

KVK : Access to Success



Supplying Planting Material



Field Demonstrations



Women Empowerment



Imparting Skills



Empowering Farming Community



Golden Harvest



Assessing Needs



Providing Services



Caring Animals



Krishi Vigyan Kendra

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Our University : The Host Institute

The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik was established in 1989 through Act XX of 1989 of Maharashtra State legislature. YCMOU, Nashik is the 5th Open University in India. The goal of university is to become a "Mass University" and to provide equal educational opportunities to large sections of the society. **YCMOU, Nashik is the only university in India, which is offering need-based programmes in Agriculture sciences through distance mode of education.**

The university received an international '**Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement**' from the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada on 1st August 2002 on the occasion of the 2nd Pan-commonwealth forum on Open Learning held in Durban, South Africa. YCMOU is the only university in India, which has received this prestigious award.

An extract from the citation read out on the occasion.

"...What impressed the panel particularly was the institution's use of technology, not just to attract a wide range of learners but to provide sustained academic support to retain them in the system. To do this, the university did not adopt a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. It used a variety of practices in line with students' needs, preferred learning styles & access to technology"

Background

The Indian council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi has established the Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik on 1st October, 1998. It is an Innovative farm science center providing training and services to the farmers and agri- business managers. It imparts need based training, skills, demonstrations and various extension activities in the field of agriculture with following mandates

1. Conducting On Farm Testing (OFT) for test verifying the technologies in the socio-economic conditions with a view to study the production constraints & to modify the technology to make them appropriate.
2. Training to update the state department extension personnel's & non-governmental organizations with emerging advances in agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry.
3. Impart vocational training to the practicing farmers, farm women rural youths with emphasis on learning by doing for higher production on farm & home & generating self employment.
4. Organize front line demonstrations (FLD) to generate production data, feedback information as well as popularising the technologies being demonstrated among the clientele.

Programs

On Farm Testing (OFT): Sometimes the recommended technologies do not perform to its potential. KVK identifies such technologies and conduct OFTs with a goal to evaluate the performance and potential application of a particular technology under farm conditions using a valid experiment. Production constraints are studied and accordingly the technology is fine tuned which produces a multitude of benefits to farmers, agricultural communities, and society.

Front Line Demonstration : KVK identifies the major crops of adopted villages which significantly contribute in farmers' economy. Kendra demonstrates newly released crop production and protection technologies and its management practices in the farmers' field under different agro-climatic regions and

farming situations to show worth of a new practice/ technology. The motto behind this is to motivate the farmers to adopt the technology. Kendra has demonstrated the technologies of various crops viz. Soybean, Groundnut, Niger, Chickpea, Black Gram, Moong Bean, Green Gram, Tomato, Onion, Paddy, Mango and also farm implements, poultry, Goatry, etc.

Training Programs : The needs and the problems of the farmers are identified by the KVK by various tools like PRA, group discussions, analysing the production methods, etc. Accordingly the trainings are being organized for different clientele. Training programs for farmers are arranged for productivity enhancement and to reduce the cost of cultivation. Vocational training for rural youths are organized to impart the skills and make them capable for self employment. Extension functionaries are trained about the new advances in agriculture in view of further disseminating the advances at horizontal scale.

Extension Activities : Various extension activities are arranged for awareness, getting knowledge and motivating the farmers to adopt the innovations. These includes field days, exposure visits, farmers' melavas, literature development, technology week celebrations, farmers' rallies, radio and TV programs, participation in exhibitions, mobile messaging, etc.

On Farm Activities; technology display for farmers

Model Farm : KVK has established model demonstration farm on its 100 acres of land. Various conventional and non- conventional fruit and vegetable crops are cultivated with modern techniques. High density plantation, micro irrigation systems, low cost technologies, organic fruit production technologies, etc are demonstrated so that farmers can study and adopt the technologies on their own farm. Fruit orchards include Mango, Grapes, Sapota, Guava, Coconut, Aonla, Cashew, Litchi, Custard apple, Avocado, Coffee, etc. Borders of the farm are covered with alternate plantation of Jackfruit and Coconut.



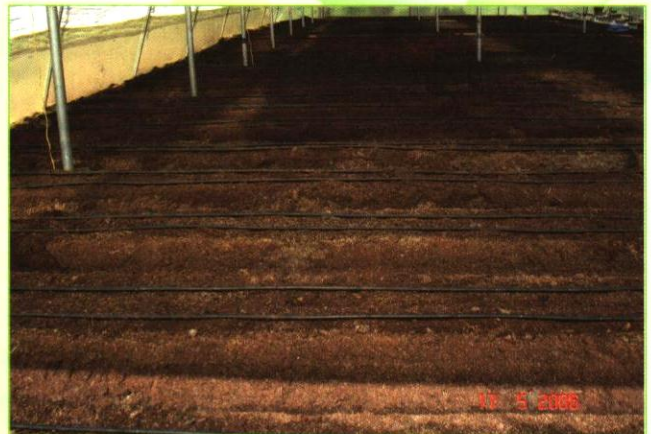
Horticultural Nursery : Availability of quality planting material is a prerequisite to the success of horticulture development initiatives. With this view, KVK has established a horticultural nursery at its farm. The grafts of Mango, Guava, Sapota, Litchi and seedlings of Drumstick are prepared for supply to the farmers. The capacity of 1 lakh grafts/ seedlings, hi- tech protective structures and improved cultivar mother plant blocks are some of the highlights of our nursery.



Vermicompost Unit : KVK has adopted a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity on its farm. The Kendra is producing 100 tons of vermicompost every year, which is used in its production system. It is also serving as the culture providing unit for the farmers who has enthusiasm in organic farming.

Modern Irrigation System :

Sustainable water management also involves the use of new technologies in irrigation, such as automated supply systems. KVK has installed these automated systems on its 100 acres horticulture plantation. It has drastically minimized the water requirement and also reduced the operation cost of the irrigation. Drip, In-line drip, sprinkler forms of micro- irrigation has been adopted as per its suitability to crops. Moreover, these systems are at the farmers display to change the mindset among them for adoption.



High density method of plantation

Increasing pressure on land owing to diversion of orchard lands to various other obvious reasons as well as rising energy and land-costs, together with mounting demand for fruits have made it imperative to achieve higher productivity from limited space. Kendra has adopted planting system for high density i.e. a combination of tree arrangement and plant form. Mango, sapota, guava are few examples in which Kendra has intervened in high density planting. Specialized planting geometry, pruning systems, and cultivation practice aspects are specified for the farmers to avoid negative impact on their fields.



Precision farming :

Poly-house farming is an alternative new technique in agriculture, gaining foothold in Nashik. Roses, Gerbera, Carnation and Capsicum have been great success in the poly-houses in Nashik. Considering growing demand of technical know-how and skills in this sector, Kendra has stated commercial production of Gerbera, Roses and Carnation and imparting vocational trainings on poly- house cultivations. In recent years the Kendra has become technology hub in this sector.

Goat Rearing :

Goat rearing is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in rural areas of Nashik. Goats are among the main meat-producing animal, meat of which is one of the choicest meats and has huge domestic demand. Breed up- gradation is the key need in these areas. Kendra has started goat rearing unit of Osmanabadi breed. Training programmes are being conducted to promote the business. Besides this, pure line boars are provided in the villages for improving the existing breeds. This has created employment to the rural poor besides effectively utilizing unpaid family labour.



Backyard poultry :

It was found that the poultry production systems in villages are traditional and poorly remunerative. The Kendra identified Giriraja bird for intervention, due to multiple colours, looks like indigenous birds and fetch better price in terms of meat and egg in the market. Giriraja can thrive well under poor feeding and management practices followed in village. Giriraja poultry unit has established by the Kendra. Farmers and farm women are being imparted with the training programmes. 350 tribal families have been provided with the birds.



Dog Rearing :

Dog breeding has suddenly emerged as one of the most sought off profession especially in the urban and the metropolitan areas. It has become a lucrative and attractive business option now especially for the unemployed youths. Considering this, Kendra has taken initiative in rearing, breeding and marketing of dogs. Labrador and Pug breeds are been kept and managed. Training programmes on breeding, vaccination, feeding, canine and litter registration, marketing, etc are conducted for the rural youths.

Social Accountability

Forestry

Krishi Vigyan Kendra has its 100 acres horticulture plantation. Protection of horticultural plants from hearse climate has prime importance for better yields. Forest trees are a major factor of environmental conservation and control extremes of heat and cold, rendering the climate more equable. So, Kendra has developed forest on 35 acres of land.



Farm Pond Development

The idea of ground water recharging by harvesting rainwater is gaining importance as expanding agriculture have pushed up the demand for water. Conservation is an important part of meeting agricultural water demand. Kendra has developed two major water reservoirs having capacity of 7 billion litres of water. This is not only providing benefits for the Kendra but also to the farmers having their farms adjoining the campus as water table has been raised.

Laboratories

Soil and Water Testing Lab

Kendra has established the laboratory and providing the facility to farmers. Soil and water testing is an indispensable tool for advisory services and formulation of rational fertilizer recommendations, as well as designing appropriate soil management practices. Crop specific fertilizer recommendations by computerized reports are given to the farmers. Moreover, soil health cards are being provided to the farmers. These analytical services are closely linked to the extension and advisory services of the Kendra.



Bio- agent production Lab

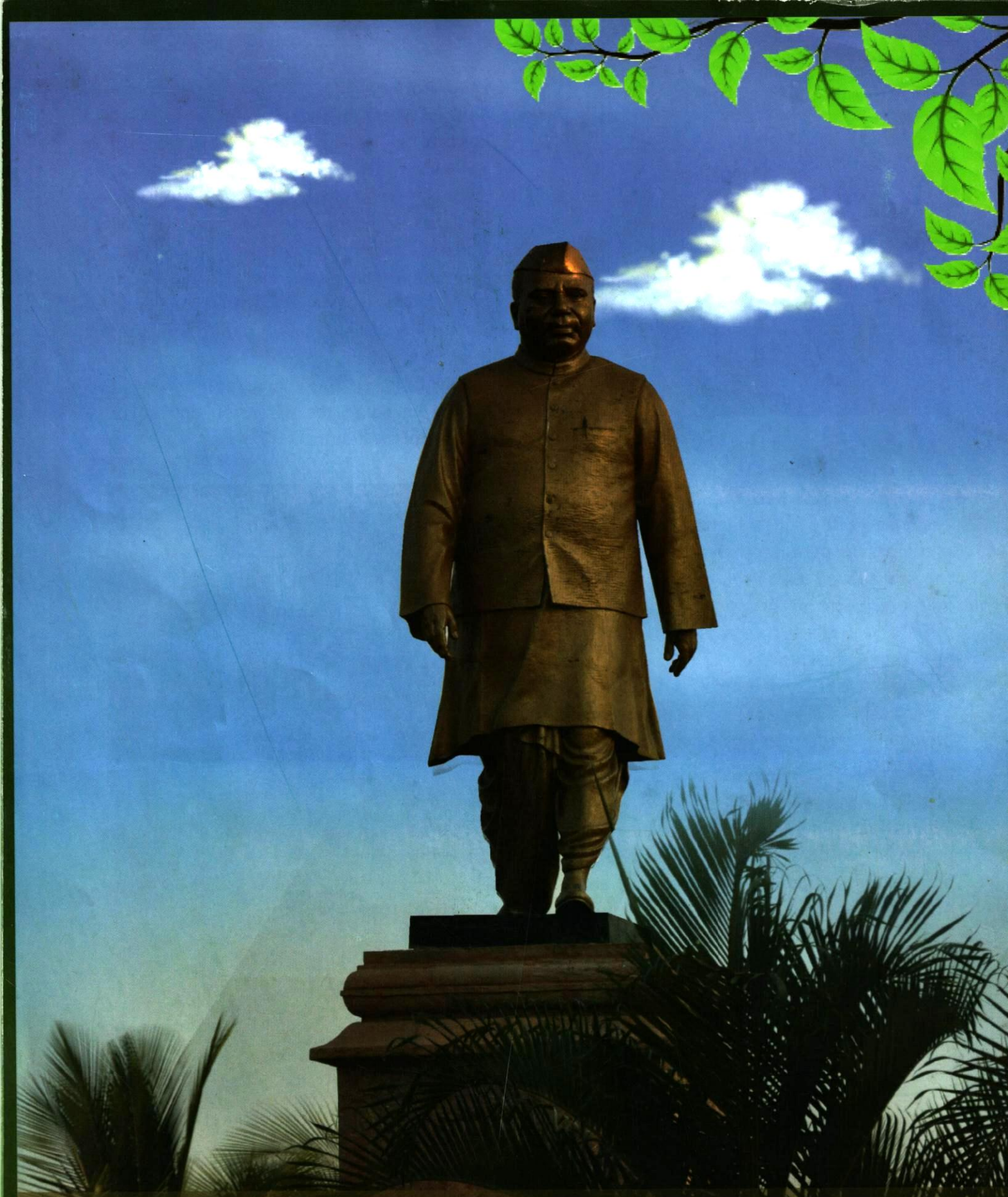
It has been observed that broad-spectrum pesticides often kill a higher proportion of predators and parasites than of the pest species they are applied to control. This has resulted in increased cost of production and harmful residues in produce. Kendra has taken initiative and established its own bio- control agent production lab. Trichoderma, verticillium and baveria are being multiplied scientifically and provided to the farmers on reasonable rates.



Post Harvest Technology Lab

Nashik is vegetable and fruit bowl of India. Often Gluts in markets are observed resulting in lower prices to fruits and vegetables. Moreover, processing of this surplus may prove self-employment opportunity to SHGs. Kendra conducts training programmes on processing techniques and value addition for the SHGs. Kendra processes Mango, Aonla and Cashew nut into different products being produced on its own farm.





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