



*“SRT humming..... Soil enriching, Crops booming and Farmers Empowering”*

## SRT Vidarbha Tour 2026

### “From Soil Crisis to Soil Confidence – A Movement Gaining Momentum”

Namaste,

Welcome to the 192nd edition of the Newsletter.

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Warm greetings from Saguna Rural Foundation!

#### Day 1 – Shrirampur (Ahilyanagar) “Identifying Challenges, Demonstrating Solutions”

The **SRT Vidarbha Tour** (13 to 16 April 2026) was successfully conducted across **Ahilyanagar, Washim, Akola, and Amravati**, reaching **more than 1000+ farmers**. The tour aimed at spreading awareness about the **Saguna Regenerative Technique (SRT)** a proven No-till, regenerative farming method that is transforming agriculture by improving soil health, improving soil moisture condition, reducing costs, building confidence and making farmers happy.

The journey began at Shrirampur Ahilyanagar, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 visiting the great visionary of that area Shri. Annasaheb Nirmal (Kisan Konnect). The small in number but wise farmers explained us the severe problems regarding cost of production, subsoil water availability and increased demand of fertilizers and insecticides by the crops. We have decided to work with them on an urgent basis.



## Day 2 - Somthana, Washim

14 April 2026

Somthana, Washim, where over 100+ farmers gathered under the leadership of **SRT farmer Madhav Khandare**. Farmers openly discussed major challenges such as heavy weed infestation (Parthenium and Amarvel), declining soil fertility, shortage of labour, and dependence on unpredictable rainfall. Through discussions and field demonstrations, SRT was presented as a practical and sustainable solution that addresses these challenges by improving soil structure, conserving water, and reducing labour requirements.



In the afternoon, the SRF team visited 3 Sitaphal orchards (Custard apple) at Janephthal (Buldhana), where Shri Sham Gattani (President, Sitaphal Association, MH) shared his experience of maintaining orchards for over 38 years. The interaction provided valuable insights into orchard management challenges, and meaningful discussions were held on improving soil health and reducing production costs through regenerative practices. SRF expressed its commitment to work closely with Sitaphal growers in the region.



## Day 3 – Akot, Akola - “Knowledge Ignites Transformation”

Date: 15 April 2026

On the third day at **Akot (Akola)**, an overwhelming response of **more than 600 farmers** was witnessed during the SRT guidance workshop organized by **Shivaji College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Akola** and **SRT farmer Dr. Bhaskar Gawande**. The session covered the scientific principles of SRT, farmer success stories, and new initiatives such as the **SRT WhatsApp chatbot**, **Shetishala** (farmer training school), and **carbon credit awareness**. The enthusiasm of farmers was remarkable, with the program extending for several hours due to active participation and in-depth discussions. This was more remarkable considering it was the highest temperature (46° C) day in the country.





## Day 4 – Paratwada, Amravati - “From Awareness to Adoption”

Date: 16 April 2026

The final day at Paratwada (**Amravati**) saw participation from **over 150 farmers**, along with the presence of **Hon. MLA Pravinbhai Tayade**. Farmers shared their positive experiences and highlighted how SRT has improved their farming practices. The interaction reflected growing confidence among farmers and a clear willingness to adopt sustainable methods.





During the Vidarbha tour, several new projects and field experiments emerged, reflecting strong farmer interest and regional needs.

A major focus area identified was the Kharpan Patta (saline soil belt) in Akola district, where farmers are facing serious soil-related challenges. The SRT team has planned on-ground experiments in the coming Kharif season to demonstrate how SRT can restore soil health and improve productivity in these saline conditions.

The tour also highlighted opportunities for expanding SRT in Koradvahu (dryland farming areas), where water scarcity remains a key concern. SRT's water-efficient and climate-resilient approach is expected to play a crucial role here.

Our team also felt there is equal urgency that we should work with the Sitaphal farmers and the dryland farmers of Ahilyanagar.

Despite extreme conditions, the SRT team travelled over 2000 kilometers in temperature reaching 46°C, showing strong commitment to reaching farmers and promoting sustainable agriculture.

***Stay tuned for more updates as we continue our journey towards a greener and more sustainable future.***

***Thank you!***



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