Dr. S. G. Bhalekar, ADR, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Pune visited the Main Vegetable Research Station at Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand.

The Main Vegetable Research Station, Anand Agricultural University, Anand plays a crucial role in tackling the agricultural and horticultural challenges faced by vegetable crops in the Middle Gujarat Agro-climatic Zone. Through in-depth, interdisciplinary research, it strives to improve the productivity and sustainability of vegetable farming in the region. The station is dedicated to a wide variety of vegetable crops including brinjal, tomato, chilli, okra, leguminous crops, leafy vegetables and cucurbits. On January 28, 2026, Dr. S. G. Bhalekar, ADR, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Pune and his team visited the Main Vegetable Research Station, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, accompanied by Dr. Yogesh Lakum, Associate Professor, DEE, AAU, Anand. The delegation was formally welcomed by Dr. R. R. Acharya, Research Scientist (Vegetable), who provided a comprehensive overview of the station's achievements, including the development of elite germplasm, advanced breeding lines and novel vegetable cultivars. Dr. P. C. Patel, Associate Research Scientist highlighted the station's contributions to enhancing crop resilience, yield and nutritional quality through innovative breeding techniques and biotechnological interventions. Miss Himani Vadodariya, Assistant Research Scientist, Mr. Aakash V. Patel, Assistant Research Scientist and Mr. K. J. Vekariya, Senior Research Assistant, elaborated on the ongoing research initiatives at MVRS. They discussed the station's focus on developing climate resilient vegetable varieties, improving disease and pest resistance, and optimizing post-harvest quality. The scientists also emphasized the integration of semi-speed breeding programme in accelerating the breeding process for crops such as okra and bittergourd. The delegation was taken on a guided tour of the station's state-of-the-art facilities, including the high-tech nursery and advanced tomato and chilli hybrid seed production plots. During the tour, the team showcased cutting-edge methodologies employed at MVRS in vegetable crop improvement. The visit underscored the role of MVRS as a pioneer in vegetable research and its commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural practices through science and innovation. The delegation commended the efforts of the MVRS team and expressed their support for further collaborative research to address emerging challenges in vegetable production and food security.