

Proceedings of Online Annual Zonal Workshop of ICAR-ATARI, Pune 10-12 July, 2020

The ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Pune organized a three days 'Online Annual Zonal Workshop for 81 KVKs of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa' during 10-12 July 2020. The workshop was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Kailash Chaudhari. In addition, Inaugural Session of the Workshop was graced by the presence of Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR); Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (Agril Extension); Dr. K.P. Viswanatha, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri; Dr. V.M. Bhale, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola; Dr. S.R. Choudhary, Vice Chancellor, NAU, Navsari; Dr. V.P. Chovatia, Vice Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh; Dr. A.M. Paturkar, Vice Chancellor, MAFSU, Nagpur; Dr. Ashok Dhawan, Vice Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani; Dr. S.D. Sawant, Vice Chancellor, BSKKV Dapoli; Dr. R.V. Vyas, Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand; Dr. R.K. Patel, Vice Chancellor, SDAU, S K Nagar; both ADGs (Agril Extension) Dr. V.P. Chahal and Dr. Randhir Singh. Furthermore, Directors of ICAR institutes; Directors of Extension Education from SAUs; Heads of KVKs of Zone-VIII and several other delegates participated in the three-day long workshop.

Major Points and Issues Emerged

Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Kailash Chaudhari applauded the efforts of KVKs and admired initiative of ICAR-ATARI Pune for organizing annual workshop using online mode. He stated that Doubling Farmers' Income is a national priority and KVKs have crucial role to play in doubling the farmers' income by 2022. The identified villages should be developed as model villages. The MOS iterated that there is a need to transform agriculture sector into business mode and suggested popularization of FPOs (**Farmers Producer Organizations**) to strengthen the group farming in India. Contract farming may be promoted. KVKs should aware the farmers and other stakeholders about new guidelines along with process of formation of the FPOs through different ways. He also emphasized that a national dream attaining "*Atmanirbhar Bharat*" can be achieved by revolutionizing value addition and post-harvest technologies in the agricultural sector. Climate resilient technologies can make a difference in making farming more profitable. Therefore, the minister urged the KVKs to undertake need based enterprises to empower farming communities across the nation. KVK may be converted into a model where basket of solutions should be provided for existing farmers' problems. Attracting and retaining youth in agriculture is another challenge. Farm women should be technologically and socio-economically empowered.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) praised the advisories issued by KVKs and initiatives undertaken by the KVKs of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa during COVID-19 crisis and lockdown period towards livelihood security. Dr. Mohapatra emphasized that the Doubling Farmers' Income is priority for ICAR and KVKs were urged to undertake mid-term review of implementation of DFI initiatives in adopted villages. He suggested adopting the successful cases of entrepreneurs from other states to vibrantly implement initiatives to enhance the farmers' income in given time frame. He urged the KVKs to collaborate with various line departments, SAUs, Corporates to enhance the implementation of climate resilient interventions in the zone. He suggested ATARI Pune to implement innovative and suitable technologies by developing synergetic collaboration with other ICAR institutes across India. His major focus was on developing nutrition gardens for

making Kuposhan Mukta Villages. Low performing KVKs should be upgraded with all sort of support from the host organizations. Region specific problems should be addressed. Micro irrigation, onion, garlic, seed spices and castor can be helpful in enhancing farmers' income in Gujarat. DFI Strategy prepared at state level should be implemented by the line departments. KVK should work as One Stop Shop for serving the farmers. If the post harvests processing, value addition and mechanization expert is not available at the KVK then other SMS should be trained. Data base of the farmers should be developed at the district level.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Agril Extension), ICAR highlighted the need of speciality agriculture, local marketing mechanism of fruits and vegetables, AMUL based cooperatives, IFS models in scarce condition, etc. He also appreciated the culture of organizing the farmers in Maharashtra through commodity-based FPOs/FPCs. Dr. Singh urged the KVKs to give thrust on developing nutritional gardens at KVKs and villages, involving Anganwadi workers for making Kuposhan Mukta Villages. Dr. Singh stressed that, there is need to enhance the two-way dialogue among KVKs and farmers and hence suggested the maximum utilization of social media for transfer of technology. Dr. Singh urged KVKs to map crucial stakeholders in district to effectively link farmers with agricultural inputs, processing facilities and market linkages.

Dr. K.P. Viswanatha, Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri stressed on need of empowering KVKs to undertake futuristic challenges. He suggested that there is need to undertake IFS (Integrated Farming System) and cropping system approach especially among small and marginal farmers. Dr. Viswanatha emphasized that focus on early adopters and innovative-farmers is crucial to **promote farmer to farmer extension** in the zone. He suggested the utilization of the SREP for understanding the priorities and implementing farm diversification including livestock components for enhancing the farmers' income.

Dr. V.P. Chahal, ADG (Agril Extension), ICAR, New Delhi suggested that ICAR-ATARI Pune should develop a state wise HRD plan to upgrade the knowledge and skills of KVK personnel. He emphasized to form a committee including all the Directors of Extension Education from all SAUs of the zone for better planning of extension activities as well as to support the KVK officials with technical backstopping.

Dr. Randhir Singh, ADG (Agril Extension), ICAR, New Delhi emphasized to conduct **SWOT analysis** to understand the priorities in the wake of climate change. Transforming KVKs into **Single Stop Solution** is possible by collaborative approaches and by promoting digital agriculture to boost the economy and to speed up the welfare in farming sector.

In the Plenary Session, **Dr. V.M. Bhale, Vice-Chancellor, PDKV, Akola** stressed on crop planning at the district level, facilitating FPOs, bio-agents production units and marketing. Dr. V.P. Chahal, ADG (Agril Extension), ICAR highlighted the need to strengthen convergence with other agencies to get financial support, constitute a team of excellence at Directorate of Extension Education level, production of organic inputs. Shri Atul Jain, Member, NITI Aayog Standing Committee on CSO stressed on documenting the farmers' wisdom, folk songs, proverbs and beliefs.

Earlier Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Pune briefed about the Zone's achievements and highlighted the protected cultivation, crop diversification through sericulture, bee keeping, bamboo cultivation, successful cases of agri-entrepreneurs, innovative extension approaches followed by the farmers.

Based on the discussions and deliberations during Online Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs organized by the ICAR-ATARI, Pune following major recommendations are synthesised to decide the future course of action.

Major Recommendations

1. Doubling Farmers' Income is a priority for the entire NARS; and KVKs have crucial role to play in doubling the farmers' income by the year 2022.
2. 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' can be achieved by revolutionizing agricultural sector through value addition and post-harvest technologies hence KVKs shall undertake need based enterprises to empower farming communities.
3. Popularization of FPOs (Farmers Producer Organizations) to strengthen the group farming in India and transforming agriculture with corporate outlook.
4. Enhancement of the two-way dialogue among KVKs and farmers and the maximum utilization of social media can boost up transfer of technology.
5. Mapping of all villages with communication linkages with at least 10-15 farmers from each village to connect farmers with available input/output markets and developmental agencies.
6. Systematic implementation of Integrated Farming System Models and cropping system approach especially among the small and marginal farmers.
7. Transformation of agricultural extension approaches from food security to livelihood security dimension by the promotion of development of entrepreneurship, innovation, use of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITKs) and participatory technology development.
8. Enhancement of storage infrastructure and processing of agri-horticultural harvests and entrepreneurship development at panchayat level to boost the exports.
9. Enhancement of research and extension expenditure on protected farming, secondary agriculture and development of bio-inputs for organic farming.
10. Increase in demonstrations of floricultural crops, medicinal plants and low cost-technologies to minimize the cost of cultivation.
11. Seek and utilize alternate funding support for KVKs from line departments, Corporates, different ministries, etc. for institutional building and to expand the sphere of KVK operations.
12. SWOT analysis to understand the priorities due to climate change and to transform KVKs into single stop solution by collaborative approaches and functional linkages.
13. State wise technology inventory should be developed. All the latest technologies evolved by the ICAR institutes and SAUs should be obtained and compiled in systematic manner for larger technology application through KVKs.
14. Formation of a committee including all the Directors of Extension Education for better planning of extension activities as well as to support the KVK personnel with technical backstopping.

Source: Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone-VIII, Pune