Sustainable Agriculture:

A Vision for Resilience Future



Volume I



Editors

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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:

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Volume I

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Book Title: Sustainable Agriculture: A Vision for Resilience Future

Edited By: M. H. Chavda

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Volume I

Price: ₹599

ISBN: 978-81-968830-1-0



Published: August 2024

Publisher:



Kripa-Drishti Publications

A/ 503, Poorva Height, SNO 148/1A/1/1A, Sus Road, Pashan-411021, Pune, Maharashtra, India.

Mob: +91-8007068686

Email: editor@kdpublications.in
Web: https://www.kdpublications.in

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Dr. C. K. Patel currently holds the esteemed position of Associate Director of Sardarkrushinagar Agricultural Research Dantiwada University, Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat. Also, he served as Research Scientist at the Centre for Natural Resources Management at SDAU and he is currently the Nodal Officer for Organic and Natural Farming at the University. With an extensive experience of more than 30 years in Teaching, Research, and Extension in the field of Agriculture, he has successfully executed more than 15 projects. He published 80 research papers in international and national high repute scientific journals. He has published 04 books, 25 book chapters, 20 leaflets/Folders, 55 abstracts and 22 articles in English/Hindi/Gujarati languages. He has attained/participated in several state/ national/international level seminar/conference/workshop/training/symposium and presented many of posters, papers and delivered lead lectures. He is an also organizing secretary of such state level event also conveners and members in national level agricultural events. He broadcasted 30 TV talks on prestigious TV channels. He had guided more than 12 masters and 03 Ph. D. Students. Recognition of his contributions includes many prestigious awards such as the Royal Netherlands Fellowship International Award, which he has been honored with twice in 2002 and 2010. He had various positions with diversified roles and responsibilities in several committees/councils of SDAU and SAUs. He has well experience of research in organic and natural farming, Rainfed and Dry land Agriculture, Pulses, Cotton, Potatoes and Turmeric cultivation, MIS, NRM and Climate Change. As Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI, he has led more than 15 projects, offering valuable insights and several recommendations to the farming and scientific communities, thereby shaping agricultural practices and policies. His steadfast commitment and holistic approach continue to inspire and advance agricultural research and development.



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PREFACE

In the face of accelerating environmental challenges and a growing global population, the imperative for sustainable agriculture has never been more pressing. As we stand at the crossroads of agricultural development, we are compelled to rethink our approach to food production and land stewardship. "Sustainable Agriculture: A Vision for Resilience Future" emerges as a beacon of hope amidst these uncertainties, offering a roadmap towards a harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

This book is not merely a compilation of practices or theories; it is a manifesto for change, a call to action for all stakeholders in the agricultural ecosystem. Grounded in the principles of ecological balance, social equity, and economic viability, our vision for sustainable agriculture transcends conventional boundaries. It embraces innovation while honoring traditional wisdom, fostering collaboration across disciplines and generations.

Within these pages, you will encounter diverse perspectives, from seasoned agronomists to indigenous knowledge keepers, each contributing a unique thread to the tapestry of sustainable agriculture. We delve into the intricacies of regenerative farming, agroecology, and permaculture, exploring how these methodologies can nurture both the land and the communities that depend on it.

Moreover, this book is a testament to resilience, a quality indispensable in navigating the uncertainties of the future. Through case studies and success stories from around the globe, we witness the transformative power of sustainable agriculture in building resilient food systems capable of withstanding shocks and stresses, be they climatic, economic, or social.

As editors of this book, we are deeply moved and humbled by the collective wisdom and commitment of the dedicated contributors who have poured their passion into these pages. We invite you, dear reader, to embark on this sustainable journey with us. A journey towards a future where agriculture thrives in harmony with nature, where every seed sown is a promise of abundance for generations to come.

May this book serve as a guiding light for policymakers, farmers, educators, research scholars and consumers alike, inspiring us all to cultivate a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable world through the transformative power of agriculture.

"Together, let us sow the seeds of change and reap a harvest of hope."

M. H. Chavda Y. B. Vala C. K. Patel P. P. Chaudhari D. K. Patel

Acknowledgment

The journey of bringing "Sustainable Agriculture: A Vision for Resilience Future" to fruition has been one marked by the collaboration, inspiration and unwavering support of many remarkable individuals and organizations. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge their contributions, which have been instrumental in shaping this work.

First and foremost, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to our family for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout this period. To the esteemed experts, researchers, educators and practitioners in the field of sustainable agriculture, your pioneering work and tireless efforts have laid the groundwork for this book. A special thank you goes to the reviewers and contributors who provided invaluable feedback and constructive criticism. Your suggestions have helped refine and enhance the vision presented here.

We are profoundly grateful to the Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Gujarat for its pivotal role in the development of this book. SDAU unwavering commitment to advancing sustainable practices and research has been instrumental in shaping the vision presented here. We're truly grateful.

To all chapter authors and publishing team, your professionalism and attention to detail have ensured that this book reaches its full potential. We sincerely appreciate your dedication and hard work. Thank you.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the broader community of individuals and communities working towards sustainable agriculture. Your passion and resilience continue to inspire and drive positive change in the world.

Finally, to you, the readers, who embark on this journey with us, we extend our deepest appreciation. Your interest and engagement are the driving forces behind this work. This book is a testament to the collective effort of many, and we honored to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on building a resilient and sustainable future.

[Editors]

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Welcome to a journey into the heart of sustainability. A journey that transcends the mere cultivation of crops to embrace a profound ethos of stewardship and resilience. "Sustainable Agriculture: A Vision for Resilience Future" is not just a book; it's a manifesto for change, a testament to our collective commitment to nourishing the planet while safeguarding its future.

In the pages that follow, we embark on a journey of exploration and discovery. A journey that transcends the boundaries of conventional farming to embrace a holistic vision of sustainability. Here, sustainability is not merely a buzzword; it is a guiding principle, a moral imperative, and a beacon of hope in a world beset by environmental challenges and social inequalities. This book is more than just a compendium of practices and techniques; it is a call to action—a call to reimagine agriculture as a force for positive change in the world. So, dear reader, I invite you to join us on this journey—a journey towards a future where agriculture is not just sustainable, but regenerative; not just productive, but enriching; not just a means of survival, but a celebration of life in all its diversity and abundance.

For policymakers, farmers, students, educators, researcher and consumers alike, "Sustainable Agriculture: A Vision for Resilience Future" offers inspiration, guidance, and a roadmap towards a brighter tomorrow one where agriculture becomes a beacon of hope and healing for the planet and all its inhabitants.



Kripa-Drishti Publications

A-503 Poorva Heights, Pashan-Sus Road, Near Sai Chowk,

Pune - 411021, Maharashtra, India.

Mob: +91 8007068686

Email: editor@kdpublications.in Web: https://www.kdpublications.in Price: **₹599**

ISBN: 978-81-968830-1-0