

Cluster Frontline Demonstrations on Pulses and Oilseeds of 30 Gujarat KVKs Reviewed by ATARI, Pune

A 3 days **Workshop-cum-Training on Cluster Front Line Demonstrations on Pulses and Oilseeds** for 30 KVKs of Gujarat was jointly organized by ICAR-ATARI, Pune and NAU, Navsari during 29-31 January, 2018.

The Vice Chancellor (Dr. C.J. Dangaria) Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari remain present as Chief Guest on 29th January, 2018. In his speech, major thrust was given to organize the frontline demonstrations in scientific manner. He said that following cluster approach is the best way for technology application. He also advised the KVK experts to identify the major problems of the farmers and provide alternative solutions after experimentation at KVK level.

Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Pune highlighted significance of following farmer centric approach. He stated that proper identification of potential areas for pulses and oilseed crops, diagnosis of real problems, developing location specific technology modules, selection of willing farmers, empowering the participating farmers to conduct demonstrations in scientific way, training the farmers to record daily observations of crops/interventions, regular supervision of plots by the KVK experts, making the cluster demonstration as platform for real transformational training. Small video clippings may be developed. Field day at appropriate time may be organized where all line departments, research institutions and nearby farmers may be invited for further large scale adoption. Initiative for enriching soil health may also be taken.

Integrating research, extension and user system is essentially required as stated by former Director Extension (Dr RB Patel), NAU, Navsari. He told that success of any extension program is depending on obtaining and utilizing technical feedback of farmers. The philosophy of KVK is very good, but it should not be diluted by making them overburdened. KVKs are only the farm science centres working in between research organizations and general extension system. The KVK is providing different well tested extension methodologies, doing on farm experimentation and developing capacity of different stakeholders.

Dr. G.R. Patel, Director Extension and Dr. S.R. Chaudhary, Director Research of NAU, Navsari gave more focus to choose latest pulses and oilseed production and protection technologies under demonstrations. Reducing cost of cultivation and adopting resource conservation technologies for making farming more profitable was emphasized.

Dr. V.M. Patel, Pulses Expert highlighted major technologies of pulse crops especially pigeonpea, chickpea, mungbean and urdbean. Raised bed method of sowing, green manuring, bio-fertilizer for pulses was emphasized. Pigeonpea early maturing cultivars GT 100, GT 101, GT 103, BDN 711, medium duration varieties BDN-2, Vaishali (high yielding, Indeterminate type, less incidence of pod borer due to red flower, performed well in dry land), GNP-2 (dual purpose harvesting, more market value due to green pod color) along with its important characteristics were suggested. Varieties of mungbean like Meha (resistance of YVM), GAM 5, GNM 6 (short duration and synchronized maturity), as well as Co 4 and GBM 1 for rabi season; Chickpea varieties, GJG 5 (green pod in irrigated condition), GJG 6 (in rainfed condition), nipping at 25 to 30 and 40 to 45 days after sowing was recommended to attain higher return. GU 1 variety of urdbean crop and GW 1, GW 2, GNIB 21 were advised to include in action plan.

In different technical sessions, progress of cluster frontline demonstrations on pulses and oilseeds was critically reviewed by the expert reviewers. In this workshop, the progress of 3 Farmer FIRST centres (MPKV, Rahuri; JAU, Junagadh and NAU Navsari) and 2 ARYA centres were also reviewed. Orientation training for linking all the villages of each district of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa under ICAR-TCS Collaboration for Digitalization of Farmers Imitative Program was done by Mr Nandan, Tata Consultancy Services. The workshop was coordinated by Dr GR Patel and Dr DV Kolekar

Source: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune

