

National Workshop on Empowering Farmers of Tribal Areas- Preliminary Report

7-8 June, 2017

Venue: NASC, Complex, New Delhi



**Division of Agricultural Extension
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
New Delhi**

Proceedings of National Workshop on Empowering Farmers of Tribal Areas

The Agricultural Extension Division of ICAR organized a two days “National Workshop on Empowering Farmers of Tribal Areas” during 07-08 June 2017 at AP Shinde Symposium Hall, NASC Complex, New Delhi. The major focus areas for deliberations during the workshop include diversification, income generation, resource and bio-diversity conservation, value addition and institution building during four technical sessions viz. Technological Interventions in Tribal Areas, Experiences of KVKs in empowering farmers, Sharing Experiences of farmers and Panel Discussion on Future Road Map for Empowering Farmers. The workshop was attended by more than 250 participants including special invitees representing different social organizations; senior officers of ICAR; Vice Chancellors and Directors of selected State Agricultural Universities; Directors and scientists of selected ICAR Institutes; Senior Scientists and Heads / Subject Matter Specialists of 125 KVKs of Tribal Areas; and selected farmers from Tribal areas from different parts of the country.



Chief Guest of the programme Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India Shri Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the workshop on 07/06/2017 at 3 pm in the afternoon. In his address he commended the work done by the KVKs in tribal areas. He emphasized that the KVKs should align their activities keeping in view farmers' needs and priorities of Government like, increasing the income of farmers, soil health management, production of oilseeds and pulsed, etc. during his address. He exhorted the KVK scientists to

work with dedicated approach. He lauded the KVKs for demonstrating the production potentials of pulses and oilseeds through Cluster Frontline Demonstrations. Hon'ble minister advised the KVKs for taking advantage of digitization process and upload all the activities done by KVKs and other information of farmers' use on KVK Portal. He assured the KVK system of full support from Government of India in developing the facilities and infrastructure necessary for carrying out the mandated activities.

An exhibition on different products and genetic materials from tribal areas was organized by the participating KVKs during this workshop.



Technical session-I: Technological Interventions in Tribal Areas

The session was co-chaired by Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG (Agril. Extension), ICAR and Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Ex-Chairman, PPVFRA, New Delhi. A total of nine speakers made presentations during the session namely, Tribal Development issues by Dr Gajanan Dange, President YOJAK, Pune; Experiences of NAIP in Empowering Farming Community in Tribal Areas by Dr. P. S. Pandey, ADG (EP&HS), Agricultural Education Division, ICAR; Land Based Development Approaches in Empowering Farming Community in Tribal Areas by Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-NBS&LUP, Nagpur; Horticulture Based Interventions in Empowering Farming Community in Tribal Areas by Dr. H.S. Singh, Head, ICAR-CHES, Bhubaneswar; Farm Women Empowerment in Tribal Areas by Dr. Charles Jeeva, Sr Scientist, ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar;

Protection of Farmers' Varieties & their Rights in Tribal Areas by Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Ex-Chairman, PPVFRA, New Delhi; Building capacity of Farmers of Tribal Areas in NEH Region by Dr. Ph. Ranjit Sharma, Prof. & Head, Genetics and Plant Breeding, CAU, Imphal; Sustainable Farming for Empowering Farming Community in Island Areas by Dr. S. Dam Roy, Director, ICAR-CARI, Port Blair; and Livestock Interventions for Empowering Farming Community in Tribal Areas by Dr. Mahesh Chander, Head, Extension, ICAR-IVRI, Bareilly.

Technical Session – II Experiences of KVKs in Empowering Farmers

The session was divided into two sub sessions. The first sub session was co-chaired by Dr. V P Chahal, ADG (AE), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. Anupam Mishra, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Jabalpur. Heads of eight KVKs made presentations during the session namely, KVK Kinnaur- Doubling of tribal farmer's income through KVK intervention in Apple Production; KVK Leh- Revolutionizing vegetable cultivation through farming in cold dessert; KVK Rajouri- KVK at the doorsteps of tribal farmer's in Jammu region; KVK Gumla- Salient achievement under TSP; KVK Dhemaji- Achievements/ Activities undertaken for tribal farmers; KVK Ri-Bhoi- Achievements/ Activities undertaken for tribal farmers; KVK South Sikkim- Achievements/ Activities undertaken for tribal farmers; and KVK Nandurbar- Successful Group approaches for ensuring livelihood security.



The second sub-session was co-chaired by Dr. AK Singh, VC, BAU, Sabour and Dr BC Deka, Director, ATARI, Barapani. One Director of Extension and eight Heads of KVKs made presentations during the session namely, DES IGKV Raipur- Backyard Poultry Kadaknath for Livelihood Security of Tribal Farmers; KVK Jabalpur- Lac cultivation: Entrepreneurial opportunities for Tribals; KVK Ambikapur-Marketing of Local Scented Rice through SHGs; KVK Valsad- Livelihood improvement of Tribal through KVK interventions; KVK Navsari- Holistic Development of Tribal farmers through KVK; KVK Ranchi- Significant achievement under TSP, KVK Baksa- Achievements/ Activities undertaken for tribal farmers; KVK Lunglei- Achievements/ Activities undertaken for tribal farmers; and KVK East Godavari- Skill and entrepreneurial development of tribal farmers in East and Godavari district of AP under TSP

Panel Discussion on Future Road Map for Empowering Farmers

The session was chaired by Dr. Trilochan Mahaparta, Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR) and co-chaired by Dr. Gajanan Dange, President, YOJAK, Pune. Dr. Suresh Pal, Director, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi was convener of the session. Nene panelists namely, Shri Alok Gupta, GB Member, ICAR; Shri Satish Marathe, Sahakar Bharati; Shri Jayant Sahasrbuddhe, Vijanana Bharati; Shri Neelesh Kulkarni, Lead India; Shri Manoj Solanki, Akshay Krushi Parivar; Shri Kapil Sahasrbuddhe, Green India Mission; Shri Amitabh Vashisht, DRI, Delhi; Dr Vivek Kumar, IIT Delhi; and Dr. S. K. Dhyani Pr. Scientist, NRM Division, ICAR & Former Director, NCAF, Jhansi.

Technical Session –III: Sharing Experiences of farmers

The session was co-chaired by Dr. Randhir Singh, ADG (AE), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. S. V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani. A total of ten farmers from tribal areas shared their experiences. They were Chamba Farmer- Prosperity of tribal farmers through Protective Cultivation; Shri Somsai Oraon- Piggery based IFS; Shri Baleshwar Bedia- Lac Cultivation; Shri Puspadhar Das- Farm Mechanization/ SRI in Rice Cultivation; Shri Kynshew Dapsuk Kharkrang- Integrated Farming System; Shri Shankerbhai L. Patel- Boosting the paddy yield through SRI technology; Smt. Rajashreeben V. Patel- Introduction of short duration high value crop; Shri Shivnath Yadav- Conservation of Plant Varieties; Shri Kamal Kishor Kashyap- Livelihood Security; and Shri Bansilal Amrut Govut- Success story of a tribal a farmer on Integrated Farming System.



Valedictory Session

The chief guest of Valedictory session was Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The session was chaired by Dr R. S. Paroda, Chairman TASS & Former Secretary DARE & DG ICAR.

Major Recommendations:

- Community/group focused approach is needed for successful interventions in tribal areas.
- There is need to make application of modern agricultural techniques in the tribal areas also so that the quality of life of tribes could be uplifted up to a satisfactory level.
- Institutional arrangements keeping the farmers in center needed for development in tribal areas.
- Documentation and validation of traditional knowledge and biodiversity in tribal areas is required.
- Conservation of natural resources of tribal areas.
- There is a need for popularizing horticulture based farming systems for ensuring nutritional security among the tribal population.
- Secondary horticulture needs to be popularized for income enhancement in tribal areas.

- Organic farming need to be promoted in tribal areas by establishing market linkages through involvement of different stakeholders for providing better returns to the farmers.
- There is need for up-scaling the innovating Extension methods evolved based on successful experience and may be replicated in other areas.
- Convergence with state department of Agriculture and other agencies for effective implementation of interventions of program need to be emphasized.
- KVKs are only front line Extension, and therefore responsibility of up-scaling technologies to the farmers rests with main Extension system.
- Impact of diversified enterprises have emerged during the presentations which can be replicated for enhancing income of farmers.
- ICAR may organize an Interface with knowledge management institutes like CSIR, DBT, DST, IITs, IIMs involving all panelist to develop a roadmap for any joint research and development efforts.
- A brainstorming workshop for KVKs could be organized at National level to give them opportunity for open discussion to formulate a strategy for tribal areas.
- Partnering KVKs with NGOs and PACS in tribal areas for speed and scale.
- Formation of cluster of entrepreneurs at village level for enhancing the collective bargaining of the rural entrepreneurs.
- Scientific interventions in tribal areas should be blended with traditional knowledge bank with all working agencies.
- Agro-ecological zone wise water management models and adaptation strategy could be formulated by different knowledge partners.
- For doubling the farmers income agriculture allied activities such as lac cultivation and processing, bee keeping, backyard poultry, grading, processing and value addition need to be upscaled in the tribal areas.
- Group based approaches for entrepreneurial development such as FPOs and FIGs need to be promoted in the tribal areas.
- Location specific IFS models need to be promoted in the tribal areas for ensuring sustainable livelihood.
- Traditional crop varieties must be conserved through registration under PPV&FRA.
- Protected cultivation of flowers in hilly areas need to be promoted to enhance export potential.