

## **Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa Organized by ATARI, Pune 5-7 May 2018**

Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs was organized by ICAR-ATARI, Pune during 5-7 May, 2018 at MPKV, Rahuri. In this program, 79 KVKs of Maharashtra (47), Gujarat (30) and Goa (2) participated and presented their progress (2017-18) and action plan (2018-19). For technological backstopping, 8 ICAR institutes (NIASM, Baramati; NRCP, Solapur; NRCG, Pune; DFR, Pune; CICR, Nagpur; CCRI, Nagpur; DOGR, Pune and CRIDA, Hyderabad) shared their usable technologies to make fast technology flow to the farmers. Directors of Extension Education of 6 State Agricultural Universities also attended the program.

The Chief Guest Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (Agril Extension), ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the zonal workshop and urged the Heads of KVKs for taking appropriate interventions towards increasing farmers income. His main concern was on maintaining soil health, proper use of water and inputs, reducing farm level stress, strengthening convergence, etc. KVK acts as knowledge and resource centre for agricultural technology. The centre should showcase the frontier technologies for the farmers and make visibility in the district. Each village should be digitally connected. More attention was given on farmer centric research, assessing location specificity of agricultural technologies under varied farming situations. Knowledge Systems and Homestead Agriculture Management in Tribal Areas (KSHAMTA) to achieve balanced growth and economic development, Nutri-sensitive Agricultural Research and Innovations (NARI), Value Addition and Technology Incubation Centers in Agriculture (VATICA) are the new programs to be implemented by KVKs.

Dr. K. P. Viswanatha, Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri said that KVK is the best model for technology application and dissemination. KVK has a major role to play for doubling farmers' income. KVKs need to popularize the best suited Integrated Farming System (IFS) models for sustaining income of the farmers.

Dr. V. P. Chahal, ADG (Agril. Extension), ICAR, New Delhi said that KVKs need to decide targets to achieve, making KVK commercially viable and providing quality facilities to the farmers. KVKs need to sensitize farmers on reducing cost of cultivation. He focused on high value crops, on farm processing, implementation of innovative ideas and team work of KVKs. Extension models should be developed by State Agricultural Universities. Mentor KVK may be identified based on performance and leadership of head to sensitize other KVKs. The centre should lead in the district.

Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Pune presented a brief account of one year progress. His major concern was on reducing farm level stress, documenting farm innovations, developing alternative models for small and marginal farmers, promoting farmer producer organizations, strengthening convergence with different agencies, having functional demonstration units at the centre, etc. The host organization should have ownership of KVK for making it exemplary and visible in the district. Dr. K. D. Kokate, Director Extension Education, MPKV, Rahuri highlighted the present scenario of agriculture and role of KVKs under changing circumstances. Block level contingency plan, impact assessment, few examples of IFS models for sustaining farmers' profit was shared. Dr. S. Prabhukumar, Ex-Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru focused on advance planning based on whole farming system and farmer's needs.

For technological backstopping, Dr. N.P. Singh, Director, NIASM, Baramati for abiotic stress management; Dr. S.D. Sawant, Director, NRC on Grapes; Dr. Jyotsana Sharma, Director, NRC on Pomegranate, Solapur; Dr. S. Prabhukumar, Ex-Director, ATARI, Bengaluru Dr. S. S. Gadge, DOGR, Pune; Dr. Navin Kumar of DFR, Pune; Dr. A. D. Huchche, CCRI, Nagpur; Dr. C. Ramarao, CRIDA, Hyderabad and Mr Mathew made presentations. Dr. A. L. Pharande, Dean; Dr. S.R. Gadakh, Director Research, MPKV, Rahuri; Dr. P.G. Ingole, Dr. Arun Patel, Dr. T.A. Thakkar, Dr. D.M. Mankar, Dr. A.M. Parakhia and Dr. P.B. Kharde were present during event.

Source: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune