

Capacity Building of Home Science Experts of KVKs in Maharashtra

27-29 November, 2017

A three days programme on '*Capacity Building of Home Science Experts*' was jointly organized by ICAR-ATARI, Pune and KVK, Jalna at Jalna during 27-29 November, 2017. In this training 30 Subject Matter Specialists (Home Science) belonging to 30 KVKs from Vidarbha, Marathwada, Western Maharashtra and Konkan region covering 22 districts of Maharashtra were participated. In inaugural address, Dr. V.P. Chahal, ADG (Agril Extension), ICAR, New Delhi highlighted the changing role of Home Science experts in shifting agriculture scenario. He said that she can work with other KVK experts in collaborative mode. Focus on nutrition sensitive agriculture, entrepreneurship development, drudgery reduction, promoting income generating activities, quality skill development training, convergence with other agencies, post harvest processing and value addition, etc. was given. Projects from RKVY, food industry and other organisations may be taken up for giving more attention on scientific work and resources generation at the centre.

In his presidential address, Shri Vijay Anna Borade, PD, KVK, Jalna told that keeping in view the role and contribution of women in agriculture, there is a need to re-visit the training mandate. Farm women are more able to face any difficult situation in farming, animal husbandry and household livelihood security. Home scientists working in KVKs should not limit them only up to nutrition and drudgery but also need to look into the livelihood enhancement of rural women. Considering the climate hazards, KVK, Jalna has decided to promote mulberry plantation in mission mode which is only the crop to face any adverse climatic situation. Sericulture can accommodate more rural women in agriculture by reduced drudgery which is an important mandate of home science. Farmers are earning around Rs. 3 lakh from one acre mulberry crop by rearing silkworms.

Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR, ATARI, Pune said that KVK's mandate is all-round development of the village. All the KVK staff needs to work together with this common objective. Each staff should work with other staff members in cooperative and collaborative manner. Farmer plays multiple roles. He is an engineer, he is an agronomist, he is an entomologist, he is pathologist, and he is farm manager, processor and also a seller. In the same way, each staff of KVK needs to provide integrated technical advice to farmers in all aspects of agriculture. The home scientist should be involved as the Co-trainer for all subject matter trainings. Time utilization pattern of farm women need to be developed and training areas identified. Inter-gender work load, training need assessment, training course development for specific clientele groups are needed. Nutritional garden at the centre, technology flow from SAUs/ICAR institutes, visibility through highlighting successful cases and interventions may be given more focus.

In this course, the home scientists were oriented about changing roles, technological options, identifying personal strength, target setting behaviour and achievement motivation syndrome through simulation games, interaction with successful farm women innovators.

Dr. (Mrs) HL Sarambekar, Associate Dean; Dr. (Mrs) Vijaya Nalawade, Head, College of Home Science, VNMKV, Parbhani; Dr. D. Uma Maheshwar Rao, Entrepreneurial Motivation Trainer; Dr. BY Kulkarni; Dr. Priyanka Jadhav; Dr. AD Pathak; Dr. Dilip Hoke, Assistant Director (Sericulture) dealt different components of the training. Smt Sitabai Mohite, an entrepreneur shared her successful case of entrepreneurship development. Dr. SV Sonune, Head of KVK, Jalna and Dr (Mrs) Sangeeta, SMS (Home Science) coordinated the program.

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