

**Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs of ATARI Kolkata and Patna organized at UBKV,
Coochbehar on 8-10 June, 2019**

ICAR-ATARI कोलकाता और पटना के कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों की वार्षिक जोनल वर्कशॉप 8-10 जून, 2019 को UBKV, कूचबिहार, पश्चिम बंगाल में आयोजित

Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs of ATARI Kolkata and Patna was jointly organized by ICAR-ATARI Kolkata, ICAR-ATARI Patna and UBKV, Coochbehar during 08-10 June, 2019 at Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Coochbehar, West Bengal. In this program, 127 KVKs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (3), Bihar (44), Jharkhand (24), Odisha (33) and West Bengal (23) participated and presented their progress report (2018-19) and action plan (2019-20).

Prof. C. Chattopadhyay, Vice Chancellor, UBKV, in his welcome address, put forth the salient achievements of the University and its KVKs in shaping the agriculture in northern part of West Bengal.

In his inaugural address, Dr. A. K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, said “KVKs are to emerge as a Single Stop Shop at district level to cater to every need of the farmer ranging from information, technology and inputs to marketing”. Dr. Singh emphasized upon the need for KVKs to embrace the ICT for reaching to more and more farmers as well as to develop competence for preparing business plan. He also mentioned about the implementation of already chalked out work plan for doubling farmers’ income, expansion of village coverage in Aspirational districts, training of FPOs as well as switching the focus from production to processing aspect. Dr. Singh further made a mention about the development of Integrated Farming System models through KVKs, post-harvest management and marketing etc.

Prof. P. Biswas, Vice Chancellor, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Kolkata, in his address, pronounced the need of putting more and more emphasis on livestock and fishery sector for enhanced livelihood security specifically in eastern Indian states.

Prof. D.D. Patra, Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, West Bengal emphasized upon the need for creating more consciousness for role of micronutrients in maintenance of soil health and fertility as well as reaching to more number of farmers in the district by respective KVKs.

Shri Subrata Mandal, Chief General Manager, NABARD gave insight into the need of training of FPO heads for preparing business plans and using Internet of Things (IoT) in agriculture.

Dr. S.S. Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Patna presented the achievements of the respective zones for the year 2018-19.

Ten publications relating to doubling farmers’ income, success cases and ARYA published by two ATARIs, UBKV and KVKs etc. were released during the occasion.

During the workshop, one special session was organized on 09 June, 2019 in which Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (AE) delivered the key note address. Dr. Singh expressed his satisfaction on the assessment reports on impact study of KVKs by IFPRI, NILERD as well as reviews by Central Ministers.

However, he urged the KVKs to take appropriate interventions towards doubling farmers' income, full-proof implementation of various programmes like Aspirational districts, Knowledge Systems and Homestead Agriculture Management in Tribal Areas (KSHAMTA), Value Addition and Technology Incubation Centers in Agriculture (VATICA), Nutri-sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) etc. He also emphasized upon working towards improvement of KVK rankings in coming days. Dr. Singh also cited certain major breakthroughs made by KVKs like enhancing pulse production, crop residue management, Kadaknath poultry breed, mainstreaming indigenous knowledge, climate resilience, Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan, intensification and optimization of rice-wheat system etc.

Earlier, one special session was also organized in which Dr. Alka Arora, Principal Scientist, ICARIASRI, New Delhi, delivered a lecture on the utility and operationalization of KVK Portal by introducing KVKs with the newer and modern functionalities of the Portal and usefulness of the Portal besides its linking with DBT Bharat Portal and stringent monitoring at the highest level.

The Deans, Directors of Extension Education and HoDs from SAUs of Zone IV and V attended the three days Workshop of KVKs. Among others, scientists of ATARI Kolkata, other nearby ICAR institutes and faculty members were also present.

After the inauguration, the KVKs presented their progress report and action plan in six concurrent technical sessions.

In his valedictory address, Prof. C. Chattopadhyay emphasized on need for working upon the factor productivity issue and publication in foreign journals by KVKs. Earlier, the rapporteurs of various sessions presented the outcome of respective technical sessions held during the workshop. Some of the KVK publications were also released by the galaxy of dignitaries during this session.

The workshop ended with thanks to the Chairs.



[Source: ICAR-ATARI Kolkata]