

## Activities of FOs

- Management of various business activities
- Management of farm and non-farm fields
- Management of environment and sustainability
- Bulk purchase of inputs and marketing
- Advice to produce to fellow farmers
- Training to farmers and farm women's
- Collective request for credit facilities

## Role of extension in promotion of FOs

- Empowerment of members
- Community mobilization
- Human resource development
- Problem solving and education

## Steps in establishing FOs

- Identification of area
- Identification of farmers
- Meeting with farmers
- Formation of small FIGs
- Collection of share capital
- Formation of Board of Directors
- Meeting of Board of Directors
- Registration

**Publication-KVK/Gomati/03**

**Prepared by**

**Dr. Binoy Tripura, SMS, (Agril. Extension)**

**Published by:**

**Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Gomati, Amarpur-799101**

**email\_kvkgomati@gmail.com**

## FORMATION AND FUNCTIONING OF FARMERS ORGANISATION (FOs)



**Krishi Vigyan Kendra Gomati**

**Amarpur, Tripura-799101**

## Introduction

Extension system has the major responsibility of transfer of technology generated from research system to farmers' field. The farmer faces many problems like delay in dissemination of technology and obtaining feedback, non-availability and inappropriate supply of agricultural inputs, non-availability of labour and costly wages, different market issues, and most importantly exploitation of middle man in market. Therefore, the Farmer organizations (FOs) should be established to internalize extension services and provide backward as well as forward linkages. The FOs provide an effective channel for both dissemination of technology to large number of small and marginal farmers and feedback to research and extension. This is why farmers' movement gives a lot of importance to farmers' organizations which is an important pillar of today's society.

### Meaning Farmers' organization

Farmer organizations are groups of rural producers coming together based on the principles of membership, to pursue specific common interests of their members and developing technical and economic activities that benefit their members and maintain relations and partners operating in their economic and institutional environment (Anonymous, 2004).

### Features of Farmers' Organization

- Common interest
- Building interaction between research, extension and farming system
- Analyse farmers problem with extension supports
- Dynamic and flexible, norms and operating procedure
- Both long and short term objective and plan of action
- Clear and transparent transaction
- Capacity of the organization should be strong to ensure its long term stability and sustainability
- Linkages and network with other farmer organizations

### Why do we need FOs?

FOs influence policies and demand for required services. Farmers can participate in decision making process of the development activities. Service system becomes more effective and accountable. They get better access to latest markets and technology. FOs can involve in farmer and market-led extension activities

### Types of Farmer Organizations

According to Chamala and Mortiss (1990):-

#### Community-Based, Resource-Orientated Farmer Organizations:

This type of organization could be a village-level cooperative or association which can deal with inputs needed by the members, the resource owners, to enhance the productivity of their businesses based on land, water, or animals. The income can then be put back into the organization by spending it on extension, data generation, business planning, and administration. For example: Farmers Club Self Help Groups, Farmers Interest Group.

#### Commodity-Based, Market-Orientated Farmer Organizations.

These organizations specialize in a single commodity and work for value-added products which have expanded markets. They are designated as output-dominated organizations. This organization deals with the members from among the regional growers of that commodity who are interested in investing some share capital to acquire the most recent processing technology and professional manpower. The rate of success of these organizations is determined by their capacity to arrange for major investments and a continuous flow of raw materials.

#### Benefits of Farmers' Organization

Followings are the benefits that a Farmers' Organization can achieve through group approaches. These are

- Improving bargaining power and community-level enforcement management
- Facilitate better liaison and convergence with other developmental departments through facilitating communication between farm and farmer
- Lowering input costs: By bulk purchasing inputs through groups, farmers obtain bulk sale discounts from suppliers and can share transport costs.
- Lowering information costs: Farmers can link up with government extension services by sharing costs in accessing these services by putting up their efforts in formation and promotion.
- Lowering cost of financial services: Farmers can open group savings and/or credit accounts offered by financial institutions at reduced individual expense. It will help them in accessing credit needs in near future.
- Facilitating marketing and exporting: FOs help in accessing facilities of value addition, storage and market infrastructure which will fetch them higher price in the market.
- Helps in capacity building of farmers: FOs helps the extension persons to facilitate different capacity building programmes like training, demonstration, exposure visit and scientist- farmer's interactions.
- Can draw the attention of the policy maker: Farmers in group are able to place their constraints in a better way and helps the policy maker to address their problems through developmental schemes.
- Can help in better use of resources: Farmers in a group can use their resources in an efficient way towards achieving profitable outcome with the help of technical guidance and mutual help.
- Socio-economic upliftment: Farmers can raise their status, position and participation through earning profit from their group endeavour.