

## Virtual Annual Zonal Workshop of ATARI, Hyderabad

25.07.2020

Shri Kailash Choudhary ji, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare inaugurated the 3-day virtual annual zonal workshop of KVKs under ATARI, Hyderabad. While appreciating the highlights of annual progress of the zone presented by Dr Y.G. Prasad, Director, ATARI and the unabated field extension being done by KVKs in the midst of COVID 19 pandemic situation, Shri Choudhary ji emphasized on strengthening the digital connect between KVKs, farmers and rural youth. The foremost priority is achieving the target of doubling farmers income (DFI) by 2022 set by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. These DFI villages are to become model hubs of learning for farmers from other villages. KVKs are to create awareness among farmers on Atma Nirbhar Bharat, promote climate resilient agriculture, integrated farming systems and organic farming. KVK scientists to study the FPO guidelines for their active involvement, focus on attracting youth into agriculture, seed production, cluster demonstrations on oilseeds, post-harvest technologies and agro-tourism.

Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR while complimenting the good work being done by KVKs in Zone-X, emphasized on technology-led change in farmers income coupled with crop diversification and integrated farming systems. He urged the state governments to adopt and replicate the models of climate resilient villages demonstrated by ICAR. He advised KVK scientists to adopt sensor-based agriculture, drones and use of IOT technologies for productivity enhancement and linking farmers to markets and building farmers database at the district level.

Dr A.K. Singh, DDG (AE), ICAR reiterated that KVKs should focus on precision farming, value addition, connecting with common service centres, promotion of nutri-gardens, skill training and entrepreneurship involving youth.



Dr (Smt.) Poonam Malakaondaiah, Special Chief Secretary to Government of AP and VC, SVVU spoke on technical backstopping of KVKs to the recently established farmer service centres (RBKs) in Andhra Pradesh. Dr N. Kumar, VC, TNAU informed that all the 38 vacant scientific positions in KVKs of TNAU have been filled. Dr V. Praveen Rao, VC, PJTSAU urged the KVKs to involve in resource mapping at the district level, digitization and analysis of data, strengthening of farm mechanization, IFS, FPOs and value addition in pulses, millets and oilseeds.

Several publications were released and new website of ATARI, Hyderabad (<https://atari-hyderabad.icar.gov.in>) was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State.

Several suggestions emerged in the panel discussion on technology backstopping and strengthening of KVKs to combat the challenges posed by COVID 19 pandemic by panelists Dr C. Balachandra, VC, TANUVAS, Dr T. Janakiram, VC, Dr YSRHU, Dr A. Srinivasan, VC, TNJFU, Dr G. Ravindra Chary, Director, ICAR-CRIDA, Dr D. Damodar Reddy, Director, ICAR-CTRI, Dr A. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Director, ICAR-IIOR, Dr Ravi, PS, ICAR-CIBA, Dr N. Kumar, VC, TNAU and Dr V. Praveen Rao, VC, PJTSAU.

Directors of Extension Education of 9 SAUs and ATARI nodal officers reviewed the work done and action plan presented by 71 Heads of KVKs.

Dr N. Kumar, VC, TNAU and Dr S.N. Puri, former VC, CAU, Imphal and Chairman, QRT for southern zone awarded certificates to KVKs in 20 categories in the plenary session. Dr Y.G. Prasad, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad presented the proceedings of the workshop. Dr JV Prasad and Dr A. Bhaskaran, Principal Scientists coordinated the conduct of virtual annual zonal workshop.

*(Submitted by ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Hyderabad)*