



# “Reimagining Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati”

National Conference on

# Natural Farming

Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, Achieving Food Security,  
and Promoting Inclusive Growth for Sustainable Agriculture

February 24-25, 2024

Organized By

Gujarat Institute of  
Development Research (GIDR)  
Ahmedabad

Gujarat Natural Farming  
Science University (GNFSU), Halol

Conference Venue:

Gujarat Institute of  
Development Research (GIDR),  
Ahmedabad

In Association with



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# Natural Farming; the Need of the Hour

Natural Farming (NF) is gaining attraction in India as an eco-friendly alternative to chemical-intensive agriculture. The Green Revolution's drawbacks, including declining productivity and environmental concerns, have spurred interest in NF

The government's National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) and state-level policies in various states promote NF adoption.

NF involves on-farm production of inputs, minimizing costs sustainably. NF emphasizes traditional practices and biodiversity.

# About the Conference

The Natural Farming (NF) initiative in India presents opportunities for non-chemical farm inputs using panchagavya, benefiting both the farm and livestock economies. NF encourages rural entrepreneurs, particularly women in Self Help Groups, to produce and market inputs like *Jeevamrit*, *Ghanjeevamrit* & *Beejamrit*. The decline in production costs aids farmers, especially women from small households, and promotes sustainable agriculture. Positive externalities include benefits to aquatic life and overall ecology due to reduced chemical use.

The conference aims to share experiences, address challenges, and discuss interventions in NF, focusing on Gujarat's progress while considering lessons from other states. Gujarat has a dedicated Natural Farming Science University, and the Dang district is declared 100% NF. As of February 2023, 8.50 lakh farmers across 7.13 lakh acres of land in Gujarat practice NF, supported by government subsidies and financial assistance.



# SDG Goals



## Natural Farming (NF) aligns with various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. **SDG 1: Poverty Reduction**- NF lowers agri-input costs, increasing farmers' profits, contributing to poverty reduction.
2. **SDG 2: Reduce Hunger**- NF promotes diverse food production at the farm level, reducing hunger.
3. **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**- NF's nutri-gardens enhance household health with seasonal produce and dairy products.
4. **SDG 5: Gender Equality**- NF's lower cash requirement enables women's active participation in agriculture and livestock rearing.
5. **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**- NF reduces chemical use, improving water quality and conservation.
6. **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**- Cow dung-based bio-plants provide clean cooking fuel and bio-fertilizers for NF.
7. **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**- NF boosts farmers' purchasing power, fostering innovation and infrastructure development.
8. **SDGs 13, 14, and 15: Climate Action, Life below Water, and Life on Land**- NF reduces fossil fuel and chemical use, benefiting the environment and biodiversity.
9. **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**- NF encourages cooperative models, fostering partnerships and collectives among farmers.



## Subthemes of Conference

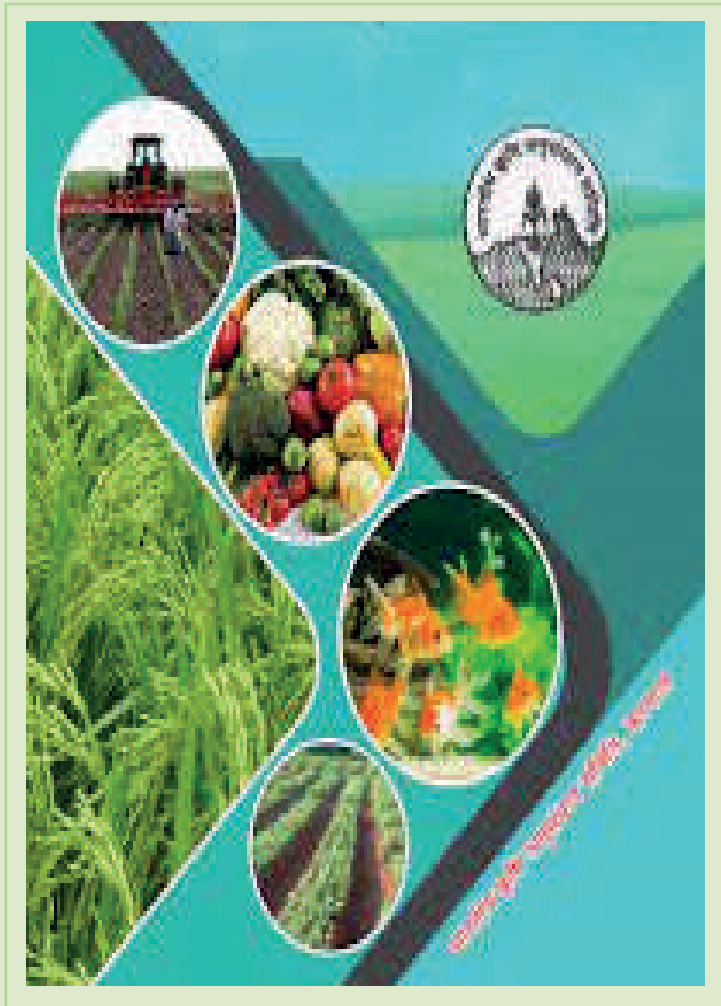
1. **Sustainability of NF:** Explore the prospects and challenges of developing Natural Farming (NF) as a sustainable alternative to current agricultural practices.
2. **Inclusivity for Small Farmers:** Assess the position of marginal and small farmers within the NF discourse, considering inclusivity and accessibility.
3. **Women's Empowerment through NF:** Investigate NF as a tool for empowering women in agriculture, promoting their active participation.
4. **NF's Contribution to Food Security:** Analyze how NF practices can contribute significantly to enhancing food security in local communities.
5. **Institutional Support and NF Adoption:** Evaluate the role of institutions in NF adoption, focusing on aspects like access to finance, farmer collectives, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

# Pillars of Natural Farming



# Call for Papers

## Instruction for Paper Contributors



- Papers must be based on original work of the authors.
- The word limits for the abstract is 350 words and for the paper including tables, charts and references should not be more than 6000 words.
- For reference follow APA style.
- All the papers must have abstract, introduction, literature review for the relevant and selected peer-reviewed works concerning the topic, major research gaps, research objectives, research questions, data and methodology, followed by discussion of findings and concluding section with major policy recommendation.
- Field based original insights will be given preference.
- Only selected authors of completed papers will be scrutinised for shortlisting and decision of the expert committee will be binding.

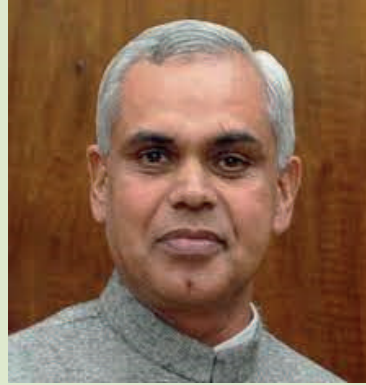
# Instruction for Poster Contributors

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- Our poster option is available to selected group of farmers, women, FPOs and community organisations who will be willing to showcase their NF models, activities and campaigns to promote the cause of Natural Farming.
- Willing participants can send their posters in PDF format or scanned copy to be evaluated by our scientific committee.
- The organisers will provide poster boards measuring 2.5 meters in height and 1 meter in width. The posters should be of 1.8 meters in height and 0.9 meters in width, (1189 x 841 mm).
- The poster presenters will bear the expense and safe keeping of their posters.
- GIDR will provide a space for the poster and local hospitality to one of the poster presenter from a given organisation/group.
- There will be awards in selected themes for poster presenters.

# Conference Patrons

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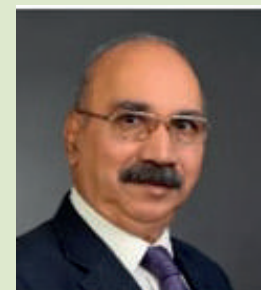
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## About GIDR



Established in 1970 in Ahmedabad, the Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR) is a distinguished autonomous institution in social science research, recognized by the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the Government of Gujarat. With over 330 research projects, GIDR excels in policy-oriented evaluations and impact assessments for government programs. Having published 779 articles and 63 books, the institute envisions global recognition for transformative contributions to development. Committed to evidence-based insights, GIDR's mission focuses on rigorous research, innovative analysis, and impactful knowledge dissemination, aiming to empower sustainable nation-building through informed policy decisions and inclusive development.

## About GNFSU

Established in 2017 under the Gujarat Organic Agricultural University Act, later amended in 2022 and 2023. Gujarat Natural Farming Science University (GNFSU) aims to promote natural farming. This institute serve as a unique center for education, research & Extension in Natural Farming making it the only Natural Farming University in Bharat. The vision is to achieve naturally prosperous and organically sound agriculture in Gujarat and India. With headquarters at Jam-budi Farm in Panchmahal District, GNFSU addresses challenges posed by indiscriminate fertilizer and agro-chemical use, deteriorating soil fertility, and environmental concerns. The mission involves offering postgraduate programs, diplomas, and certificates to enhance natural farming practices, improving farmer welfare and overall well-being.



## About EDII



Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), is an autonomous and not-for-profit institute, set up in 1983, is promoted by apex financial institutions the IDBI Bank Ltd. , IFCI Ltd. , ICICI Bank Ltd. and the State Bank of India (SBI) , with support from the Government of Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat pledged 23 acres of land on which stands the majestic and sprawling EDII campus. It runs two AICTE approved two years master's programme in PGDM- Entrepreneurship and PGDM –Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Venture Development (IEV) to develop future business leaders and innovators. It has incubated 90 plus start-ups since its inception.

# Gujarat National Law University (GNLU)



Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) is the statutory university established by the Govt. of Gujarat under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003 . The University is recognized by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) (2f & 12B) . The University is also a member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) , United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) , International Association of Law Schools (IALS) , Asian Law Institute (ASLI) and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.



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