A three days Workshop on Cluster Frontline Demonstrations on Oilseeds and Pulses in Maharashtra was organized by ICAR-ATARI, Pune during 16-18 January, 2018 at KVK, Solapur-I. In this workshop, 44 KVKs were participated representing Vadarbha, Marathwada, Western Maharashtra and Konkan regions of Maharashtra. A critical review the interim progress for the year 2017-18 and action plan 2018-19 of cluster front line demonstrations on oilseeds and pulses under NFSM and NMOOP was done. Technological backstopping by ICAR institutes and SAU was also taken up.

In inaugural session, Dr Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Pune gave more thrust on adopting resource conservation technologies including drip irrigation, raised bed technology, mulching, intercropping and drought resistant varieties of oilseed and pulses. He said that proper planning, addressing location specific problems, developing district specific technology modules, critical monitoring and evaluations, developing data base and sharing successful cases among other farmers is required. Small video clipings of successful interventions should be developed and shared at different platforms. Dr K.D. Kokate, former DDG (Agril Extension), ICAR and Director Extension Education, MPKV, Rahuri highlighted the concept of frontline demonstrations and emphasized the need of soil health management. He stated that model KVKs should be visited by others to learn more and more.

Dr. S. G. Bhave, Director Extension Education, BSKKV, Dapoli enlightened the participants on the need of innovative extension through integrated efforts. Dr. P.G. Ingole, Director Extension Education, VNMAU, Parbhani highlighted the salient achievements of cluster frontline demonstrations undertaken by the KVK, should also study the horizontal spread of technologies in the clusters in next few years. Climate resilient technologies evolved by SAU and ICAR institutes should be included under interventions. Mr. P. J. Gaikwad, Chairman, SKP, Solapur stressed that the farmer centric extension is need of the time by recalling example of capsicum cultivation in his own village.

During the programme a special session for technological backstopping was organized. Dr. S. B. Pawar, Associate Director of Research, NARP, Aurangabad; Dr. N. Sudhakara Babu, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad; Dr. J. D. Jadhav, Agro Meteorologist, NARP, Solapur and Dr. S. Fadtare, Incharge AICRP, Solapur delivered lectures on good agricultural practices in oilseed and pulses and climate resilient technologies. In this workshop, latest and usable technologies were recommended like BDN-711 and BDN-716 cultivars of pigeonpea; strip planting 5x2 feet (4356 plants/acre), 6x1 feet (7260 plants/acre); inter-cropping with bajra (1:2), soybean (1: 3), maize (1: 2); seed treatment with rhizobium, PSB, Bio-mix; drip irrigation and fertigation (low cost drip system Rs. 5000/acre); use disease resistant variety, PMID, NSKE 5%, HNPV, bird perches, trap crop. Phule Vikram (machine harvesting), Digvijay, JAKI-9218; planting on ridge and furrow (10 kg seed/acre) or BBF method with drip irrigation; foliar application of 2 % Potassium nitrite at flowering and pod development stage. Multi micro nutrient 5 ml/liter water was suggested. In soybean, MAUS-158, MAUS-162 (Machine harvesting), DS-228, KDS-344, MACS-1188’ planting method: BBF method with drip irrigation; square bunding (10 X 10 m heavy soil, 6 X 6 m medium soil); foliar application of 2 % urea at flowering and 0:52:34 at pod development stage and use of multi micronutrient 5 ml/liter water were emphasized.

Publications brought out by KVKs (Solapur-I, Latur, Jalna and Nasik-I) of Maharashtra were released and four award winner farmers of KVK, Solapur-I were felicitated. Dr. L.R. Tambade, Head, KVK, Solapur and Dr D.V. Kolekar coordinated the programe.

Source: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune