

Farmer Awareness Programme on Natural Farming and Soil Health under Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Gairasar Village, Bikaner District

A farmer training programme under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan was successfully organized on 18 June 2026 at Gairasar Village, Bikaner District, by ICAR-Central Institute for Arid Horticulture (ICAR-CIAH), Bikaner. The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers about natural farming and sustainable agricultural practices for improving soil health, reducing input costs, and ensuring environmental sustainability. A total of 14 farmers actively participated in the programme. The programme was attended by Dr. Chetram, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIAH, Bikaner, who shared his expertise on the natural cultivation and management of Khejri (Thar Shobha) (*Prosopis cineraria*) a highly valuable multipurpose tree species of the arid ecosystem. He highlighted its ecological, nutritional, and economic importance and explained how natural farming practices can enhance its growth, productivity, and long-term sustainability. He also emphasized the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan and encouraged farmers to adopt environmentally friendly and resource-conserving farming practices. Dr. Anita Meena, Team Leader, delivered an informative lecture on “Natural Farming and its Role in Sustainable Agriculture.” She explained the core principles of natural farming, including the use of locally available organic inputs, enhancement of soil biological activity, conservation of natural resources, and reduction in dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. She further 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 utilization of organic and inorganic nutrient sources for sustainable crop production and long-term soil health maintenance. The farmers actively participated in interactive discussions and raised queries related to soil health, nutrient management, natural farming practices, and crop cultivation 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 of the region.



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