A special session on Policy Support for Bundelkhand Development Strategy was held on July 28, 2019 during the 26th Zonal Workshop of KVKs. Shri V.D. Sharma Ji, Hon’ble Member of Parliament Khajuraho, Shri R.K. Patel, Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Banda, and Smt Archana Chitnis, Former Minister, Women and Child Development, Govt. of M.P., Dr A. K. Singh DDG ICAR, Dr P.K. Bisen VC JNKVV, Dr S. K. Rao VC RVSKVV, Dr Brij Gopal, President, National Institute of Ecology, Jaipur, Dr D. K. Marothia, Member, State Planning Commission, Chhattisgarh, Shri Abhay Mahajan, DRI, Chitrakoot participated in the meeting along with officials from ICAR, SAUs, Scientists from KVKs in Bundelkhand region and farmer representatives. Dr Anupam Mishra, Director ATARI welcomed participants and briefed about the rationale behind the workshop. Dr Brij Gopal in his address emphasized on water centric approaches for agriculture in the Bundelkhand region. He stressed on need to rejuvenate the Chandel era ponds and remove encroachments in the catchment river basin area for ground water recharge in the Bundelkhand region.

During the session deliberation held on developing agriculture in Bundelkhand region with water centric approach, promotion of Agro-forestry based cropping system with focus on low water requirement crops, incorporation of minor millets. Shri V.D. Sharma Ji highlighted the issue of migration from Bundelkhand and suggested establishment of micro-industries based on value addition and processing manages by SHG and FPOs. Shri R.K. Patel in his address stated that the livelihood of the farmers in the region is based on the synergy among land, water, animal and forest and human intervention created imbalance causing significant loss to the environment. Smt Archana Chitnis in her address stressed to have concentrated efforts on water conservation by involving community participation. The workshop was attended by 65 participants including ICAR, TFRI Jabalpur and SAU officials, representatives from NGO, progressive farmers.