

## Field Day on Natural Farming under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan Organized on 11 June 2026 at Akkasar Village, Bikaner District by ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner

A Field Day on Natural Farming under the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" was successfully organized on 11 June 2026 at Akkasar Village, Bikaner District, by ICAR-Central Institute for Arid Horticulture (ICAR-CIAH), Bikaner. The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers about the benefits of natural farming and sustainable agricultural practices for improving soil health, reducing input costs, and enhancing environmental sustainability. A total of 13 farmers participated enthusiastically in the programme. The programme was graced by Dr. Chetram, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner, who emphasized the importance of natural farming and resource conservation in ensuring sustainable agricultural development in arid regions. He highlighted the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan and encouraged farmers to adopt environmentally friendly farming practices. During the programme, Team leader Dr. Anita Meena delivered an informative lecture on Natural Farming and its Role in Sustainable Agriculture. She explained the principles of natural farming, including the use of locally available organic inputs, enhancement of soil biological activity, and reduction in dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. She also discussed the benefits of natural farming in improving soil fertility, crop productivity, and farm profitability under arid conditions. Dr. Vikas Yadav delivered a lecture on balanced nutrient management and soil health improvement. He emphasized the importance of integrated nutrient management, and the efficient use of organic and inorganic nutrient sources for sustainable crop production. Dr. Pawan Singh Gurjar shared his expertise on the natural cultivation and management of Khejri (*Thar Sobha*) (*Prosopis cineraria*), an important multipurpose tree species of the arid regions. He highlighted the ecological, nutritional, and economic significance of Khejri in the desert ecosystem and explained how natural farming practices can support its growth and sustainability. The field day provided an excellent platform for farmers to interact with scientists and aspects of natural farming. Farmers actively participated in discussions and raised queries related to soil health, nutrient management, natural farming practices, and cultivation of crops under arid conditions. The experts addressed their concerns and provided location-specific recommendations. The programme successfully contributed to the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan by promoting natural farming, soil health conservation, and sustainable agricultural practices among the farming community.

