

**Proceedings of**  
**SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING**  
**PROGRAMME ON:**  
**“COLLECTION, STORAGE AND MARKETING OF**  
**MAHUA RESOURCES”**



**SPONSORED BY**

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- Disclaimer :** The information collected and edited in this report is mainly based on the inputs provided by Associated Scientist and Co-PI; Unit 2 of the CAAST sub-project at NAU, Navsari
- Cover page photo:** Participants and Resource Persons of the training programme at CoF, NAU, Navsari under NAHEP

## Acknowledgement

This report pertains to the skill development training for tribal community organised under capacity building activity under the “National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)” Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST) project titled Establishment of Secondary Agriculture Unit for skill development in Students and Farmers at NAU, Navsari”. We would like to express our gratitude to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Government of India as well as World Bank for funding the project. We would also like to thank all the participant participants and resource persons. We are grateful to the staff members of NAU, Navsari and Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation (GSFDC), Vadodara and Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) assisted the organization of this training programme.





## **Proceedings of Skill Development Training programme**

**on: Collection, Storage and Marketing of *Mahua* resources**

**Date of Training:** March 18, 2021

**Venue** –ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry, NAU, Navsari

### **Programme Elucidation:**

The Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST) is a new initiative and student centric sub-component of “National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)” implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and funded by Government of India as well as World Bank. The Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat bagged a CAAST project entitled “Establishment of Secondary Agriculture Unit for Skill Development in Students and Farmers” on competitive basis during 2017-18. One of the main objectives of the project is capacity building among PG Students as well as farmers of South Gujarat region in different activities of Secondary Agriculture. Under this project a one day on-campus Skill Development Training on “**Collection, Storage and Marketing of *Mahua* resources**” (મહુડા ની ઉપયોગીતા અંગેની તાલીમ) for tribal community actively involved in *Mahua* collection was organized by Unit-2 (Scientific Utilization of NTFPs & MAPs) under NAHEP-CAAST sub-project at **ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry, NAU, Navsari**.

### **Rationale of the training:**

Secondary agriculture is regarded as a sunshine sector of India which encompasses agriculture, forestry, horticulture and animal husbandry. It involves “assembling, ripening, cleaning, grading, sorting, drying, preserving, packing and storing of agricultural produce. It can play a major role in achieving the GoI's goal to double the farmer's income. NTFPs are associated with the socio-economic and cultural life of forest dwellers. To ensure their livelihood and nutritional security, work on sustainable utilization, processing, value addition and marketing of NTFP resources is very essential. Skill development and capacity building in this regard would strengthen the tribal community involved in the utilization of NTFPs. Among NTFPs, *Mahua* is one such crop that needs a supply chain which extends from the collection of resources in the forest till the sale of *Mahua* based processed, semi processed and value added products in the market. In this training programme, we invited *Mahua* collectors from South Gujarat region and

connected them with GSFDC, Gujarat. We also invited resource persons to share their experiences and knowledge regarding *Mahua* crop in the one day training programme on “Collection, Storage and Marketing of *Mahua* resources”.

### **Objectives:**

- To create awareness among tribal collectors about *Mahua* conservation and sustainable utilization including the marketing strategies

### **Introduction:**

The training programme started with the registration of participants and an informal inauguration wherein the trainees introduced themselves. All participants were from tribal community and actively involved in *Mahua* collection process. Two prestigious organizations namely Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation (GSFDC), Vadodara and Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) assisted the organization of this event. Resource persons from GSFDC delivered effective lectures in the training programme about various aspects of *Mahua* resource conservation, utilization and management. The BAIF office at Kaparada taluka in Valsad District coordinated with NAU and participants to successfully involve the tribal gatherers of *Mahua* in the event.

### **About the Training:**

The training comprised of various lectures, interactions, demonstrations, group discussion, etc. Due to the prevailing Covid pandemic, the number of participants was restricted to 28 tribal collectors of *Mahua*. Status of participants by Gender and Social Inclusion is given in **Annexure 1**.

Programme Schedule (કાર્યક્રમની સમય સારણી)		
One Day Skill Development Training <b>Collection, Storage and Marketing of Mahua resources"</b> (મહુડા ની ઉપયોગીતા અંગેનું એક દિવસીય કૌશલ્ય વિકાસ તાલીમ કાર્યક્રમ)		
Time (hrs.)	Session	Facilitator
10:00 to 11:00	Briefing about the purpose of the training programme & status of <i>Mahua</i> trees in South Gujarat દક્ષિણ ગુજરાતના મહુડાના વૃક્ષોની સ્થિતિ અને તાલીમ કાર્યક્રમની જરૂરીયાત અંગેની સંક્ષિપ્તમાં માહિતી	<b>Dr. H. T. Hegde</b> Assist. Professor & Associate Faculty (Unit-2), NAU, Navsari
11:00 to 12:00	Sustainable collection of <i>Mahua</i> and its proper storage techniques મહુડાનું સંકલન અને તેની યોગ્ય સંગ્રહની તકનીકો	<b>Shri. D. R. Gohil</b> Deputy Manager, Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (GSFDC)
12:00 to 13:00	Importance of <i>Mahua</i> conservation and protection from fire damage મહુડાના સંરક્ષણનું મહત્વ અને તેના આગના નુકસાનથી રોકથામ અંગેની જોગવાઈ	<b>Shri. M. B. Rathod</b> Deputy Manager, Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (Retd.)
<b>13:00 to 14:00 hrs Lunch Break</b>		
14:00 to 15:00	Marketing opportunities for <i>Mahua</i> products and Govt. supported schemes મહુડાના ઉત્પાદનો માટેની બજારની તકો અને સરકારની વિવિધ આધારભૂત યોજનાઓ	<b>Shri M. R. Patel</b> Sr. Manager, Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (GSFDC), Vadodara
15:00 to 15:45	Better utilization opportunities in <i>Mahua</i> મહુડામાં વધુ સારી રીતે ઉપયોગની તકો	<b>Dr. A. A Mehta</b> Assist. Prof. (FPU), CoF, NAU, Navsari
<b>15.45-16.00 hrs Tea Break</b>		
16.00 to 16.45	Hands on training on demonstration on Oil spiller ઓઈલ સ્પિલર પર પ્રદર્શન પર તાલીમ	<b>Dr. S. K. Sinha</b> Assist. Prof. (WST), CoF, NAU, Navsari
16.45 to 17.15	Group discussion સમૂહ ચર્ચા (to discuss better future strategies in <i>Mahua</i> utilization ) (મહુડામાં ઉપયોગમાં ભવિષ્યની સારી વ્યૂહરચના અંગે ચર્ચા) Dr. M.S. Sankanur, Assist. Prof. and Co-PI CAAST – Unit -2 (Coordinator) Faculty members of CAAST – Unit -2 Resource persons from GSFDC Representatives from BAIF Trainees	<b>Dr. T. R. Ahlawat - PI &amp; Nodal officer, NAHEP-CAAST, &amp; ADR, NAU, Navsari (Chairman)</b>  <b>Dr. R. P. Gunaga, Assoc. Prof. and Co-PI CAAST – Unit -2 (Co-Chairman)</b>
17.15 onwards	<b>Valedictory Function</b>	

## Technical Session:

**Core Session 1:** The introductory lecture was delivered by Dr. H. T. Hegde, Assistant Professor & Associate Faculty (Unit-2), NAU, Navsari. He briefed participants about the purpose of the training programme and introduction to the NAHEP- CAAST sub-project, its mandates and achievements. He gave an overview of the *Mahua* resources and natural populations available in South Gujarat. With the help of research outputs he gave a clear picture of the declining status of natural populations of *Mahua*. Interactions were held about the need of conservation and improving the productivity.



**Dr. H. T. Hegde interacting with participants on *Mahua* resources and natural populations available in South Gujarat**

**Core Session 2:** was conducted by Shri. D. R. Gohil, (Retd.) Deputy Manager, Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Ltd., (GSFDC), Chhotaudepur. He described the sustainable collection of *Mahua* and its proper storage techniques. He explained the scientific way of collecting *Mahua*. He also spoke about the activities necessary after collection and proper manner of storage to ensure long term usage.





**Shri. D. R. Gohil explaining scientific collection techniques in *Mahua***

**Core Session 3 (Practical demonstration):** was taken up by Dr. S. K. Sinha, Asst. Prof., and & Co-PI (Unit-2), NAU, Navsari, on oil extraction process. He spoke about the importance and widespread uses of almost every part of *Mahua*. In addition, he also explained the working of small scale oil extraction unit and reduction in wastage. He mainly emphasized the different aspects of biodiesel production from *Mahua* seed oil which has recently gaining considerable importance.

**Core Session 4 (Hands-on-Training):** The third lecture was given by Mr. B. Rathod, Former Deputy Manager, GSFDC, Gujarat regarding the importance of *Mahua* conservation and protection from fire damage. He explained the importance of natural regeneration in *Mahua*. He elaborated about the negative impact of fire damage to natural population of *Mahua* during collection. He interacted with the participants and conveyed a strong message about the need for conservation.



**Mr. B. Rathod communication describes the need for conservation to participants**

**Core Session 5:** In a very interesting and interactive manner, Shri M. R. Patel Sr. Manager, GSFDC, Vadodara explored the marketing opportunities for *Mahua* products and Govt. supported schemes. Lecture helped trainees understand the alternative marketing options for *Mahua* resources. He highlighted the Minimum Supported Price (MSP) available for *Mahua* and Govt. schemes which support *Mahua* collection and marketing.



**Shri. M. R. Patel effectively conveyed the message related to marketing opportunities for *Mahua***



### Salient upshots of the training:

Tribal collectors of South Gujarat region were sensitized about the following aspects

- Conservation of *Mahua* resources for future generation
- Importance of sustainable and hygienic collection of flowers and seeds
- Negative impacts of fire damage to the natural population of *Mahua*
- Proper storage methods to ensure long term storage
- Better utilization aspects and marketing opportunities for *Mahua* products
- Govt. supported schemes for *Mahua* collectors

### Valedictory programme:

The valedictory function was held on March 18, 2021 from 17.15 pm onwards in the Swami Vivekananda Hall, ACHF, NAU, Navsari. The Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University, Dr. Z. P. Patel presided over the valedictory function. Dignitaries of this function were - Dr. S. R. Chaudhary, DR & Dean PG Studies; Dr. P. K. Shrivastava, Principal and Dean, ACHF; Dr. T. R. Ahlawat, PI & Nodal officer, NAHEP- CAAST, & ADR (Hort.) and Mr. M.R. Patel, Senior Manager, GSFDC, Gujarat Forest Department. Co-PI of CAAST Unit-2, Dr. R.P Gunaga and other team members of Unit 2 along with project staff were also present on the occasion.

Dr. T. R. Ahlawat welcomed all the dignitaries, resource persons, faculty members and all the participants. He conveyed the objectives behind the organization of the training programme and the salient outcomes of the training programme. Mr. M.R. Patel appreciated the efforts made by CAAST team of NAU for important non-timber forest products like *Mahua*. He also extolled the participants to use facilities created by GSFDC as well as government schemes for for sale of NTFPs and preparation of value added products. Dr. P. K. Shrivastava elaborated the importance of training programme in the midst of the *Mahua* season and opined that this training will definitely help the collectors. Dr. S. R. Chaudhary stressed about the need for research on value addition of *Mahua* products. He also expressed happiness about this unique training and invited the participants to visit NAU campus for technical help towards post-harvest management and utilization of forest resources. In his presidential address, Dr. Z. P. Patel, Hon'ble VC, NAU, Navsari addressed the gathering about significance of

extolled the participants to use facilities created by GSFDC as well as government schemes for for sale of NTFPs and preparation of value added products. Dr. P. K. Shrivastava elaborated the importance of training programme in the midst of the *Mahua* season and opined that this training will definitely help the collectors. Dr. S. R. Chaudhary stressed about the need for research on value addition of *Mahua* products. He also expressed happiness about this unique training and invited the participants to visit NAU campus for technical help towards post-harvest management and utilization of forest resources. In his presidential address, Dr. Z. P. Patel, Hon'ble VC, NAU, Navsari addressed the gathering about significance of *Mahua* conservation and its value in the livelihood of the tribal people. He highlighted the importance of secondary agriculture in increasing farm income, preparation of value added products from natural resources like NTFPs as well as crop diversification. He also emphasized the importance of traditional knowledge for development of value added products using *Mahua* and Honey as best examples. At last, Dr. Abhishek Mehta, Associated Scientist, CAAST-Unit 2, NAU and the Master of the Ceremony, presented the Vote of Thanks and the programme was concluded with the permission from the chair.

### Annexure: 1

**Status of participants by Gender and Social Inclusion in One day on-campus Skill Development Training on “Collection, Storage and Marketing of *Mahua* resources” held on March 18, 2021**

Participants	General	SC	ST	OBC/SEBC	Total
Male	-	-	30	-	30
Female	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>					<b>30</b>



## Glimpses of Valedictory Session of One Day Skill Development Training programme to *Mahua* collectors



Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor **Dr. Z. P. Patel**  
Address participants significance of *Mahua* conservation



DR & Dean PG Studies, **Dr. S. R. Chaudhary**  
emphasis on need base research on value addition





Principal and Dean, ACHF, **Dr. P. K. Shrivastava**, highlighting the importance of timely sensitization *Mahua*



PI & Nodal officer of Sub Project **Dr. T. R. Ahlawat** conveyed the objectives behind the organization of this event

THANK YOU

# NOTES







**Information Brochure**  
**Programme Schedule of**  
**Training Programme on Collection, Storage and Marketing of**  
**"Mahua Resources"**  
(March 18, 2021)



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