the first kind of such University in India. When enquired about funding at AAU, Anand, Dr. Patel informed the house that > 80% of the fund is received from Govt. of Gujarat, while 10-13% is from GOI and rest from private organizations and NGOs. Dr. Patel informed them about the All-India coordinated Research Project from ICAR, New Delhi and the NAHEP for establishing Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology Centre. Relating to the acceptance of GMO crop i.e. BT brinjal, Dr. Patel informed that India is not ready to accept that when we already have sturdy seeds with good yield potential for such non-GMO crops.

On query from another SAARC delegate, Dr. K.B. Kathiria, Director of Research & Dean PG Studies informed them that the breeder seed is produced only by the University, while certification can be carried out by anyone including the private parties.

Dr. R.S. Pundir, Professor at IABMI, AAU, Anand gave them a brief overview of the vision and activities and specific achievements of AAU, Anand. At the end, Dr. Rudra thanked our Hon. Vice Chancellor and associated officers for inviting them to AAU, Anand. He very much appreciated the way the 'Interaction meet' was organized and conducted. He indicated keen interest by few of the SAARC officials in joining hand with AAU, Anand for having MOU to work in collaboration with our University.

The 'Interaction Meet' was followed by the visit of the delegates to Sardar Patel Agricultural Educational Museum followed by Biofertilizer Unit, AAU, Anand and finally to Vidya Dairy, Anand.



