

From Scattered Farms to Community Strength: The Story of Kutch Krishivan FPO, Nakhatrana, Kachchh

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Introduction and Background

Farming in Kachchh presents significant hurdles due to uncertain rainfall, precious water resources, and large distances between farms and markets, leading to high production risks and unpredictable input prices. To address these individual difficulties, Kutch Krishivan Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) was established in Nakhatrana, functioning with effect from August 29, 2022, under financial support from NABARD under the 10,000 FPO Scheme (CIN No. U1100GJ2025PTC135058). Initiated under the mentorship of a Community-Based Business Organization, VRTI Bhavnagar, the FPO began with the core idea that farmers can achieve more by acting together through bulk procurement, collective negotiation, and organized access to scientific knowledge.

2. The Challenge / Initial Situation

- **Arid Climatic Risks:** Farming in Kachchh involves unpredictable rainfall, scarce water resources, and a harsh agro-climatic environment.
- **Logistical Barriers:** Considerable distances between farms and markets increase individual transaction costs, travel needs, and procurement efforts.
- **Market Disparities:** Individual farmers lacked bargaining power, resulting in difficulties in securing right-priced inputs, technical advice, and fair buyers on their own.

3. The Intervention and Technology Solution

- **Collective Institutional Platform:** Brought together more than 750 farmers on a common platform to transform individual challenges into collective opportunities within a span of about three years (44 months).
- **Institutional Convergence:** Received financial support from NABARD, business mentorship from VRTI Bhavnagar, and technical guidance and backstopping from ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Regional Research Station, Bhuj, along with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kukma, Bhuj.

- **End-to-End Facilitation:** Transitioned from input procurement to connecting scientific knowledge, location-specific technologies, expert advisories, and direct market linkages.

4. Economic and Social Impact (Results)

- **Rapid Institutional Scale:** Expanded within 44 months to unite over 750 farmers, reporting an annual turnover of more than 8 to 10 crore rupees.
- **Collective Procurement Benefits:** Enabled members to aggregate requirements for bulk procurement, significantly reducing individual travel, transaction costs, and input expenses.
- **Scientific Knowledge Integration:** Established robust links with ICAR-CAZRI and KVK Kukma to provide advice on crop selection, improved production practices, integrated nutrient and pest management, disease management, and efficient resource utilization.
- **Value Chain Expansion:** Extended roles from input supply to direct market connections, exploring contract farming, buyer linkages, and transparent transactions.

5. Beneficiary Testimonial

"When farmers come together, their individual strengths do not merely add up—they multiply."

— **Guiding Principle of Kutch Krishivan FPO, Nakhatrana**

6. Way Forward and Sustainability

The future vision of Kutch Krishivan FPO focuses on moving further along the agricultural value chain through aggregation, grading, post-harvest management, value addition, stronger buyer linkages, branding, and direct market access. By continuing its partnership with NABARD, ICAR-CAZRI, and KVK Kukma, the institution aims to evolve from a collective input platform into a fully farmer-owned business institution that connects the entire agricultural value chain in Kachchh.



Photo 1: ICAR-CAZRI Bhuj address the FPO team members during the meeting



Photo 2: DDM NABARD has also wishing them for their grand success