Experiential learning is the basic approach towards problem solving and improving interaction with the outside world. The learning process imparts a direction to the students to think and act and eventually creates self-confidence. It offers a direction to the students to develop their competence, capability, capacity building, acquiring skills, expertise and a holistic development. However, it requires interest of an individual with total commitment and involvement, participation, reception, active interest, dedication, skill, curiosity, vision and mission. Under the changing dynamics of economical and industrial growth, agriculture has to undergo changes with new approaches, therefore, experiential system in agriculture has strong potential for imparting better training of the agricultural technocrats with high level of skill in combination with the modern out-look and management capacity.

Agricultural education is evolving in a very rapid manner to meet the need of the society. The students of agriculture are learning substantial basic and applied issues of science and technology; however, they do not possess adequate self-confidence in starting own commercial farming. Under this situation, Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP) is an important competence and confidence building Programme introduced in some of SAUs in India. The Gujarat Agricultural University (GAU) has also accepted this concept and students of the final year B.Sc (Agri) are being exposed during this year. This Programme is a sequel of the recommendation made by the ‘Randhawa Committee’ constituted by ICAR. The committee recommended one full semester is to be earmarked for providing work experience to the students in rural setting. The experiential approach is a learner-centered approach and allows an individual student to manage and share responsibility for his learning with his teachers and hosts. Effective work experience training strategies incorporating rural agricultural experiential learning approach provide opportunities to a student of the final year to engage him in fieldwork activity and to review and analyze critically this work experience activity so that they prove to be useful in their real-life situations. The Programme is of one semester (the seventh semester) i.e. 20 weeks and will get distributed in various phases. One of the phases is meant for 21 days educational tour, which includes eleven days in Gujarat and ten days in the neighboring states. The students will be allotted to the research stations of major crops of particular zone. They will have to stay in villages with farm families, agro-based industries, co-operatives NGOs and high-tech cell during different phases of RAWE Programme. The expected outcomes from the students after this programme are learning new experiences, managing relationship, observe problems, art of negotiation, understand the real life, time management, practicing method, develop teamwork, feedback, developing art of creative thinking, art of listening, conflict management, understanding recommended technology, understanding real world, money management, working style of local institution, working with local organizations/leaders and confidence building. With a view to producing well trained graduates in the field of agriculture having broad base knowledge and technical know-how to meet the emerging challenges of sustainable extension services and make them useful partners of rural and agricultural development efforts of the state and country, Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP) should also be implemented in all the State Agricultural Universities of India.