

## INFORMATION BROCHURE

### Brainstorming Session on Natural Farming : Prospects and Implications

#### RATIONAL

Natural Farming (NF) is a chemical-free farming system, involving livestock (preferably local breed of cow) integrated natural farming methods and diversified crop systems rooted in Indian traditional knowledge. NF recognises the interdependence of the natural ecosystem among soil, water, microbiome, plants, animals, climate and human requirements.

Natural Farming is a chemical-free farming system rooted in Indian tradition enriched with modern understanding of ecology, resource recycling and on-farm resource optimization. It is considered as agroecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity. It is largely based on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations; maintaining soil aeration and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs. Natural farming is expected to reduce dependency on purchased inputs. It is considered as a cost-effective farming practice with scope for increasing employment and rural development.

Many states are already following natural farming and have developed successful models. State of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala are among the leading states. Currently, the acceptance and adoption of natural farming systems are at early stages and gradually gaining acceptance among the farming community.

#### NATURAL FARMING PRACTICES

Natural farming aims at restoring soil health, maintenance of diversity, ensure animal welfare, stress on efficient use of natural/local resources and promote ecological fairness. Natural farming is an ecological farming approach where the farming system works with the natural biodiversity, encouraging the soil's biological activity and managing the complexity of living organisms, both plant and animal to thrive along with food production system.

**Important practices, essential for adoption of natural farming includes:**

- No external inputs,
- Local seeds (use of local varieties).
- On-farm produced microbial formulations for seed treatment (such as bijamrita).



- On-farm made microbial inoculants (Jivamrita) for soil enrichment,
- Cover crops and mulching with green and dry organic matter for nutrient recycling and for creating a suitable micro-climate for maximum beneficial microbial activity in soil.
- Mixed cropping,
- Managing diversity on farm through integration of trees
- Management of pests through diversity and local on-farm made botanical concoctions (such as neemastra, agniastra, neem ark, dashparni ark etc);
- Integration of livestock, especially of native breed for cow dung and cow urine as essential inputs for several practices and
- Water and moisture conservation.

#### ABOUT THE SESSION

The Brainstorming Session on Natural Farming is designed to avail collaborative platform for scientists, extension professionals, progressive farmers, students, and policymakers to deliberate, share experiences, and generate practical strategies for strengthening Natural Farming systems. The session emphasizes low-cost, eco-friendly, and farmer-centric approaches aligned with sustainable agriculture.

#### FOCUS AREAS

- Crop Production & Improvement
- Plant Protection Management
- Extension Linkages
- Animal Husbandry & Dairy Science

#### 1. Crop Production and Improvement under Natural Farming

##### Key Discussion Points

- Principles of Natural Farming: Soil as a living ecosystem
- Indigenous seed conservation and use of local germplasm
- Seed treatment practices (Beejamrut) for enhanced germination and vigor

- Soil health management through Jivamrut, Ghanjivamrut, and Waapasa concept
- Crop diversification, intercropping and crop rotation
- Improvement in crop productivity and quality without synthetic inputs

##### Expected Outcomes

- Location-specific crop production models.
- Strategies for yield stability and resilience.
- Enhanced soil fertility and microbial activity.

#### 2. Plant Protection Management in Natural Farming

##### Key Discussion Points

- An ecological approach for pest and disease management
- Role of beneficial insects
- Preparation and application of natural formulations:
  - ❖ Neemastra
  - ❖ Agnistras
  - ❖ Bramhasstra
  - ❖ Dashparni Ark
- Preventive plant protection
- Non-chemical disease suppression techniques

##### Expected Outcomes

- Zero dependency on chemical pesticides
- Cost-effective and farmer-friendly plant protection practices
- Environmentally safe pest management strategies

#### 3. Extension Linkages in Context of Natural Farming

##### Key Discussion Points

- Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), ATMA and Universities
- Farmer-to-farmer learning and community-based approaches
- Model Natural Farms and Bio-Resource Centres (BRCs)
- Capacity building of extension functionaries and Krishi Sakhis
- Use of ICT tools and digital platforms for dissemination
- Convergence with government schemes and program

##### Expected Outcomes

- Strong research-extension-farmer linkage
- Enhanced adoption of Natural Farming practices
- Scalable and replicable extension models

#### 4. Role of Natural Farming in Animal Husbandry & Dairy Science

##### Key Discussion Points

- Indigenous cattle as the backbone of Natural Farming.
- Integration of crop-livestock systems.



- Preparation and use of cow-based inputs.
- Natural feeding practices and fodder management.
- Impact of Natural Farming on animal health, fertility and productivity.
- Quality improvement in milk and dairy products.

#### Expected Outcomes

- Sustainable and integrated farming systems.
- Reduced input cost in livestock rearing.
- Improved animal health and farmer income.

#### Participants for Brainstorming Session

- Scientists and Subject Matter Specialists.
- Extension Officers and Field Functionaries.
- Progressive Farmers and FPO's.
- Students and Researchers.
- Representatives from NGOs and Development Agencies.



#### Overall Expected Impact

- Holistic understanding of Natural Farming systems.
- Practical recommendations for field-level adoption.
- Strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Promotion of sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture practices.

**VENUE :** Dr. K.R. Thakare Auditorium, College of Agriculture, Dr. PDKV, Akola.

**Date :** 10.02.2026

**CONNECTIVITY AND CLIMATE :** Akola is well connected with rail and road. However, nearest airport is Nagpur and Chatrapati Sambhajnagar around 250 km away from Akola. The weather during February will be very pleasant.

**ACCOMMODATION :** Limited accommodation facility is available at University Guest House. However, Good affordable Hotels are available nearby to university. Average rent is around Rs.3000-3200/- on twin sharing basis.

## REGISTRATION FORM

### Brainstorming Session on “Natural Farming : Prospects and Implications”

10<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

- Name : \_\_\_\_\_
- Designation : \_\_\_\_\_
- Organization : \_\_\_\_\_
- Mailing Address : \_\_\_\_\_
- Mobile No. : \_\_\_\_\_
- E -mail : \_\_\_\_\_
- Gender : \_\_\_\_\_

#### Contact Details

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**Note : The last date for conformation of participation is 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.**

**“Natural Farming: Reviving Soil, Sustaining Life,  
Securing the Future.”**

## Brainstorming Session on “Natural Farming: Prospects and Implications”

10<sup>th</sup> February, 2026



Organized by  
**Chief Scientist,**

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