



National Service Scheme
Polytechnic in Agricultural Engineering,
Anand Agricultural University,
Muvaliya Farm, Dahod-389160, Gujarat, India



AICRP-Weed Management, AAU, Anand

and

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, AAU, Dahod & NSS Unit, PAE, AAU, Dahod

Jointly organized

18th Parthenium Awareness Programme on 21/08/2023



Parthenium Hysterophorus

Parthenium hysterophorus (Family: Asteraceae), locally called gajar ghas or Congress grass, is an alien weed which entered into India along with wheat imported from USA in the early 1950s. Since then, it has spread alarmingly and invaded about 35 million hectares of land throughout the country including Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. This weed is notorious to cause many diseases like skin allergy, hay fever, breathing problems in human beings and animals besides reducing agricultural productivity and loss of biodiversity.

This dreaded weed is spreading at an alarming rate in India and all our efforts for its management are falling short. In view of the seriousness and magnitude of the threat posed by this weed. AICRP-Weed Management, AAU, Anand and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, & NSS Unit, PAE, AAU, Dahod Jointly organized mass awareness programme under “**Parthenium Awareness Week**” from 16-22 August, 2023 on 21/08/2023 to educate the farmers and students about the harmful effects of Parthenium and ways of its management. In the beginning Prof.S.S.Chinchorkar welcomed all the dignitaries like Dr.B.D.Patel, Retd. Professor and Head, Dr. D.D.Chaudhari, Weed Control Management, AAU, Anand, & as special guest, Dr.B.K.Yaduvanshi, I/c Principal, PAE, AAU, Dahod. Dr.R.G.Machhar, Unit Head, ARS, AAU, Dahod. Dr. G.K.Bhabhor, Scientist, KVK, Dahod. The Senior Scientist and Unit Head, KVK, Dahod Dr.H.L.Kacha explained the nature of the weed, its effects on crop production, human and animal health followed by Dr.R.G.Macchar, Unit Head, ARS emphasized that the campus should be made Parthenium free. Dr. D.D.Chaudhari, Weed Control Management, AAU, Anand, & as special guest explained the nature of the weed, its effects on crop production, human and cattle health. And explained account of management of this obnoxious weed by chemical control, biological control (*Cassia tora*, marigold and *Zygotrama bicolorata*),

and utilization of this weed by vermicomposting and also cautioned the students/farmers about its harmful effect and advocated its eradication on campaign basis and also educated the people about this weed. Followed by Dr.B.D.Patel emphasized the noxious nature of this weed and the ways for its eradication. He shared his research experiences on parthenium and explained the health ailments caused by this detrimental weed. He also described the dispersal capability of this weed and made a great awareness among the youngsters on the need for its control. Around nearby 65 nos. NSS volunteer's, staff members and farmers were participated in this programme. The students were impressed that the weed should be eradicated and all the efforts should be devoted for the eradication. All Students, NSS Volunteers, staff took an oath that they would continue to create awareness on the ill effects and strive for the eradication of the weed. They exhibited the placards and took a rally on the occasion and uprooted all the parthenium plants in the farm. Whole programme was framed and circulated by Dr. G.K.Bhabhor and Prof. Sachin S.Chinchorkar, NSS Programme Officer under the guidance of Dr. B.K.Yaduvanshi, Principal, PAE,AAU, Dahod.



