



Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.

Outcomes of extension activities in the neighborhood community

Case : 1

Gujarat University Health Centre-“GUHC”

Gujarat University is home to a prestigious health center that has been a cornerstone of community support for the past 50 years. This well-established center is renowned for offering an extensive array of medical services completely free of charge. These services are available to all university stakeholders, including both teaching and non-teaching staff, students, and the local community. The center’s comprehensive facilities include:

- Pathology Laboratory: For various diagnostic tests.
- Electrocardiogram (ECG): For monitoring heart health.
- X-Ray Services: To support diagnostic imaging needs.
- Comprehensive Medical Tests: Covering a wide range of health evaluations.
- Ambulance Services: Ensuring emergency transportation.
- Vaccination: Providing essential immunizations.

The health center operates with a dedicated team of medical professionals who are available year-round. This team includes:

- Female Resident Medical Officer (RMO)
- Male Resident Medical Officer (RMO)
- General Physician
- Orthopedic Specialist
- ENT Specialist

- Dermatologist
- Ayurvedic Doctor
- Homeopathic Doctor
- Gynecologist

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the health center played a crucial role in the creation of the GUHC COVID Hospital. This initiative was supported by a generous grant from Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL), amounting to Rs. 10 crores. The total cost of the project was Rs. 9,54,87,175, which facilitated the establishment of a 900-bed hospital specifically for treating COVID-19 patients.

The GUHC COVID Hospital is operational at the Gujarat University Convention and Exhibition Center, situated on 132 Feet Ring Road, near Helmet Circle, Memnagar, Ahmedabad. This facility underscores the health center's commitment to addressing urgent medical needs and supporting public health during the pandemic.

During the height of the COVID-19 crisis, the hospital made significant contributions to public health by treating over 3,000 patients at no cost. The center also provided essential services such as:

- Three Doses of Vaccination: Administered to all community members, including staff and students, without any charge.
- Temporary Oxygen Plant: Set up to ensure that all patients received the necessary oxygen support.
- Generator: To ensure an uninterrupted power supply.
- Centralized Air-Conditioning: To maintain a comfortable environment for patients.
- Free Food and Accommodation: Provided for patients' relatives, ensuring they had access to necessary amenities during their stay.

This comprehensive response not only highlights the center's dedication to healthcare but also illustrates its capacity to mobilize resources and support the community effectively during a global health crisis.

Case : 2

Gujarat University's Impact on Electoral Processes and Voter Education

As the Nodal Office for SVEEP (ELC) at Gujarat University, the university has been instrumental in coordinating a range of activities related to electoral processes and voter education across several significant elections. Gujarat University's responsibilities have encompassed:

1. Parliamentary Elections (2019 & 2024):

- **Oversight and Management:** Gujarat University has overseen and managed a variety of activities associated with the Election Literacy Club (ELC) and the SVEEP initiative.
- **Voter Registration Drives:** The university has conducted comprehensive voter registration drives targeting students and the broader community to ensure an inclusive and informed electorate.
- **Voter Awareness Campaigns:** Developed and executed campaigns aimed at promoting ethical voting practices and increasing voter participation.

2. Gujarat Assembly Elections (2017 & 2023):

- **Voter Engagement:** Coordinated efforts to enhance voter registration and engagement among students and local communities.
- **Support to Election Administration:** Assisted the district election administration to ensure the smooth conduct of elections.
- **Targeted Campaigns:** Implemented campaigns to encourage participation from underrepresented and marginalized groups, including transgender individuals, commercial sex workers, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

3. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation Elections (2022):

- **Registration and Awareness:** Managed voter registration and awareness activities within the university and affiliated colleges.
- **Collaboration:** Collaborated with the District Election Officer and Collector of Ahmedabad to facilitate efficient electoral processes and promote voter education.

4. Survey Awareness Drives and Content Creation:

- **Content Creation:** Led initiatives to create engaging audio and video content for voter education during the elections.
- **Survey Awareness:** Conducted survey awareness drives to gauge and address voter concerns and needs effectively.

5. World Records Achieved:

- **World Book of Records, UK:** For the highest number of youngsters registered to the voter list simultaneously through the online process in one day on March 16, 2019, between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM at Gujarat University.
- **World Book of Records, UK:** For the greatest number of stickers affixed to a vehicle in a day for voter awareness, with a total of 350,000 stickers applied in one day.
- **India Book of Records:** For the maximum number of people taking an E-pledge to spread awareness on voting, with 30,300 citizens participating on January 25, 2021.
- **India Book of Records:** For the maximum participation in a mega signature campaign for voter awareness, with 350,000 youth and citizens participating on November 18, 2022.

Awards and Recognition:

Certificates of Merit: Received from the District Election Officer and Collector of Ahmedabad in recognition of outstanding contributions to the electoral process.

Through these comprehensive efforts, Gujarat University has made significant strides in enhancing voter literacy and participation, ensuring that elections are conducted fairly and inclusively.

Case : 3

herSTART

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs through herSTART

In today's rapidly evolving business ecosystem, fostering entrepreneurship is critical, especially among underrepresented groups like women. With this vision, the Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (GUJARAT UNIVERSITY) has launched herSTART, a dedicated program designed to empower and create more women entrepreneurs. herSTART is an early-stage startup support system aimed at nurturing women-led startups from the idea stage and accelerating their journey to success. Through this initiative, GUJARAT UNIVERSITY provides women entrepreneurs with access to invaluable resources and a tailored acceleration program, allowing them to navigate the complexities of startup creation with confidence.

The goal of herSTART is to foster a startup ecosystem that is more inclusive and diversified by promoting women-led ventures. This program aims to give wings to innovative ideas, empower women to step into leadership roles, and help them take strategic leaps in their entrepreneurial journey. By supporting these women entrepreneurs at the ideation and early-stage levels, GUJARAT UNIVERSITY is contributing to a larger ecosystem that benefits from diversity, creativity, and increased economic empowerment of women.

The Launch and Impact of herSTART 2019

The herSTART program was formally launched on January 31, 2019, in association with TiE Ahmedabad. This initiative, focusing on promoting women-led startup ideas, garnered overwhelming interest from more than 650 applicants. Out of these, 120 participants were selected for an intensive two-day bootcamp designed to hone their skills and refine their startup ideas. The bootcamp concluded with a pitching session

where the women ideators presented their ideas to a panel of experts. Based on these pitches, 35 women entrepreneurs were selected for pre-incubation support.

The top five ideas emerging from the program were recognized and awarded by the Motwani Jadeja Foundation, an organization known for its commitment to empowering women and fostering innovation. The program was specifically designed for first-time women entrepreneurs aged under 30, targeting a demographic that faces unique challenges when it comes to entrepreneurship. By offering these young women the opportunity to access resources, mentorship, and a structured entrepreneurial path, herSTART has successfully laid the groundwork for a new generation of female entrepreneurs.

Inspiring Future Innovators: The Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Centre (VSCIC)

As the world continues to experience an explosion of information, driven by technological advancements, children today are being exposed to vast amounts of unfiltered data. In this digital age, the challenge for parents, educators, and policymakers is ensuring that children are not just passive recipients of information but active innovators capable of shaping the future. Recognizing this need, GUJARAT UNIVERSITY, in collaboration with UNICEF, established the Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Centre (VSCIC).

The VSCIC is grounded in the belief that children are the ‘cultural magnets’ of society and possess an exceptional ability to absorb and imitate the world around them. This formative process of social learning plays a significant role in building the cultural and intellectual foundations of future generations. The center’s primary objective is to inspire children to create their own solutions to contemporary challenges, fostering an environment where innovation, not imitation, is encouraged. By nurturing young minds with the tools and knowledge to innovate, the VSCIC aims to prepare children to become the problem-solvers and leaders of the 21st century.

Social Learning and Innovation in Children

Research has consistently shown that children acquire a significant portion of their knowledge through observation and imitation. Their capacity to learn by observing others makes them powerful conduits of cultural knowledge, behaviors, and innovations. This natural propensity to imitate underscores the importance of providing children with a stimulating, innovative environment that promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

The VSCIC takes on the responsibility of guiding children to absorb information and use it to develop unique solutions rather than merely copying existing ones. Through interactive learning experiences, mentorship, and project-based activities, the center encourages children to harness their curiosity and creativity in meaningful ways. This approach not only builds the technical skills necessary for future innovation but also instills the mindset of leadership, resilience, and critical thinking.

A Comprehensive Program for a Brighter Future

The herSTART program and the Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Centre (VSCIC) exemplify GUJARAT UNIVERSITY's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation across diverse demographics. By empowering women entrepreneurs and inspiring children to innovate, these initiatives are making a lasting impact on the ecosystem.

herSTART addresses the need for gender inclusivity in the startup space, providing women with the tools to build and scale their ventures. The VSCIC, on the other hand, ensures that the next generation of innovators is equipped to tackle the complex challenges of the future with creativity and ingenuity. Together, these initiatives reflect GUJARAT UNIVERSITY's comprehensive approach to societal advancement through entrepreneurship and innovation, positioning itself as a leader in driving meaningful change.

This case, presented for accreditation, highlights the positive contributions GUJARAT UNIVERSITY has made in promoting inclusivity and fostering a culture of innovation. It showcases the tangible outcomes of these programs and their potential to continue making a significant impact on the entrepreneurial ecosystem. By supporting these programs, GUJARAT UNIVERSITY is not only helping individuals grow but also shaping a more innovative and prosperous future for society at large.

Recognition by the President, Hon'ble Ministers of Indian and Gujarat and from international VVIPs.

Name of VVIPs
Hon'ble President Smt. Draupadi Murmu
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Minister of Education Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan
Hon'ble Governor of State of Gujarat Shri. Acharya Devvrat
Hon'ble Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri. Rajiv Chandra Shekar
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri. Bhupendra Patel
Hon'ble Minister of State for Personal Public Governance and Pension Shri. Dr. Jitendra Singh
Hon'ble Minister of Sports and Welfare Shri. Anurag Thakur
Hon'ble Minister of State of Education Smt. Vibhavari Dave
Hon'ble Minister of State of External Affairs and Culture Smt. Minaxi Letkhi
Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Railway, Commerce and Industry Shri. Suresh Prabhu
Her Excellency Jacqueline Mukangira, High Commissioner to the Republic of Rwanda
Hon'ble Minister of Education State of Gujarat Shri. Jitu Vaghani
Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs Shri. Harsh Sanghavi
Hon'ble Minister of State of Gujarat Shri. Jagdish Vishvkarma
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly Shri. Kaushik Jain
Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, Chief of UNICEF Gujarat
Ms. Alison Barrett, Director India, British Council UK in India
Ms. Rashi Jain, Director, British Council West India.
Entrepreneur Indian School of Business Shri. Ankur Warikoo
Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Peter Cook
England Football Player and UNICEF Brand Ambassador Mr. David Beckham

Case : 4

Indian Institute of Sustainability as outreach activity for neighborhood community

1.1 Introduction

"One idea leads to the revolutions" that line is very true for the idea of sustainable development. The sustainable development idea indicates that the human species must learn to live with other species and nature without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Brundtland Report in 1987 first time coined this term and now it is leading governments, public and private institutions, and individuals also design a better future.

For humanity, today sustainability is not a choice, but it is a compulsion for all of us as. IPCC suggests that sustainable development is the only way to counter climate change in the coming decades. So, it is the moral duty of every institution to take the sustainability aspect as part of its policies to set an example for others also.

Why Indian Institute of Sustainability

Sustainability is not a one-dimensional concept but is about the integration of various components at the macro level. In a state like Gujarat, many developments are happening sententiously like industrial development, smart cities, agriculture, and allied sector expansion, temperature rise, consumerism, city expansion, and so on. In that scenario, there is a very high demand for one institution which will actively contribute in that process to help other practitioners to ensure development with sustainability. To meet that gap with responsibility, being the no. 1 and the only five-star university of Gujarat; Gujarat University is taking up the initiative by proposing the Indian Institute of Sustainability as the "Center of Imminence" for sustainable development. IIS will learn and develop the best sustainable approach, customize it, and integrate it with expanding developmental activities in Gujarat and across the country. The IIS will develop as a model institution for other academic centers also to make sustainable development a major theme of academic activities. The institute will work with keeping "Atm-Nirbhar-Bharat" in the heart in the direction of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Bhai Modi.

How IIS will work for sustainable development

The upcoming Indian Institute of Sustainability will be one of its kind, will operate on the pillars of Practice, Research, Training, and Institutional collaboration. IIS will work closely with other institutions to develop action-based models to ensure development with sustainability. IIS will identify new opportunities for sustainable development, innovate accordingly, scale-up for making meaningful businesses, and further use the success for training and motivating the masses. The institute will work in the domain of environment & climate, agriculture & forestry, heritage & smart cities, circular economy

and other areas for integrating sustainability with development. IIS will also do global coordination for joint research, networking, technology transfer and create a sustainable legal & regulatory framework for the future.

1.2 IIS: Vision

IIS aims to be recognized as a one of its kind, sustainability institute, operating at the frontiers of practice, research and training while developing an environmentally concerned and socially responsible society.

1.3 IIS: Mission

The mission of IIS is to train and educate the citizens in tune with a sustainable society and a sustainable planet by bringing best practices for air, water, soil, space, climate, forest, environment, natural resources, forestry, smart cities and agriculture. IIS promotes excellence through innovative and applied research and impacting the world through policy, practice, training and continuous engagement.

1.4 IIS: objectives

The objective of Indian Institute of Sustainability are as follows

- Become a center of excellence for knowledge sharing, innovative research, technological solutions and partnering for sustainable development.
- Study the impact of human activities on natural resources like air, water, forest, soil etc. and identify potential opportunities for development without natural degradation.
- Align institutional activities with sustainable development goals.
- Research, training, and policy advocacy for sustainable development in various economic dimensions.
- Work with international institutions for joint research, collaboration, fundraising, and technology transfer for projects related to the sustainable development goals.
- Initiate academic courses to develop trained human resources to contribute for sustainable development in the field of agriculture, rural development, environment, smart cities and other financial activities.

1.5 Indian Institute of Sustainability: PRT (Practice, Research, Training) Verticals

IIS shall focus on the following key verticals of activities and initiatives:

1. Teaching and Learning Resources
2. Training and Capacity Building

3. Research, Innovation and Startups
4. Extension activities to meet regional and global needs
5. International collaborations and industry partnerships
6. Piloting Regional specific special zones
7. Technology adoption and futuristic sustainability planning
8. Business development
9. Legal & regulatory framework
10. Collectives

Apart from above following transdisciplinary research areas will also be covered at the institute:

- Environment and climate change-National and international collaboration to sync with Indian commitment in the Paris climate change.
- Agriculture & Forestry-Integrate conventional farming with futuristic agriculture practices like precision agriculture, zero based farming, and promotion of farmer producer organizations.
- Consumer Behavior and Public Policy-To study how consumers behave and how their behavior can be guided towards sustainable consumption of resources.
- Livestock and animal health-It is one of the largest causes for GHG emission; institutional work for sustainable livestock rearing to address that challenge.
- Food supply chain-To shorten the distance between producer and consumer to ensure a win-win situation for both.
- Genomics & Synthetic biology research-To find new avenues for sustainable resources of new avenues of development for natural resources.
- Heritage conservation-Indian culture and heritage always reflected the sustainable way of living; that will be explored, and learning will be clubbed with SDG projects.
- Smart cities & Smart villages-To reduce the burden on the existing resources without compromising the way of living for citizens in a city and village.
- Futuristic technology for sustainability –Technology oriented solutions for emerging challenges.
- Water Efficiency-Develop methods for water conservation, harvesting, uses, and recycling to increase water efficiency.

- Eco system restoration-Depleted eco systems will be restored by using of local wisdom, public participation, and technology integration.
- Sustainable Finance-Focus on raising green finance to support sustainable and viable development projects.

3. Sustainability of IIS

Over a period of five years, IIS shall endeavor to become self-sustainable through platform of activities such as

- Training
- Research
- Short term and long-term courses
- Consultancy & advisory
- International cooperation

1) MoU signing ceremony between IIS and partners at Gujarat Raj Bhavan

The MoU signing ceremony at Gujarat Raj Bhavan marked a significant milestone for IIS and GU, as they forged strategic partnerships with several esteemed institutions. In a series of agreements witnessed by the Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, IIS and GU established collaborative frameworks with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), the Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (DIHAR, DRDO), Gujarat Natural Farming Science University, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Delhi, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, and Y S Parmar University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. These partnerships are set to enhance research, development, and educational opportunities across diverse fields, strengthening ties between the institutions and fostering collaborative innovation.

2) A-HELP sakhhi (Pashu Sakhi) Training Program

On August 17, 2023, IIS, Gujarat University, in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company (GLPC), proudly launched the A-HELP Sakhi (Pashu Sakhi) Training Program, successfully training 160 Pashu Sakhis. These rural women are now equipped with vital skills in livestock management and veterinary care, becoming community-based para-veterinarians. Each Pashu Sakhi handles and treats an average of five animals daily, contributing to the impressive milestone of 160,000 animals reached for treatment and care to date. This initiative has been widely recognized for its significant impact on animal health, rural livelihoods, and women's empowerment. It reflects the commitment of Gujarat University and IIS to fostering sustainable rural development, gender equality, and improved agricultural practices.

3) GLPC and IIS organized a training program on Woman Led-Enterprise for 50 women from various districts of Gujarat

From September 13 to September 15, 2023, the Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company (GLPC) and the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), Gujarat University collaboratively conducted an impactful training program on Women-Led Enterprise, benefiting 50 women from diverse districts across Gujarat. This program was strategically designed to empower participants by providing them with critical knowledge and skills necessary for establishing and managing successful enterprises. Through comprehensive training in business management, financial planning, and sustainable practices, the initiative not only enhanced the economic independence of the participants but also contributed to the broader goal of fostering entrepreneurship and sustainable development in the region. The program's success has been widely recognized, affirming IIS's pivotal role in advancing gender equality and driving social and economic progress in the community.

4) Three-day training of research students of IIS, GU at Gurukul Kurukshetra:

From December 7 to 9, 2022, Gujarat University's Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS) organized a pivotal three-day training program at Gurukul Kurukshetra for four research students and one professor, focusing on natural farming practices. This initiative aimed to immerse participants in practical applications of natural farming principles, significantly enhancing their expertise. The training, which included contributions from agricultural scientists across India and insights from experts like Dr. Hari Om Ji and Dr. Baljit Singh Saharan, provided comprehensive exposure to crucial concepts such as Biological Nitrogen Fixation, Phosphate Solubilization, Phytochrome Production, Micronutrients Mobilization, Nutrient Uptake, and Disease Management. Participants observed the successful cultivation of sugarcane and the traditional sugar extraction process, gaining valuable hands-on experience. This program not only advanced their practical knowledge but also underscored IIS's commitment to promoting sustainable agricultural practices, contributing to their recognition as a leader in research and education within the social sector and the broader agricultural community.

5) Four-day training of research scholars of IIS, GU at Yashwant Singh Parmar University, Nauni, Soman, Himachal Pradesh:

From December 10 to 13, 2022, Yashwant Singh Parmar University in Solan, Himachal Pradesh, hosted an intensive four-day training session for research students from the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), focusing on natural farming techniques. Esteemed professors and scientists provided comprehensive insights into agro-ecology, economic aspects of natural farming, post-harvest technologies, low-cost storage systems, and modified atmosphere packaging. The training highlighted that natural farming can sustain nutrient levels in produce without fertilizers and pesticides and showcased benefits such as increased ascorbic acid in capsicum and

improved soil health with higher earthworm and orthopod populations. Additionally, the session addressed the challenges of fertilizer overuse and the need for more processing units in India. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Yashwant Singh Parmar University offered a detailed overview of natural farming practices and certification processes in Himachal Pradesh. Importantly, the knowledge gained from this training has been shared with and applied to more than 400 farmers to date, demonstrating a significant extension of the training's impact on promoting sustainable agricultural practices. This initiative underscores IIS's dedication to advancing agricultural research and supporting sustainable farming solutions, earning it recognition for its contributions to the agricultural sector and community development.

6) Educational visit of Graduate and Post Graduate Students of IIS, GU to Ashapura Farm, Kutch:

On November 16, 2022, 58 graduate and postgraduate students, accompanied by a professor from the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), Gujarat University, undertook an educational visit to Ashapura Farm in Kutch. This initiative aimed to enhance their understanding of natural farming practices and sustainable agriculture. During the visit, students were introduced to the principles of natural farming and observed the cultivation of various crops, including kamalam, capsicum, strawberry, and pomegranate. The tour provided practical insights into crop characteristics, natural farming techniques, and advanced irrigation methods. This educational experience underscores IIS's commitment to bridging theoretical knowledge with practical applications, empowering students with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to sustainable agricultural practices. By exposing students to real-world farming environments, IIS not only advances academic learning but also fosters a deeper engagement with social and environmental sustainability.

7) Celebration of "Kashmir Festival" at IIS, Gujarat University: A historic moment

Celebrating a landmark achievement in cultural and academic exchange, Gujarat University and the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS) proudly hosted the inaugural "KASHMIR FESTIVAL" student exchange program at our Ahmedabad campus. This historic event welcomed 40 students and 4 professors from the University of Kashmir, who participated in specialized training on natural farming techniques. The festival not only showcased the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Kashmir but also facilitated meaningful exchanges of knowledge and practices. The Valedictory Function at IIS, GU, was further distinguished by a virtual address from our Chief Guest, Shree Amit Shah Ji, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation. This initiative underscored our commitment to fostering cross-cultural understanding and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reinforcing our dedication to social and academic collaboration. We are honored to have strengthened our relationship with the University of Kashmir

and look forward to future opportunities that continue to bridge cultures and enhance educational experiences.

8) A training program on Agro ecological practices has been organized for Block Development Officers of the Government of Gujarat

The Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS) at Gujarat University, in collaboration with the Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company Limited (GLPC), successfully conducted a pivotal training program on Agroecological Practices for 105 Block Development Officers from the Government of Gujarat. This initiative aimed to equip participants with crucial knowledge and skills to effectively promote and implement agroecological practices in their respective regions. The training covered diverse topics, including natural and organic farming, crop diversity, soil conservation, and sustainable water management, while emphasizing the integration of local and indigenous knowledge and fostering community participation. This program underscores IIS and Gujarat University's dedication to advancing sustainable agricultural methods and enhancing the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers. By fostering resilient agricultural practices and strengthening community engagement, the initiative exemplifies our commitment to social impact, cultural connection, and environmental stewardship.

9) List of Trained in Natural Farming Farmer and FPO:

At the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), Gujarat University, we take pride in our significant achievements in advancing natural farming practices. Our dedicated efforts have successfully connected with 1,622 farmers and 4 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), providing them with comprehensive training and support in natural farming techniques. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing rural livelihoods. By engaging directly with farmers and FPOs, we are not only promoting environmentally friendly farming methods but also strengthening community ties and supporting local agricultural economies. Our work underscores the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern practices to build resilient and self-sufficient farming communities. This recognition highlights our ongoing dedication to social impact, cultural connection, and the promotion of sustainable development through practical, on-the-ground training and support.

10) Global Virtual Conference on “Decoding the G20’s Sustainability Declaration”

In the Global Virtual Conference on "Decoding the G20's Sustainability Declaration," the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS) at Gujarat University made a notable contribution by highlighting the role of natural farming in achieving sustainability goals. This conference, which explored policy frameworks and practical solutions, underscored natural farming as a key strategy for advancing sustainable agriculture. Rooted in traditional practices and ecological principles, natural farming minimizes synthetic inputs while enhancing biodiversity, soil health, and water conservation. By integrating these practices, the conference emphasized their importance in promoting

food security and resilience to climate change. IIS's involvement in this global dialogue reflects our commitment to bridging traditional knowledge with modern sustainability efforts, showcasing our dedication to fostering environmental stewardship, cultural connection, and social impact on a global scale. This recognition reaffirms our role in advancing sustainable agricultural practices and underscores our dedication to contributing meaningfully to international sustainability discussions.

11) TEDxIIS event Celebration on “Eco verse” theme:

On December 17, 2023, the Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS) at Gujarat University hosted its inaugural TEDxIIS event under the theme "Eco verse." This landmark occasion featured an esteemed panel of eight speakers, including Dr. Neerja Gupta, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University. Dr. Gupta's keynote address offered a profound exploration of how traditional practices, such as soil testing during "Navratri" and ecological rituals, resonate with contemporary scientific research. The event also included contributions from other distinguished figures, such as Prof. Vivek Suneja, Mr. Arun Mahesh Babu IAS, and leading experts from various fields. This TEDxIIS conference exemplified IIS's commitment to advancing the discourse on sustainability while bridging cultural heritage with modern innovation, reflecting our dedication to fostering impactful social connections and thought leadership.

12) Field Day Celebration on Natural Farming

The Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), Gujarat University, is celebrating a significant milestone with its pioneering Natural Farming (NF) project, funded by the Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM), Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat. This three-year project, focusing on mustard and pearl millet, spans across 11 experimental sites in North Gujarat and is a testament to IIS's commitment to sustainable agriculture. On February 4, 2024, IIS will host its inaugural Field Day Celebration on Natural Farming at Vasna Keliya village, Dholka, featuring distinguished guests such as Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications of India, and Dr. Neerja A Gupta, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat University. The event will include training for 75 Self-Help Group (SHG) women leaders, who will spread NF knowledge to approximately 750 women farmers, and demonstrate cutting-edge drone technology in farming.

This landmark event aligns with the “Viksit Bharat @2047” vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, emphasizing sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing farmers' incomes while preserving natural resources. By adopting 13 villages for natural farming, IIS is making a substantial impact on agricultural sustainability and social development. The event will also feature collaborations with the Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company Ltd. (GLPC) and Dronelab Technologies Pvt. Ltd., underscoring our dedication to innovation, cultural connection, and the advancement of sustainable practices.

13) National Conference on Natural Farming:

The Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), established by Gujarat University, is dedicated to advancing sustainability across Gujarat and Bharat through its focus on Practice, Research, Training, and Institutional Collaboration. In alignment with its mission, IIS is pleased to host the inaugural National Conference on Natural Farming, titled “Natural Farming: Understanding the Science behind Natural Farming and the Role of Cooperatives,” on February 13, 2024, at Syama Prasad Mukherjee Auditorium, Gujarat University. This landmark event, funded by the GSBTM, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat, will be graced by notable figures including Dr. Manish Bansal, IAS (Managing Director, Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company), and Shri Manish Gurwani, IAS (Mission Director, GSBTM, DST, Government of Gujarat). We are honored to have NITI Aayog as our Knowledge Partner, with invitations extended to Dr. Neelam Patel and Ms. Anna Roy from the NITI Aayog.

In preparation for this conference, IIS has successfully conducted a ‘Field Day Dedicated to Natural Farming’ on February 4, 2024, which included training 75 Self-Help Groups Women Leaders in Natural Farming practices and Drone technology. This initiative, part of the broader vision for a developed India by 2047, will culminate in the National Conference where approximately 100 women farmers will be in attendance. The conference will feature an exhibition showcasing natural farming produce from 15 farmers, who will receive recognition for their contributions. Additionally, various FPOs and startups mentored by IIS will be honored, further underscoring IIS’s commitment to empowering rural communities and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.