In recognition of the tremendous advantages to be gained by the world growing and eating more pulses, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. Positioning pulses as a primary source of protein and other essential nutrients, is the aim of IYP 2016. Major focus in this regard in India is to enhance productivity of pulses from the current 800kg/ha up to 1 t/ha as directed by DG, ICAR.

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Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana

KYVs in Karnataka organised one-day farmer fair during 30 March to 05 April 2016 for creating awareness about PMFBY. The awareness fairs were inaugurated by the Honourable Members of Parliament of the respective constituencies. Farmers were explained about the PMFBY by experts. Literature in local language was also provided to the farmers.

Cluster FLDs on pulses under NFSM

ICAR-ATARI, Bangalore has implemented a project entitled cluster FLDs on rabi pulses under NFSM 2015 wherein a total of 1680 demonstrations on Chickpea, Blackgram and Greengram were laid out by 52 KVKs in an area of 672 ha. Keeping in view of 2016 as the International Year of Pulses, a proposal on cluster FLDs on pulses has already been submitted for 2016-17 so as to harness the productivity and production of major pulse crops viz., pigeonpea, chick-pea, blackgram and greengram.
Shri M. B. Ravi of Anagodu in Davanagere district, Karnataka is a farmer educated up to pre-university level. He cultivates crops like pomegranate, arecanut, vegetables, maize and red gram. Recently his story was telecast as public hero in a Kannada news channel for developing a bird scaring device. The device helps to drive away birds which otherwise feed on crops like pomegranates, tomato, sunflower, jowar etc. It is an eco-friendly device, which does not harm the birds but scares them away from the crop field by making sound. Such 3-4 units of bird scaring device would be sufficient to drive away birds from an agricultural land of one acre.

Materials required for constructing the bird scaring device are, two poles of 4 feet length and 3 inches thickness (preferably bamboo), two iron rods with 4 bolts and 4 nuts, one table fan wing, one dafli (percussion instrument) and one old cycle tube and one old micro tube. Once the device is constructed the whole thing can be tied at any suitable height looking at the wind direction. Even a speed of 5-7 km per hour is sufficient to operate the device. With the breezing wind, the fan starts rotating and the micro tube starts to beat the dafli continuously. This sound in tandem will keep any bird or animal at bay. Cost of the whole unit is about Rs. 2000. Shri Ravi can be contacted on +91 9980998890.

First KVK Symposium, Zone VIII (KVKSYMZONEVIII)

ICAR-ATARI Bengaluru and Directorate of Extension, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad jointly organized the First KVK Symposium zone VIII (KVKSYMZONEVIII) on 21st January, 2016 at UAS, Dharwad. The Symposium was organized to provide a platform for the scientists/ Subject Matter Specialists of KVKs to present and analyze the data generated as a part of their work. The two day symposium consisted of six technical sessions viz., socio economic aspects of technology dissemination, pest and disease management, production management, innovative technology delivery mechanisms, varietal evaluation and resource conservation technologies. About 100 Subject Matter Specialists from KVKs of Zone VIII participated in the symposium and a total of 34 oral and 96 posters were presented. The Symposium acted as a platform for cross learning for the participants.
ARYA Convention Meet

ARYA Convention meet was held on 27th January 2016 at NASC New Delhi. It was jointly organized by ICAR and All India Agricultural Student’s Association, New Delhi. Officials from ICAR-ATARI-Bengaluru, Programme Coordinators and farmers from KVK Bengaluru Rural and KVK Kanyakumari participated along with a few young farmers. KVK Bengaluru Rural displayed major value-added products made of ragi and other minor millets in the registration venue. Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Honourable Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare participated in the convention and addressed the audience. He stressed the need for attracting youth towards agriculture as the country has the largest young human resource. About 400 participants including scientists, farmers and rural youth attended the convention.

Workshop-cum-Training on Pulses under NFSM

Two workshops-cum-trainings were conducted on pulses under NFSM by ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru. Details are as under:

(a) KVK, Kalaburagi: A two-day workshop cum training programme on pulses under NFSM was held during 21-22 December, 2015 at KVK, Kalaburagi under the Chairmanship of Dr. J.R. Patil, Campus Head & Dean (Agri.), UAS(R), Kalaburagi. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. D.P. Mallik, Additional Commissioner (crops), DAFW, Government of India. The workshop was attended by 55 participants from KVKs implementing cluster FLDs on Rabi pulses in Karnataka, officials from Dept. of Agriculture in the districts of respective KVKs, Scientists from ARS, Kalaburagi and ICAR-ATARI, Bangalore. Technical sessions covered in detail about the current pulse production trend and future prospects of pulses, latest varieties of pulses and their salient features, crop improvement technologies in pulses.

(b) KVK, Madurai: A two-day workshop cum training programme on pulses under NFSM was held during 28-29 January, 2016 at Agricultural College and Research Institute (AC & RI) of TNAU, Madurai under the Chairmanship of Dr. H. Philip, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, Coimbatore. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. K. Velayudam, Dean, AC & RI, Madurai. The workshop was attended by 60 participants from KVKs implementing cluster FLDs on Rabi pulses in Tamil Nadu, officials from Dept. of Agriculture in the Districts of respective KVKs, Scientists from AC&RI, Madurai and ICAR-ATARI, Bangalore.

SAC Meetings

Scientific Advisory Committee is the advisory body which guides and reviews KVK activities. Head of host organization is the Chairman and other members include Director, ATARI, Director of Extension, officials from all line departments of the district, representatives from SHGs and progressive farmers. KVKs located in Gadag, Calicut, Kannur, Thrissur, Kollam, Kottayam and Kasaragod conducted their SAC meetings during this quarter.
Online Reporting System (OLRS) developed in a participatory way is helpful for creating a sound online database covering the day to day activities of KVKs like OFT, FLD, Training, Extension Activities, Supply of Technological Products etc. User defined reports can be generated at the click of mouse. A workshop on OLRS was held at KVK, Mysore to identify the lacunae in the existing OLRS, with users and developers perspectives. During Workshop, programme assistants (computer) from 12 different KVKs of Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala shared their difficulties in using the software and gave suggestions for improving the existing OLRS.

**Workshop on OLRS**

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**Annual Pre-action and Action Plan Meetings**

State-wise annual action plan meetings are a regular feature of the Institute. They are generally conducted during the last quarter of the financial year. These meetings enable each KVK to get their annual action plan reviewed and approved in advance so that they can implement once the monsoon begins.

ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru encourages the DEs of the SAUs to conduct pre-action plan meeting so that the plans are subjected to first level screening. Accordingly, during this quarter, pre-action plan meetings and action plan meetings were held as follows:

**Special Event**

Dr. A.K.Singh, DDG (AE) visited ICAR-ATARI on 5 January 2016. He reviewed the activities of ATARI and KVKs in this zone. He also reviewed the programmes like MGMG and NFSM. He stressed the importance of pulse production in the context of International Year of Pulses. The progress of soil health card distribution was also reviewed by him.

**IMC Meeting**

Institute Management Committee (IMC) meeting of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru was held on 6 February, 2016 at the Institute. Dr. Chahal V.P, Assistant Director General (AE), Agricultural Extension Division of ICAR, New Delhi and all other members of the Committee participated in the meeting. Activities of ATARI were briefed during the meeting and the committee deliberated the agenda of the meeting.
**NICRA News**

**ICAR is implementing National Innovation on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) to develop improved technologies through short term and long term research as well as to demonstrate the existing technologies on farmers’ fields for enhancing the resilience. NICRA is being implemented in Zone VIII in nine most vulnerable districts viz., Belgaum, Davanagere, Chikkaballapur, Tumkur, Namakkal, Villupuram, Ramanathapuram, Thiruvurur and Alappuzha in four modules namely Natural Resources Management, Crop Production, Livestock and Fisheries, and Institutional Interventions. Two more districts viz., Gadag and Gulbarga have been added in the project. The major activities under NICRA villages during the reporting quarter are given below:**

- Harvest Festival/Field day of the technology demonstration on 'Resource conservation and eco friendly management practices in paddy' was celebrated by ICAR-KVK Alappuzha in NICRA village. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Diretor, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad visited Muttar village on 20.02.2016 where NICRA project is implemented by KVK Alappuzha.

- Eighteen temporary water storage ponds were lined with HDPE 200 GSM UV irradiated plastic sheets by ICAR-KVK Namakkal.

- ICAR-KVK Thiruvurur organized field day at Rayapuram, NICRA village on flood tolerant paddy variety CR 1009 Sub1. KVK also provided good quality climate resistant bird cage model developed by ICAR-KVK Namakkal to destitutes and widows in Rayapuram.

- ICAR-KVK Ramanathapuram trained farmers on Casuarina (CJ 6 clone) tree planting as live fencing. Harvest Festival/Field day was celebrated in NICRA village of Kompoorthi with paddy varieties NLR 34449, Anna (R) 4 and Co (R) 50.

- ICAR-KVK Chikkaballapur conducted exposure visit to ICAR-KVK Davanagere, FAO awardee Prafullachandra farm at Sigandoor and Lakshminarayana Hegde farm for irrigation system at Sagara.

**MIS-FMS**

**ICAR-ATARI, Bangalore is running MIS-FMS project successfully. Presently all the financial transactions, leave etc. are done through MIS-FMS portal.**

- A view of login page of MIS-FMS.

- A view of home page of MIS-FMS of individual staff of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru.
From Director’s Travel Note........

The quarter that passed was also the closing of the financial year 2015-16. The year was an eventful one with several new initiatives by the KVKs. To name a few, soil health card distribution, the Khafir and Rabi Awareness Campaigns, Jai Kissan Jai Vigyan Campaigns and even the beginning of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana that took off from the 30th March 2016. During the quarter I travelled to several KVKs prominent among these were my visit to KVKs Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruvallur, Gonikoppal, Mandya and Belgum. I was extremely impressed with some of the good programmes followed by KVKs while implementing the cluster demonstrations under NFSM and NMOOP. I must congratulate the KVKs for accepting the responsibility of demonstrating the yield and income potential of important pulses during the International Year of Pulses (2016). Also travelled to different State Agricultural Universities and had meetings with the Hon’ble Vice Chancellors and Directors of Extension to address Institution Specific issues. I feel that this must be made as a regular feature so that we can prevent precipitation of issues for long time. Further, this quarter was also important as the Action Plan Meetings conducted at Kasaragod, Raichur and Coimbatore laid a strong foundation for meaningful programmes for the year 2016-17. I thank all the host institutions viz. CPCRI Kasaragod, UAS Raichur and TNAU Coimbatore for hosting the Action Plan Meetings. I am indeed very pleased to note the remarkable improvement in the quality of the programmes. Another important highlight of the quarter was the conduct of KVK Symposium at Dharwad in which an exclusive platform was provided to the Subject Matter Specialists to analyse and present the data generated by them through various activities of KVK. The next quarter is indeed going to be very important as the last month of the next quarter is going to usher in the monsoon, the life line of Indian agriculture. I sincerely hope that the KVKs will guide farmers in their operational areas on appropriate land preparation and choice of crops. Wishing all the KVKs a successful cropping year ahead.

Sreenath Dixit