

Annual Zonal Workshop 2021 of ATARI Kolkata, Zone V

6th & 7th July, 2021, Kolkata

The ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone - V, Kolkata, West Bengal virtually organized the "Annual Zonal Workshop for the KVKs of Zone - V spread across the states of Odisha & West Bengal and Union territory of A&N Islands" on 6th & 7th of July, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Agril. Extension), ICAR, five Vice-Chancellor of state agricultural universities as well deemed to be university. Directors of ICAR institutes having KVK, Directors of ICAR-ATARIs, Head of host organization, Director/Dean of SAU, Head of KVKs and all staff of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata including Director and five Principal Scientists attended the meeting. After a brief welcome address, the Director of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata Dr. S.K. Roy presented an overview of salient achievements of the zone as well as involvement of ATARI, Kolkata and 59 KVKs in various flagship programmes.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR emphasised on the incubation centre by KVKs which will lead to processing and value addition of agriculture product so that movement of processing and value addition spread across the country. He stressed on sustainable/conservation agricultural practices by focussing on organic farming, mutual farming and zero budget agriculture. He proposed the KVKs to tap the potentiality of indigenous breeds of cattle and form a model of the same in 50 KVKs. The aspect of nutri garden requires integration of more number of crops and at household level. Regarding *Nutri thali* he suggested to prepare recipe according to the crop available in the locality. KVKs should maintain 4-5 demonstration models in the campus for more visibility to farmers. He also enlightened the house about the Digital platform- *Kisan Sarthi* which connects with the farmers through two way communication. He told the house to prioritise the need of the districts to provide the required support to the farming community. He emphasised to address and identify the potential areas like production, value addition etc by forming a group of KVKs according to the agro ecological situation.

Dr. C. Guha, Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, West Bengal observed that KVKs are outreach arm of ICAR for growth and development in this pandemic situation to maintain good human health, agriculture and economics. Dr. S.K. Chakraborty, Vice-Chancellor, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya appreciated the work of KVKs for developing agri entrepreneurs, adoption of conservation agriculture like zero tillage cultivation. He advised to have two KVKs in all districts for expanding the activities of KVK.

Dr. B.S. Mahapatra, Vice-Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya said that the KVKs are backbone of agriculture in the country. He lauded the performance of KVKs under BCKV with a word of precaution not to be



complacent.

Dr. P.K. Agrawal, Vice-Chancellor, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar, Odisha highlighted the roles being played by the KVKs in training 22000 farmers. He reiterated the need of NPS/Pension, post retirement benefits and providing jobs for the family members for the KVK personnel lost their life during the ongoing pandemic. Dr. Swami Atmapriyananda, Pro-Chancellor, Ramkrishana Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute advocates for indigenous farming technologies with organic farming blended with chemicals.

There was a panel discussion chaired by Dr. Randhir Singh, ADG, Agriculture Extension, ICAR and Co- chaired by Dr. S.K. Roy, Director ATARI Kolkata along with participation of Dean and Directors of Extension Education of Host Organization mainly discussed administrative issues.

On the second half of first day and 2nd day of workshop technical session were carried out for 59 KVKs highlighting the achievement report of KVKs of 2020 and action plan of 2021.

The concluding session was addressed by Dr. R. Singh, ADG (AE). He stressed on the feedback by the farmers, to develop question banks from them, to understand the agro-ecological problems faced by the farmers and their solutions, to maintain the same in a database, ODOP, diversification of horticulture, development of smart village, value chain and value addition. He reiterated on availability of quality seed, planting material and fingerling to farmers.

There was unveiling of one book on performance of climate resilient technologies and six technical bulletins in vernacular languages by Hon'ble dignitaries. .

(Source: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone - V, Kolkata, West Bengal)