

## **National-Level Monitoring Visit of Okra Resistance Screening Trial under CRP on Agrobiodiversity at Main Vegetable Research Station, AAU, Anand**

The Main Vegetable Research Station, AAU, Anand, conducts interdisciplinary research on a wide range of vegetable crops including brinjal, tomato, chilli, okra, various cucurbits, legumes, and underground as well as leafy vegetables. This research aims to address the needs of farmers engaged in vegetable cultivation across middle Gujarat. Among these crops, okra holds particular significance in the region. Anand has emerged as a key centre for evaluating okra resistance against Yellow Vein Mosaic Virus (YVMV) and Enation Leaf Curl Virus (ELCV). As a result, the centre was selected to conduct the okra YVMV and ELCV resistance screening trial by ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi.

On 26th May 2025, Dr. Suma A., Senior Scientist from the Regional Station of NBPGR, Thrissur, Kerala, and Dr. Pradip Karmakar, Senior Scientist at ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, visited MVRS, AAU, Anand, to monitor the ongoing trial. Dr. R. R. Acharya, Research Scientist (Vegetables), welcomed the visitors and introduced them to the staff. Dr. N. A. Patel, Assistant Research Scientist, presented an overview of the ongoing research activities at the centre. Dr. Mihir Pandya, Assistant Research Scientist, highlighted the significance of okra cultivation in Gujarat and elaborated on the details of the YVMV and ELCV resistance screening trial initiated by NBPGR, New Delhi. The visit also included a comprehensive discussion on the trial, involving MVRS scientists such as Dr. C. K. Borad, Associate Research Scientist; Shri K. J. Vekariya, Senior Research Assistant; Dr. Parthsinh Rahevar, Research Assistant; Dr. V. N. Kapadia, Research Assistant; and Dr. Hilay Dudhat, Senior Research Fellow.

In addition, a formal meeting was held the same day at the Office of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University Bhavan, AAU, Anand. The visiting scientists from Varanasi and Thrissur, along with the MVRS staff, interacted with the university authorities. Dr. M. K. Jhala provided an overview of AAU's research strengths, particularly in vegetable crops. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. K. B. Kathiria, emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts, including the sharing of datasets, germplasm, and research facilities, to promote joint research initiatives.





