

## **Poshan Utsav – 2025**

A district-level Poshan Utsav/Poshan Maah and Mata Yashoda Award – 2022-23 program was jointly organized by the ICDS Department of Anand District Panchayat and Anand Agricultural University, Anand at the College of Food Processing Technology and Bio-Energy, AAU, Anand on September 30, 2025. The event was graced by the presence of Shri Miteshbhai Patel, Honourable MP Anand; Dr. K.B. Kathiria, Honourable Vice Chancellor, AAU Anand; Shri Hasmukhbhai Patel, President, District Panchayat Anand; Shri Kamleshbhai Patel, MLA, Petlad; Shri Devahuti (IAS), District Development Officer Anand; Dr. Samit Dutta, Dean, College of Food Processing Technology and Bio-Energy, AAU, Anand; Dr. Keshav Kamliya, Principal, Polytechnic in Food Science and Home Economics, AAU Anand; Program Officers, CDPOs, district and block level staff, Anganwadi workers, helpers, beneficiaries and students. During the occasion, dignitaries highlighted important issues related to nutrition such as eradication of malnutrition, balanced diet, maternal and child nutrition, use of millets, and promotion of nutritious diets.

The primary objective of the event was to create awareness about balanced diets, the use of Take-Home Ration (THR), and the nutritional importance of millets (Shree Anna) and drumstick-based foods. In recipe competition Anganwadi workers, mid-day meal organizers, and students of Anand Agricultural University enthusiastically participated. Winners of the Millet/THR recipe competition were awarded first, second, and third prizes, while all participants received certificates and consolation prizes to encourage their efforts. Anganwadi workers with outstanding service in 2022–23 were honoured with the Mata Yashoda Award. Additionally, infants who had completed six months of age were offered Annaprashan, emphasizing the importance of complementary feeding.

With the active participation of Anganwadi workers, supervisors, ICDS staff, university students, and community members, Poshan Utsav 2025 successfully linked agriculture, nutrition, and community health while motivating all stakeholders to adopt healthy food practices. From Anand Agricultural University, FPTBE students achieved remarkable success in the competition. Chavda Hemakshi and Vaghasiya Shreya secured the First Prize for their innovative millet and drumstick-based healthy recipes, while Aswathy V. P. and Priya S. won the Third Prize. Their contribution reflected the

university's commitment to promoting nutritious, affordable, and locally available foods.

