

## Proceedings of Annual Action Plan Workshop of KVKs of Gujarat 13 - 14 February 2020 at Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad

The ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Pune organized the **State Level Action Plan-2020 Workshop for 30 KVKs of Gujarat** at Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad during 13-14 February, 2020. The Chief Guest, Dr. Anamik Shah, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad exhorted the KVK experts to give focus on doubling farmers' income especially small and marginal farmers through skill oriented trainings and affordable technologies such as use of eco-friendly bio-pesticides, composting of farm waste for promoting organic farming, small millet production, efficient use of available water for irrigation. Future agriculture will be dominated by looming dangers of food safety and insecurity originating from an unholy alliance of existing and emerging environmental, economic and social issues. KVK are the backbone of frontline extension system of country, doing farmer centric, demand driven research to make the farmers fall into step with modern agricultural development. He also urges scientists of KVK to explore the possibility of rural marketing channels for the farmers producing on small piece of land in remote areas. He said that agro-ecology of Gujarat is varied and Saurashtra is drought affected. The challenge is that how we can help the farmers under such circumstance. Several activities should be planned with focus on rural youths particularly for skill development. Whole family should be considered a unit for working.

Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ATARI, Pune urged the Heads of KVKs to develop work plan addressing major problems of the farmers in their operational areas. Interventions for minimizing risk of frequent droughts, long dry spell, floods, severe insect/pest incidence, etc. on major crops should be designed. Activities may be planned on nutritional security, micro-irrigation, crop diversification, floriculture, vertical farming, water recycling, developing intergraded farming system models, agro-based enterprises, post harvest processing and value addition. Capacity building of farmers is needed on producing quality farm products for assured market and export. Innovative extension methodologies should be developed. Suitable mechanism for reaching to unreached farmers may be developed at district level. Horizontal convergence needs special attention. ICAR institutes/SAUs should provide latest technologies to the KVKs for quick transfer in the fields. Instructional farm should be developed as model for educating different stakeholders.

At this occasion, Dr Arun Patel, Director Extension Education, Anand Agricultural University; Dr Rajendra Khimani, Director, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad; Dr. H.L. Dhanuk, Professor; Dr. Rajendra Thakor; Dr. Amol Bhalerao were also present. In this workshop, 50 participants including 30 Heads of KVKs, Professors and Subject Matter Specialists presented their work plan for the year 2020. Major recommendations emerged during workshop are as under:

### Main Recommendations

- The Director of Extension of SAUs should organize capacity building programs for newly joined KVK staff.
- Include latest varieties (not >5 years old) developed by ICAR institutes/SAUs and recommended for respective area/region.
- Due emphasis should be given to the climate change and its impacts on agriculture while developing action plan by each KVK.
- Concerned SAUs should provide minimum quantity of quality seeds of new varieties to their KVKs on priority for educating the farmers and getting in seed chain.
- About 100 trainings per year should be planned by all the KVKs addressing felt needs of the farmers/rural youths.
- OFTs should be comprised of three (3) treatments and number of replications should be kept appropriately.
- The KVKs, having banana growing area in the district have to include the recommendations sent by AICRP Centre on Banana for further extension in the district.
- The SMS (Agril. Extension) may also be involved in conducting frontline demonstrations, impact studies, writing cases/success stories, agro-ecosystem analysis, developing very good short video clippings, etc.
- Focus on incorporating interventions related enhancing farmers' income should be given.
- Activities on skill development, vertical farming, post-harvest processing and value addition should be planned.
- Emphasis on nutrition sensitive agriculture may be given. Farming system nutrition model should be developed at the centre and one village may be adopted for the same.
- Action plan along with latest technologies to be raised at the instructional farm should be given. It should be maintained one of the best for educating the farmers/visitors.
- More attention may be given to organize the farmers (FPO/FPC) and should be linked with markets.
- Trainings may be planned for orienting farmers towards maintain quality standards of organic products.
- The Director Extension Education should own their responsibility for the KVKs working in their area jurisdiction. They should spare their time for attending such important review/action plan workshops.

*Director, ICAR-ATARI, Pune*