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TOPICYASHWANTRAO CHAVHAN OPEN MAHARASHTRA OPENUNIVERSITY

The university was established on 1st July, 1989 through the Act XX of the Maharashtra State Legislature, justly named after Yashwantrao Chavhan, Maharashtra's great political leader and builder of modern Maharashtra.

Due to statutory powers conferred by an act XX (1989) of Maharashtra State Legislature and the recognition by the 'University Grants Commission of India', this university is fully empowered to award various academic certification like certificate, diplomas, graduate, post-graduate and doctoral degrees. This university also takes all precautions, at all programme stages from 'Curriculum Design' to 'Examination', to ensure that the standards and quality of education and examinations are preserved.





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Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University Nashik

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) New Delhi has established the Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik in 1994. It is an innovative farm science institution providing training and information services to the farmers and agribusiness managers. The KVK acts as a vocational training centre to work at grass root level and to impart need based training and skills in the field of agriculture and rural development.

• Broad Objectives of the KVK are :

- To test and refine the technologies at farmers field through On Farm Testing (OFT).
- To demonstrate various agro techniques on farmers field through front line Demonstrations (FLD).





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- To organize various need based Vocational and professional training program for the practicing Farmers Rural Youths.
- To organize training for knowledge and skill updating for extension functionaries.

Besides these major objectives the Krishi Vigyan Kendra is to establish model Farm to disseminate and demonstrate the agro techniques suitable and useful to the local situations and as per the requirement of the farming community in the district for the sustainable development.

Following facility and services are available at KVK,

① Horticulture nursery

Considering the increasing demand of fruit grafts from the farmers of district, it was decided to establish a horticultural fruit plants nursery in the year 1997-98.





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Production capacity of units is 75000 grafts per years. The grafts, seedling of improved varieties of Mango, Pomegranet, Guava, Sapota and Drumsticks are produced in the nursery. Hot humid climate is necessary for the hardening of newly grafted plants hence, polyhouse and shade houses are erected and equipped with misters and fogging system creating microclimate. These systems increase the success rate and upto 70% of grafts. This nursery is popular for reliable source for planting material in the district and in the state.

② Soil Water Testing Lab.

Production and productivity is closely associated with the fertilizer use and available plant nutrients in the soil. Indiscriminate and non judicious use of fertilizers is led to degradation of soils and reduction in production of crops. To minimize this problems soil and water testing is





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practised and according to recommended dose of fertilizers is given to maintain the production and productivity. This facility is being used for the farmers and other Government and non-government organization.

③ Post Harvest Processing Laboratory

Nashik district is known for its good quality Grapes, Pomegranate, Onion and variety of vegetable crops which are playing important role in domestic market and export which helps to strengthen the economy. It was also observed that the post handling losses are major constraints in fruits, vegetable and flowers. In order to minimize the losses training programs on PHT are planned and conducted. Similarly small-scale Post-harvest processing project is being demonstrated. medium duration training programs for the rural youths are being conducted during 2002-07.





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④ Bio Control lab

One of the important sources for the pest management in the integrated farming system is use of various bio-control agents for the insect and disease management. The KVK also established the biocontrol agent's production unit and producing the more than 500 kg of various bio-agents annually like Verticillium, Trichoderma, Pacilomyces, Bavaria, Namoria. Which are being used to manage the various pests in KVK leads to save more than Rs-50000/- annually. Similarly the product is sold to the farmers.

⑤ Farm Mechanization

Considering importance of farm machinery in small and marginal land holders a scheme on farm implementation is given by the ICAR unit from the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) Bhopal.





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Following instruments are being demanded on farmer's field and proven very popular in respect of time saving and labour saving.

- The goal of the university is to become a 'mass varsity'.
- Tractor drawn ferti-seed-drill.
- Cleaner cum grader.
- Groundnut stripper.
- Groundnut decorticator.
- Hand hoe
- Multi crop planter.

Out of these cleaner cum grader, Groundnut stripper and decorticator are very useful in drudgery reduction and popular in women.





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Auto Weather Station

Agriculture production in India is highly dependent on the natural rainfall. Pest and diseases occurrence due to the various climatic changes is a serious problem in fruits and vegetables. To minimize and to predict the rainfall and associated factors to protect the crop, a forecasting is essential. For this the automatic weather recording station is being established by the govt. of India, which will help to give medium to short term weather forecasting in near future. Similarly a disease forecasting unit useful for grapes will be established in June 2009.

Agriculture Informatics and Farmer Advisory Services

One of the important aspects of the success of various activities is providing proper and quality services to the farmers. Farmers from the district and





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adjoining the area are regularly visit to avail the information regarding agricult-
-ure, Horticulture, Dairy, Poultry, mechan-
-ization and plant protection, soil nutrition
management aspects average 8-10 farmers
daily visiting and seeking benefited.
Similarly farmers are from adjoining
district and other states are visiting and
seeking advice for various crops.

KVK model farms.

A model farm with important horticultur-
-al and other crops is developed to cater the
need of farmer from the district with mod-
-ern irrigation system. A new experiment
with high density plantation, multi-stored
cropping and high tech floriculture, use of
biotech techniques for the pest management
Vermiculture biotechnology and modern nurse-
-ry with various shet net houses to meet
the training need and supply the planting
material to the farmers.





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Farm mechanization with various tractor drawn implements, power tillers. Dry land horticulture with watershed development approach supported by various soil and water conservation techniques wasteland development through the Agro forestry project, Non-conventional cropping systems with exotic crops like avocado and landscaping with the ornamentals.

To demonstrate various agricultural and horticultural technologies and to motivate the farmers to accept new production technique, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nashik developed 80 acres modern horticulture farm in YCMOU camps. The orchards consist high yielding and improved varieties of mango, Grapes, Sapota, Guava, Anola, Cashew nut, Litchi, Coconut, Custard apple. All the borders of farm are planted with Coconut and jackfruit.





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Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Van Udyan - Nashik...

Nashik is gifted with a number of beautiful parks and udyans that help people escape from the maddening crowd of the city. One such park in the city is the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Van Udyan. This Van Udyan is a one of its kind botanical garden in the country. Spreading across an area of 93 hectares, this garden is not only a recreational and study centre but also be a magnet for the tourists. The music and light show performed in the garden after dusk can easily enchant the tourists. The music and light forest nursery with a number of herbal plants and many rescued wild animals also attracts the tourists. A number of advanced technologies have been used to create the animatronics for animal study.





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Forest is with full of biodiversity it has great diversity in tree, shrub, herbs and climbers species. There were separate sections of medicinal plants, silvicultural plants, horticultural plants, bonsai and cactus.

The garden divided into various sections as follows;

Ashok Van - Consisting ashoka plants.

Saxika Van - Consisting the plants whose fruits eaten by birds or plants which provide food to birds.

Jetwan:- Considering the plants which resembling to religion. This van is part of integration among the religions.

Vanshvan:- This part of garden consists of different varieties of bamboos.





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Nakshatra Van:-

Each Nakshatra is identified by its prominent star(s) and is associated with a zodia. Hindu astrologers believe that each constellation of the zodiac is associated with tree. Those trees are of medicinal, social, aesthetic or economic value. In this part of garden such plants are planted.

Cactus section

In this section various cacti are growing





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Sahyadri farms

The seeding of SEPCIL - Sahyadri farms happened in Nashik in 2011 with the simple intention of ensuring a fair return to the farmers and with the quality produces reaching to the end users. Sahyadri farms was a movement, to uplift the farmers and to get them their righteous due. Organizations talk about CSR as one of their activities but we at Sahyadri converted the entire organization as CSR and it became a movement !!!

The idea behind the entire movement was to buy all the F and V produce offered by them under the food safety standards. The primary objective was to provide the best of infrastructure and adequate production and processing facilities to the farmers who could not secure a good produce due to frugality of resource and operations.





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The movement was to establish first of its kinds branded traceable product mix that would promote sustained growth and that we could cater with the best of to the Indian Consumers too, by offering them quality products at fair prices, and to do so by achieving economies of scale and costs. This movement was driven an farmer producer model that would play an ever increasing role in the rural economy, providing gainful employment to large numbers of farmers and allied.

A structure owned by farmers that would, with time, be the farmers, 'best friend'.... And the intension was that the highest levels of consumer confidence would be reposed in the brand called Sahyadri.... by 'Seedling Goodness'.

Vision

To be a leading Farmer Producer Company (FPC) with the power to bridge the





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Infrastructure of Sahyadri Farms

- Fresh Grapes Packing Hall.
- Fresh Grapes Packing Line.
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Packing Hall.
- IQF Freezing Line.
- Reefer Loading Docks.
- Aseptic Cup Filling Line.
- Ketchup line and Blending section.
- Jam, Ketchup and Juice Line.
- Juice PET bottle line.
- Pulping Line.

