Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (Agril Extension) visited KVK, Narayangaon, Pune on 25th March, 2018. In his visit, he appreciated the growth of KVK in short span of time. He said that KVK is the lighthouse, hub of knowledge and technology owner. KVK is bridge between farmers and agricultural knowledge for quick technology application. Focus on reaching each village by using ICT was given. Identified farm innovations may be tested at KVK farm. Interactive on farm research program with ICAR institutes may be designed.

Base for conserving water, judicious use of water, residue management and plough residue back to the soil were suggested. Once the organic carbon is enriched in the soil, use of fertiliser will be reduced. He gave more attention on skill and entrepreneurship development. He said that EDP means a lot including business model, creating whole value chain and starting own business. KVK may create Farm Producer Organization (FPO) involving farmers for benefit sharing, reducing input cost, value chain management, etc. Spread of farm messages is possible by proper knowledge management and going to farm level. Technology basket should be developed at the centre. Different models for different categories of farmers towards increasing farmers’ income should be shown at the KVK farm. Without disturbing topography, the land in hardship utilized for planting mango saplings in contour trenches was good. Whole farm is under drip irrigation with auto fertigation will give message to farmers. Different live demonstration units like mother block of pomegranate, soybean tofu plant, biofertilizer unit, fruit nursery, backyard poultry, urea briquette unit, dairy section, etc. were visited.

He also visited ICAR-ATARI, Pune and said that establishing new institution is a challenge. With very limited human resource, it is very good starting.
Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Pune motivated the KVK experts to make it as replicable model. Considering agro-ecology, difficult terrain and socio-economic condition of farmers, the interventions may be designed. Convergence with ATMA and other line department agencies is to be strengthened. Soil health management was also focussed. A need for Centre of Excellence of Fruit Crops at the KVK was demanded by Shri Anil Meher, Chairman, Gramonnati Mandal, Narayangaon. Shri Prashant Shete, the Head, KVK coordinated the program.

Source: Director, ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune