

Agricultural Innovation & Entrepreneurship Conclave (AIEC) 2023

**December
04 to 08**

First Announcement



SPONSORED BY

ICAR-National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)

Organized By

Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST)
Directorate of Research, Navsari Agricultural University
Navsari-Gujarat (India)

About AIEC-2023

Agriculture is identified as one of the most significant economic activities across all parts of the world because it produces goods which are essential for the survival of human being and still, it is the oldest and largest industry in the world even today. The agricultural sector is a central pillar of the Indian economy and approximately 70% of the population living in rural areas are depend on agriculture and allied sectors for their livelihood and contribute about 20 per cent to the GDP of the country. Traditionally, agriculture is seen as a low-tech industry with limited dynamics dominated by numerous small family firms, which are mostly paying attention on doing things better rather than doing new things. Over the last decade, this situation has changed drastically, due to economic liberalization and a fast changing and more decisive society. However, today this sector faces a variety of challenges that require innovative solutions. Agripreneurship and innovation are two key drivers of progress in the agricultural sector, which has the potential to transform agriculture and improve food security, reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

One of the key benefits of Agripreneurship is that it creates new jobs and income opportunities for farmers and rural communities. By applying innovative business models, Agripreneurs can create value-added products, access new markets and generate higher profits than traditional farming methods. This not only improves the livelihoods of farmers but also contributes to the overall economic development of the country. Agripreneurs can drive innovation by identifying market opportunities and working with researchers and other stakeholders to develop and adopt new technologies and practices.

Innovation, on the other hand, involves the creation and adoption of new ideas, methods and technologies that enable more effective and efficient production, processing and distribution of agricultural products. Innovations in agriculture can take many forms, including the use of precision farming techniques, the development of new crop varieties and animal breeds and the use of renewable energy sources. Innovations in agriculture can also have a positive impact on the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water, soil resources and promoting biodiversity.

Agripreneurship and innovations together can help negate the impact of challenges such as climate change, water scarcity and soil degradation using new technologies and practices. Agripreneurs can improve the resilience of their farms and reduce the environmental impact of their operations. For example, the use of precision agriculture technologies such as drones and sensors can help optimize the use of inputs and reduce waste; while, the adoption of conservation agriculture practices can help to improve soil health and reduce erosion. Furthermore, Agripreneurship and innovations can help to increase food production and improve food security, especially in developing countries where agriculture is a key sector of the economy. By improving the productivity and efficiency of farms, Agripreneurs can increase the availability of food and reduce the cost of production, making food more accessible to consumers.

Therefore, Agripreneurship and innovations in the agricultural sector are crucial for ensuring food security, promoting sustainable practices and creating economic opportunities. Governments, private sector players and other stakeholders should invest in initiatives that support Agripreneurship and encourage the adoption of innovative technologies and practices in the agricultural value chain.

The content of this Agricultural Innovation & Entrepreneurship will be delivered by the experts of various national and international level institutes/organizations. Followings are the thematic areas of this programme:

1. Sowing the Seeds of Transformation: Sustainability of the Agriculture Sector
2. The Agripreneurship: Ideas Cultivated & Perspectives Shared
3. Tilling the Mind: Unearthing Inspiring Stories of Agripreneurs/Agri startups
4. Cultivating Change: Harnessing Innovation in Agriculture
5. ideaMill 2023

About NAHEP-CAAST

Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology (CAAST) is a new initiative and student centric sub-component of World Bank sponsored National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) implemented by the Education Division, Indian Council of Agricultural Research in India. The Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat was granted a CAAST sub-project on "Establishment of Secondary Agriculture Unit for Skill development".

About Navsari Agricultural University

The Navsari Agricultural University (NAU) campus is located 3 km to the West of Navsari City. The NAU offers graduate and post graduate degree programmes in the faculties of Agriculture, Forestry, Horticulture, Agribusiness Management and Agricultural Engineering. The NAU has made remarkable progress in Education, Research and Extension Education since its inception. Further, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari bagged XIV position at national level and I position in Gujarat state in the ICAR Ranking for top agricultural universities in India for the year 2018.

Navsari is a district place in Gujarat and easily approachable by road, rail and air from all major cities of India. It is 38 km away from Surat, a major industrial corridor connected by road and railways. The nearest airport is Surat which is 40 km to the North of Navsari. The 241 miles long Salt March taken up by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930 culminated at Dandi a coastal village 13 km to the West of Navsari where National Salt Satyagraha Memorial at Dandi is located.

ideaMill 2023

During this conclave participants will be encouraged to come out with an innovative and out of box idea/ solutions for their problem statement under two themes *i.e.* (i) Agripreneurship and (ii) Innovation in agriculture. The participants will be presenting an efficient and sustainable solution through technology and managerial intervention for emerging challenges at local and/or national level. Winners will be felicitated with cash prize for each team (1st prize : Rs. 15,000/-, 2nd prize : 11,000/- and 3rd prize : Rs. 7000/-) and citations with participation certificate. There will be different sets of winners from these two thematic areas. All screened applicants will get a certificate of participation. A participant can take a part in one thematic areas. Participation in ideaMill is optional. All participants will be communicated about necessary details of ideaMill through email soon after their registration in the conclave. To know more about ideaMill kindly follow this URL: https://nahep.nau.in/nahep_aiec/IdeaMill_terms_and_condition.pdf

DURATION

This is five days (December 04 to 08, 2023) residential programme which includes interactive lectures, demonstrations, experience sharing sessions, interactions and exhibitions.

ELIGIBILITY

Students, faculties, and entrepreneurs from agriculture/forestry/veterinary/horticulture/agribusiness management/engineering and other disciplines of any agricultural university/national research institute/other university/institute/organization of India are eligible for this programme. There are 275 seats available for AIEC-2023 which will be distributed among the above-mentioned disciplines on first come first serve basis.

REGISTRATION FEE

This programme is sponsored under the NAHEP-CAAST-NAU sub-project; therefore, registration fees stands exempted. However, accommodation facility will be provided to the participants on payment basis (as per prevailing university rates and availability).

HOW TO APPLY

Interested participants can register in this event by filling an online form through this URL: https://nahep.nau.in/nahep_aiec/ or scanning QR code given in this brochure.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Last date for registration : 25/11/2023
Date for displaying eligibility list : 27/11/2023
Last date for confirming participation : 27/11/2023

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