

# **Report of the Visit to South Africa**

(Vhembe District Municipality)

as a member of the  
**Gondal Delegation**

**July 4 to 11, 2010**

Submitted by

**Dr. N. C. Patel**  
Vice Chancellor



**Junagadh Agricultural University**  
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# **Report of the Visit to South Africa (Vhembe District Municipality) as a member of the Gondal Delegation during July 4 to 11, 2010**

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## **Preamble**

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) in partnership with South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) is implementing a Good Practice Scheme Project which is targeting seven municipalities and SALGA in South Africa. The scheme promotes the mutual exchange learning and good practice between partner municipalities. This is done through technical exchanges, collaborative working, pilot projects, and sharing of good practice. Under this scheme, a project between Vhembe District Municipality and Gondal Municipality has been approved. The project between Vhembe and Rajkot (Gondal Municipality) focuses on creation of employment through establishment of cooperatives and development of markets for agricultural produce and to develop the skills of emerging farmers. It also seeks to build the skills of staff in the district municipality to be able to design agricultural based programmes that address poverty and unemployment.

The delegation from Vhembe District Municipality recently visited Rajkot District and Gondal municipality and APMC, Gondal. In addition to this, the delegation visited the Junagadh Agricultural University on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. The delegation had showed interest in the activities of the Junagadh Agricultural University.

In context to above, Vhembe district municipality had invited a delegation from Gondal to visit Vhembe district municipality. Mr. Rajesh Maheta, Chairman, Academy of Sustainable Planning Research & Applications (ASPRA), had coordinated the technical visit to Vhembe district municipality of South Africa as being the technical adviser to Gondal municipality. The visit was sponsored by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. As a Vice Chancellor of Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, I was also invited to be a member of the said delegation.

## **Duration of the visit : July 4 to 11, 2010**

### **Gondal Delegation Members**

1. **Mr. Rajesh Mehta** - Chairman of Academy of Sustainable Planning Research & Applications (ASPRA), Rajkot.
2. **Mr. B. R. Baral** - Chief Officer, Gondal Municipality (Due to unavoidable circumstances, he could not accompany delegation)
3. **Dr. N. C. Patel** - Vice Chancellor, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh
4. **Mr. P. C. Somaiya** - Assistant Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Gondal

The brief details of the visit itinerary of Gondal delegation (Indian delegation) is enclosed herewith as **Annexure - I** indicating the day to day programmes of the delegation.

## **Details of the Visit**

The above delegation left Rajkot airport (Jet lite Flight S2 380) on 4<sup>th</sup> July at 21:00 hrs and reached Mumbai airport at 22:00 hrs. Further, the delegation left Mumbai airport on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 at 02:05 hrs (Jet 9W 242) and reached Johannesburg airport on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 at 07:25 hrs. The delegation was received at Johannesburg (South Africa) airport by Mr. Mukundi Mushaphi, the Official from Vhembe District Municipality. Subsequently the delegations were taken to Thohoyandu by road where we reached by 13:30 hrs. The accommodation was provided in Hotel 2Ten, Thohoyandu. Thohoyandu is a headquarter of Vhembe District.

### **July 5, 2010 (evening – 19:00 hrs)**

The reception for the delegation was arranged in 2Ten hotel wherein the Executive Mayor, Dr. Falaza Mdaka, All mayors; Planning / EPD portfolio Councillors, Speaker, Chief Whip, MM, GM Planning, IDP Manager and LED Manager and officials, Univen, Madzivhandila remained present. Thulamela Mayor, Khosi Vho-Makumbanet welcomed the members of the delegation and explained the purpose of the visit of the delegation. On behalf of the delegation, I, Dr. N. C. Patel, Vice Chancellor, Junagadh Agricultural University thanked the Vhembe District Municipality as well as Commonwealth Local Government Forum for warm welcome and conveyed that Gujarat State is willing to provide the technical help for all concerned issues for the South Africa so as to serve the purpose of the CLGF project. In addition to this, Agricultural Education and Research as well as Transfer of Technology related issues will open up new vista of undertaking collaborative programmes in future. The Executive Mayor gave the keynote address and the brief details about the Limpopo Province and South Africa. The reception programme was followed by a dinner at the same place.

### **July 6, 2010**

During the forenoon visit to Madzivhandila College of Agriculture was undertaken. The Principal of the College, Mrs. Tshikule made presentation about the activities being undertaken by the College. The college is mainly engaged in undertaking the training programmes for the farmers and running diploma programmes mainly for animal production, poultry, etc. Mrs. Nyasha Simbanegavi, Project Coordinator, CLGF, SA also joined the team.

AGRISETA (Accreditation Institute) has given the accreditation certificate for the education and training programmes offered by the College. The College is also engaged in testing the soil samples of the farmers for soil fertility management. The seed treatment is given through machinery partly and distributed to the famers. The small poultry houses have been made in the College Campus which is given to the trainees individually. The every individual trainee has to practically carry out poultry birds raising for one cycle i.e. about forty two days. The complete poultry houses management is done by the trainees. The qualification of the farmers / trainees for such training is grade seven. The Diploma in Agriculture programme is also run by the College of Agriculture.

After the presentation by Principal of the above College, I, Dr. N. C. Patel, Vice Chancellor, Junagadh Agricultural University made a presentation about the overview of Junagadh Agricultural University wherein the Education, Research and Extension

Education programmes being run in the University were discussed along with the infrastructure facilities in the University. Moreover, the *Krushī Mahotsav* programme of the Government of Gujarat was discussed briefly. In addition to the expected official as per the list the itinerary, the faculty members of the College also participated in the meeting.

After the visit to Madzivhandila College of Agriculture, the delegation was taken to visit poultry farm, Budeli. The poultry farm was operated by Mrs. Tshnakaho. After getting training on poultry farming from the above mentioned College, the lady was successfully able to run the poultry farm for livelihood of her family.

In the afternoon, a visit to Tshandana Arts and Craft Centre was undertaken. The traditional dress making being carried out by few women were seen. While discussing with the shop owner women, it could be realised that they had marketing problem for the finished product. Numbers of such shop were closed. While discussing with the Mayor of Mulate Municipality, Mr. Manyuha who agreed that the Common marketing facilities and the coordination like we have for Khadi Gram Udhod in Gujarat will be useful and lead to higher earnings for the women undertaking the activities of traditional dress making. Further, it was suggested that the supply of raw material to such enterprises need to be arranged so that the quality material can be provided at the cheaper rate. Such activity can be managed easily by the Municipality. After that the visit to cooperative farm was undertaken. The total area of farm visit was 101 ha having 85 farmers of the cooperative growing potato crop on contract farming. The canal water is used for irrigation through overhead sprinkler irrigation system having fully automatic control through computerized system for the pre-determined duration to irrigate the potato crop.

## **July 7, 2010**

In the forenoon, the delegation was taken to visit the University of Venda. The delegation met Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University Dr. Jannie Zaaiman who subsequently make a presentation regarding the infrastructure facility and the new buildings being constructed by the University with the financial support from the Government (as per Agenda given in Annexure - II). After that I, Dr. N. C. Patel, made a presentation on the overview of Junagadh Agricultural University to the Univen officials from Vhembe District Municipality and CLGF. The Educational, Research and Extension activities of the Junagadh Agricultural University were briefly explained through a power point presentation. Also, a presentation on *Krushī Mahotsav* – an important event of the Government of Gujarat was discussed before the participants. The impact on increase in agricultural productivity and production were highlighted as the success of *Krushī Mahotsav*. The audience appreciated the *Krushī Mahotsav* as a whole and showed the willingness to get more details through personal visit by the concerned official along with the politicians from the Limpopo Province/South Africa. The topography of Vhembe District is similar to Saurashtra Region of our State therefore, I had shown the DVD of watershed development programme undertaken by our Gujarat State Land Development Corporation. The house felt that the concepts of watershed need to be implemented like in Gujarat on mass scale for its overall benefit to intensify the soil & water conservation including rain water harvesting and recharging in South Africa.

At the end, Prof. Vhonani Netshandama and Prof. Mchau gave a brief presentation about the University and its programmes. The University of Venda is having numbers of

educational programmes in Arts, Commerce, Science as well as the School of Agriculture. Hence, the quantum of Agricultural Educational and Research is less in the University. The faculty members and the senior officials from the University have shown interest in making collaboration with Junagadh Agricultural University especially in the areas like Biotechnology, alternate Uses of Energy, Plant Breeding and Agro / Food Processing, etc. Subsequently, the farm of School of Agriculture, University of Venda was visited along with the Dean (Agriculture). Pigeon pea crop as well as cabbage crop and horticulture crops like banana could be seen on the farm.

After the lunch, a Itsani Piggery Farm was visited along with the concerned officials. The farm was very well managed with the support from Thulamela and VDM. After the visit to piggery farm, farmer's field was visited where we could see onion crop grown on the ridge furrow system. The crop condition was quite poor as compared to the onion farmers of Gujarat. The cultivation practices required lot of improvement for onion. However, during the interaction, the farmers informed that the College of Agriculture as well as the University of Venda provide technical guidance including the testing of soil samples, etc.

### **July 8, 2010**

In the forenoon, we visited the fresh produce processing unit at Tshakhuma along with the concerned officials. The processing unit has already got equipment/ machinery for processing of Guava for the Guava Juice. Also, the unit has got packaging machinery for the processed Guava Juice. The unit has already produced in-plant few pouches of Guava juice. However, its marketing has not been started so far since the licences part from the Government is under process. The unit has got two cold rooms / chambers. Overall the infrastructure facility was good. But the size of machinery installed seems to be having very small capacity to fulfil requirement of the production of surrounding farmers in the district.

Subsequently, the cleaning and grading unit established for Fruits and Vegetables was visited at Tshakhuma. The unit was a fresh produce market which was basically a pack house having cleaning, grading and sorting machinery. The Tshakhuma pack house was almost complete and expected to be officially opened very soon. From there, a private farm was visited where the horticultural crops like Avocado, Macademia nut and Banana were grown. The farm was owned by a white man (Britisher). The farm had its own semi automatic type pack house. The packed products were sent to Johannesburg for its marketing.

### **July 9, 2010**

During the forenoon, once again the delegation was taken to University of Venda especially to visit the Food Science and Technology Department as well as the University Radio Station. The Food Science and Technology Department is having very few manpower and still under development. It was suggested by me that the University of Venda can have research collaboration in the areas of Food Science and Technology with the Junagadh Agricultural University.

The University of Venda radio station is broad casting the programmes from 05:00 hrs to 22:00 hrs on various issues. The radio station is managed by the staff of the University

having involvement of students as per need. A copy of the brief details of the programmes of Univen radio is enclosed herewith as an Annexure-III.

The plenary meeting of the core team as well as the stake holders was organized at 10:30 hrs at Vhembe Mayoral Board Room. The meeting was conducted as per the enclosed plenary schedule (Annexure - IV). Sub-groups were formed initially to decide the issues and future programmes. Based upon the groups meeting, the issues were discussed jointly by all the participants. Finally a draft report was prepared.

In the evening, a farewell meeting for our delegation was organized in Hotel Khoroni at 18:00 hrs wherein all the stake holders and press media participated. During the meeting Prof. Vhonani Netshandama briefly presented the draft report prepared by all the participants including the core team and the delegation. The copy of the draft report is enclosed herewith as an Annexure-V. All the participants were extremely happy and the Vhembe District Municipality official expressed their happiness regarding the delegation's visit. In addition to that it was expressed that during September'2010 a delegation from South Africa would like to visit Gujarat State, India for deciding the future line of action. After the dinner a press conference was addressed by the Mayor Carolina Nahasula and the members of delegation.

### **July 10, 2010**

Departure from Thohoyandu (Hotel 2Ten) at 07:30 hrs by road and arrived at Johannesburg at 13:00 hrs. A meeting of the delegation along with Mr. Mukundi Mushaphi from Vhembe District Municipality was held with Mr. Mayur Maganlal, Manager, South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA) in Johannesburg. The brief details about the visit to Vhembe District Municipality by the delegation including the interaction with various stake holders were given to Mr. Mayur Maganlal. After having lunch, the whole team went to the office of the Consulate General of India, Johannesburg. At 14:30, a meeting with the delegation and officials from SALGA, Vhembe District Municipality and University of Venda was held with Mr. Vikram Doraiswami, Consul General. Mr. Doraiswami was extremely happy after getting the brief details given to him by the delegation as well as the officials from SALGA, Vhembe District Municipality and University of Venda. Further, Mr. Doraiswami informed the officials from South Africa that he will extend all possible support as per requirement on behalf of Government of India for the purpose of economic development and poverty reduction in South Africa.

### **July 11, 2010**

The delegation departed from Johannesburg at 11:10 hrs (Jet 9W 241) and arrived at 23:35 hrs at Mumbai International airport on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. The delegation left Mumbai airport at 05:45 hrs (Jet lite S2 - 397) and arrived at Rajkot airport on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 at 06:45 hrs.

## OUTCOME OF THE VISIT

Overall, the visit to South Africa (Vhembe District Municipality) was a very fruitful one. The important issues, future programmes, etc. are briefly summarised hereunder.

1. There is a possibility of offering a short term training programmes for the benefit of officials from South Africa for the development and management of cooperatives. Junagadh Agricultural University offered to impart such training to officials as well as the progressive farmers from South Africa.
2. The infrastructural facility existing in Gujarat for the marketing of Agricultural produce has been appreciated by the officials from South Africa / participants during our visit. The APMC, Gondal can offer the services for the creation of model APMC infrastructure facility and the operative measures in line with the revised APMC Act of Government of Gujarat.
3. The issue regarding establishment of Municipality market for different products at one place was appreciated which can be taken up suitably by the Vhembe District Municipality so as to help the farmers to get good prices of their produce. Necessary support can be given from Vhembe District Municipality. Further, the existing structure can be renovated / facility revised to help the small entrepreneurs in general and farmers in particular. Integration and counselling of different stake holders would be beneficial.
4. Exchange of programmes for the faculty members to be taken up on top priority between the University of Venda, South Africa and Junagadh Agricultural University. The University of Venda desired to send the faculty members for a short term training to Junagadh Agricultural University in the areas like Biotechnology, alternate Uses of Energy, Plant Breeding and Agro / Food Processing, etc.
5. Also few research programmes can be taken up in collaboration with international agencies, in addition to both the Universities in the areas of mutual interest. Necessary collaboration through the required MOU can be made in future.
6. Help can be provided by the Junagadh Agricultural University for the development and revision of the curriculum for different academic programmes.
7. The possibility of exchanging the germplasm of the agricultural crops/ horticultural plants of mutual interest can be explored between the Junagadh Agricultural University and the University of Venda.
8. It was suggested to the officials from the South Africa that the existing Farmers Training centres need to be revised and strengthened. Unless the latest agricultural technologies are not transferred effectively to the farmers, the agricultural development would be difficult to achieve. The Government of South Africa may think of affiliating Madzivhandila College of Agriculture with the University of Venda, since both institutes are at one place i.e. Thohoyandu. This will help both institutions in greater interest of helping farmers and strengthening Agricultural Education for the benefit of Limpopo Province (South Africa).
9. The *Krusha Mahotsav* model of the Government of Gujarat was greatly appreciated in South Africa. After studying this model by the Mayor / Politicians and Academicians from South Africa, it can be practiced in due course of time. It has been expected by the officials that a delegation from South Africa would visit Gujarat State, India sometime in September, 2010 to study the *Krusha Mahotsav* model as well as visit Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh and Gujarat State for

- getting first hand information regarding the Agricultural Education, Research as well as overall Agricultural development in Gujarat State, India.
10. It was suggested to establish vocational training programmes like our ITIs for different trades so that the rural youth can be useful for other industries in South Africa.
  11. It was highlighted that there is an urgent need to take up the watershed development programmes on massive scale like in Gujarat State / India so that the Soil and Water conservation can be efficiently carried out along with rain water harvesting and recharging activities.
  12. There is tremendous scope of undertaking Renewable Energy applications for day to day use, especially on solar and biomass utilisation need to be taken up in South Africa. The present technology available in Gujarat / India can be easily provided through our industries which can help even in power generation through biomass gasification.
  13. The cooperative sectors need to be developed in South Africa like Gujarat / India. The short term cooperative management programmes, land development education as well as the special programmes related to Agricultural Engineering can be initiated with the collaboration from the Universities / Government agencies from Gujarat State.
  14. It was suggested and agreed upon by the officials from South Africa to send at least 10 students each year to India over a period of 3 years for different Agricultural Education programmes. This will have big impact on capacity building. Also, the visit of progressive farmers from South Africa to India especially to Gujarat State can be planned for the required exposures.
  15. The Limpopo Province in South Africa is printing and providing the agricultural literature in English to the farmers. It was pointed out that instead of providing literature in English; it should be printed in local language and provided to the farmers so that the Agricultural Technology can be better understood by the farmers. This will accelerate the transfer of agricultural technologies to the farmers and enhance its adoption for their benefit and agricultural development in South Africa.
  16. There is possibly of importing large number of different agricultural implements, hand tools as well as machinery from Gujarat State, India so as to eliminate the drudgery of agricultural operations to the farmers in South Africa.

### **Acknowledgement**

I am grateful to the Government of Gujarat for providing me the necessary permission to visit South Africa during July 4 to 11, 2010 as a member of the delegation. Also, I am thankful to the Government of India for giving me the required clearance from political angle as well as the permission under FCRA for the above purpose (copies enclosed). Financial Assistance provided by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum is gratefully acknowledged. The necessary support required for the above visit which was provided by ASPRA, Rajkot and the hospitality rendered by the Vhembe District Municipality are gratefully acknowledged without which it could not have been possible to visit South Africa.

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