

ICAR Consults Industry and Academic Experts on Proposed PG and Ph.D. Programmes in Natural Farming

Stakeholder consultation focuses on multidisciplinary, competency-based and industry-oriented curricula aligned with NEP 2020

PG and Ph.D. programmes in Natural Farming should be future-ready, globally relevant and closely connected with farmers, industry and society: Dr M L Jat

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The Agricultural Education Division of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) today organised a consultation meeting with industry experts and academic stakeholders on the proposed Postgraduate (PG) and Ph.D. programmes in Natural Farming. The meeting was chaired by **Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR.**



The consultation was organised to obtain inputs from industry and academia for strengthening and finalising the proposed curricula and ensuring that the programmes address the emerging requirements of Natural Farming, farmers and the wider agricultural sector.

Addressing the meeting, **Dr. M. L. Jat** emphasised that the proposed PG and Ph.D. programmes in Natural Farming should be **future-ready, globally relevant and closely connected with farmers, industry and society**. He stressed the need to incorporate emerging areas such as **biological inputs, soil health, certification, value chains, marketing, digital technologies and entrepreneurship** in the curriculum.

Dr. Jat also emphasised the importance of developing **conceptual clarity on different streams and approaches to chemical-free farming**, enabling students and researchers to understand the principles, practices and emerging dimensions of Natural Farming in a comprehensive manner.

Earlier, **Dr. Yashpal Singh Malik, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), ICAR**, emphasised the need for **multidisciplinary, competency-based and industry-oriented curricula** aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. He highlighted the emerging opportunities in Natural Farming and the need to prepare students with relevant knowledge and skills to address evolving requirements in the sector.

Dr. C. K. Timbadia, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat Natural Farming Science University (GNFSU) and Chairman of the Syllabus Formulation Committee, and **Dr. A. S. Yadav, Assistant Director General (Education Quality Assurance and Reform), ICAR**, presented the proposed **M.Sc. and Ph.D. curricula** before the stakeholders.

The meeting concluded with valuable inputs from industry experts and academic stakeholders, which will contribute to the **timely finalisation and implementation of the proposed PG and Ph.D. programmes in Natural Farming**.

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