



**NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME
COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE
ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**



**Jointly organized
By
AICRP-Weed Management , AAU, Anand
&
Dept. of Natural Resource Management & NSS Cell, College of Horticulture, AAU, Anand**

18th Parthenium Awareness Programme

On August 24, 2023, a team effort of AICRP-Weed Management, AAU, Anand, together with the Department of Natural Resource Management and the NSS Cell of the College of Horticulture, AAU, Anand, came together to create awareness about Parthenium during the "**Parthenium Awareness Week**" from August 16 - 22, 2023. The main goal was to teach NSS Volunteers about the harmful effects of Parthenium and ways to control it effectively.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Prity Kumari, the NNS Program Officer of the College of Horticulture, extending greetings to dignitaries, including Dr. D.D. Chaudhari, an expert in Weed Control Management from AICRP-Weed Management, AAU, Anand and our special guest, Dr. Vimal Patel, Professor & Head, Department of Agronomy, BACA, Dr. N. I. Shah, Principal & Dean, College of Horticulture, Dr. C. H. Raval, Assistant Prof & Head, Department of Natural Resource Management, College of Horticulture and other faculty members of college.

During the event, Dr. Vimal Patel explained what Parthenium is and talked about how it harms crop production and the health of people and animals. After his informative talk, Dr. N. I. Shah, Principal and Dean of the College of Horticulture, stressed the importance of telling the difference between Parthenium and a similar-looking plant called gypsophila (*gypsophila paniculata*). Gypsophila is used for decoration and is important in horticulture. He pointed out that even though they look alike, some weeds are really useful in horticulture, so it's crucial to tell them apart.

Subsequently, Dr. D. D. Chaudhari, an expert in Weed Control Management, provided a comprehensive overview of Parthenium, including its impact on crop production, Livestock and health of humans. He shared valuable insights for the management of this troublesome weed, which encompassed chemical control, biological control and the utilization of Parthenium for vermicomposting. Dr. Chaudhari also emphasized for campaigning in order to eradicate Parthenium and educate the audience on its harmful effects. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. C. H. Raval, expressing gratitude to all contributors. Approximately 100 NSS volunteers and staff members actively participated in this program.

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