KVKs of the Zone Awarded with Zonal Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puraskar 2016

KVKs of Vellore and Malappuram have been awarded Zonal Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puraskar 2016 for Zone X and XI, respectively. Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh gave the Awards to KVKs during the inauguration of Krishi Uannati Mela held on 15 March, 2017 at IARI, New Delhi.

The award is instituted by the Union Government in 2016 to mark the birth centenary year of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, a pioneer of Antyodaya. The award consists cash prize of Rs. 225000 and a certificate to each KVK at the zonal level.

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Organization of Annual Action Plan Workshops (AAPW) for KVKs of each state is a regular feature of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru during the last quarter of the financial year. In these meetings the KVKs and Experts discuss, interact and finalize the technological interventions of each KVK for the ensuing financial year. Approval of action plan in advance enables KVK to implement interventions as soon as monsoon begins. Conducting of Pre-Action Meetings at DEs of SAUs for KVKs under their jurisdiction is a pre-requisite. Details of Pre-Action Meetings and AAPWs organised during the quarter are presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Participating KVKs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-Action Plan Meetings</td>
<td>KVK, Kannur</td>
<td>KVKs of North Kerala</td>
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<td>08.02.2017</td>
<td>KVK, Trivandrum</td>
<td>KVKs of South Kerala &amp; Lakshadweep</td>
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<td>09.02.2017</td>
<td>KVK, Kanyakumari</td>
<td>KVKs of Southern Zone of Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>KVKs under the jurisdiction of DE, UAHS, Shivamogga</td>
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<td>13.02.2017</td>
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<td>09.03.2017</td>
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<td>KVKs of Central &amp; Northern Zone of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry</td>
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<td>10.03.2017</td>
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<td>Annual Action Plan Workshops</td>
<td>UHS, Bagalkot</td>
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<td>04.03.2017</td>
<td>KVK, Thrissur</td>
<td>KVKs of Kerala &amp; Lakshadweep</td>
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<td>14.03.2017</td>
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<td>to 15.03.2017</td>
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<td>16.03.2017</td>
<td>KVK, Namakkal</td>
<td>KVKs of Tamil Nadu &amp; Puducherry</td>
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<td>18.03.2017</td>
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Inaugural Session

Symposium commenced with welcome by Dr. H. Philip, DEE, TNAU, Coimbatore. In his opening remarks, Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru said that the purpose of Symposium is to give a common platform to KVK Scientists for interaction, cross learning and networking with fellow experts. Dr. K. Ramasamy, VC, TNAU, Coimbatore in his inaugural address lauded the role of KVK scientists in frontline extension and advised them to work for the betterment of farming community with the aim of doubling their income. He also highlighted the role of women in agriculture and called for working for an overall development of rural communities. He stressed the need of informing the uninformed, reaching the unreached and to work for poor and backward communities involved in agriculture. He said that KVKs are playing a major role in technology transfer in India and suggested KVKs to use the Prime Minister’s seven point strategy for growth and path analysis for judicious utilisation of additional resources to enhance farmers income. Dr. C. V. Sairam, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru proposed the vote of thanks.

Technical Sessions

Symposium was organized with technical sessions on sub-themes viz., socio-economic aspects of technology dissemination, pest and disease management, production management, innovative technology delivery mechanisms, varietal evaluation and resource conservation technologies. A total of 24 oral presentations were made by Subject Matter Specialists of KVKs besides poster sessions.

A view of technical session

Scientists from ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, Directors of Extension of SAUs and about 100 Subject Matter Specialists of KVKs of the Zone participated in the Symposium.
This KVK was instrumental in developing location-specific, need based and applied models of technology transfer that have contributed to strengthen the production base of farming systems. It is also instrumental in building capacity of stakeholders in the agricultural sector and developing agricultural entrepreneurship in Vellore district.

Successful Interventions

- Cluster FLDs on groundnut in rainfed situation through NMOOP and YMV resistant greengram through NFSM.
- New bio-repellent to control wild boar menace in tribal areas.
- Green Army - a group approach for farm mechanization.
- Mushroom production as well as value added products through EDP approach.
- Millet production in tribal areas through INSIMP programme.

Demo Units in KVK instructional farm

- Mushroom
- Shade net nursery
- Terrace garden
- Farm implements
- Fodder bank
- Goat farm
- Poultry farm
- Vermicompost
- Azolla
- ICT
- Value addition
Farmers of the Zone Awarded with IARI Innovative Farmer Award 2017

Shri R. Muthiah of Kallal block, Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu underwent vocational training at KVK Shivagangai and established pig farming unit with 20 sows and two boars initially. He has now reached to 300 fattened pigs and maintaining 20 numbers of breeders. He is selling grown-up pigs of about 1200 every year including nearby states of Kerala and Karnataka, and earns 6.00 lakh per annum with benefit cost ratio of 6.50. More than 270 farmers have visited his pig farm and many have been inspired to start their own pig farms.

Source: KVK Shivagangai

Shri P. Allimuthu belonging to Minnakkal village of Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu received the award in recognition of his yeoman service in promoting year round mango production through different varieties grafted/top worked on 10200 mango trees across Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh with the farm size range of one cent to one acre to augment the mango production.

Source: KVK Namakkal

Visit to KVK Bagalkot

Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru, Dr. V.I.Benagi, Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad, Scientists from ATARI, Bengaluru and Programme Coordinators of KVKs of Karnataka visited KVK, Bagalkot on 04.03.2017 after Annual Action Plan Workshop held at UHS, Bagalkot.

Dr. A.P. Biradar, PC of KVK and his team shown and explained about the activities of different labs, demo units and KVK farm.

KVK Cuddalore Felicitated

The KVK Cuddalore of Tamil Nadu was felicitated as best performing KVK for conducting cluster FLDs on Groundnut under NMOOP 2015-16 during the National Review Workshop of Cluster FLDs on Oilseeds held at IGKV, Raipur from 17 to 18 February, 2017.
The ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru organized a Facilitation Workshop with the technical support of DGS&D Bangalore on 06 February, 2017 at Directorate of Extension, UAS, Bengaluru wherein from stores purchase department of SAUs and ICAR Institutes and Programme Coordinators of KVKs from these Host Organizations and 6 NGO based KVKs participated.

Workshop commenced with welcome by Shri J.Mathew, AAO of ATARI. He gave a brief account of the process and efforts made by ATARI and the support provided by Agricultural Extension Division and ICAR Head Quarter, New Delhi for according approval for purchase of 42 four wheeler vehicles for KVKs of the Zone during January 2017.

Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director of ATARI stressed the importance of purchase of vehicles adhering the prescribed norms and he suggested KVKs to use GeM Portal to procure not only vehicles but also other items as it reduces paper work and procedural delays compared to conventional procurement process.

Shri Senjeet Kumar, Director (Q&A), DGS&D Bangalore gave a brief about GeM Portal and invited participants to avail the facility which is hassle free, time saving and transparent. Shri Kumar and his colleagues - Shri M F Saldhana & Shri K.R.Maiyya, Assistant Directors and Shri Ramakrishna Rao, AO of DGS & D imparted hands-on experience on GeM Portal among the participants.

The ICAR - ATARI, Bengaluru and ICAR KVK, Erode jointly organised a training Programme on Participatory Impact Monitoring Assessment (PIMA) for the Scientists of KVKs of Zone at KVK, Erode from 21 to 25 February, 2017.

The training was meant for enabling the KVKs to undertake more systematic analysis of the impacts of the various technological interventions implemented.
A meeting of Coordination Committee for Karnataka on doubling the farmer’s income was held at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore on 21 March, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr. H. Shivanna, Vice- Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore. About 30 participants including Vice- Chancellors of Agricultural Universities, Directors of ICAR institutes, NABARD officials, CIMMYT officials, members from Farmers Producer Organizations and officials of line departments attended the meeting.

The Chairman briefed the objectives of meeting and also elaborated the problems and priorities in the state. He hoped that the participants from all sectors including animal husbandry, fisheries, poultry, horticulture, cereal crops, medicinal plants, financial institutions etc., would give greater priority to achieve the goal. He also expressed that this Committee would be able to provide an implementable strategy for doubling the farmers' income by 2022 as desired by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Convener of the meeting and Director, ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Bangalore made a detailed presentation about the current scenario of Karnataka in terms of the opportunities and challenges toward achieving the goal. He urged the research institutes and Agricultural Universities to come out with list of potential technologies so as to prepare an action plan that would help in doubling farmer’s income.


Hon’ble MLAs Adv. K. Suresh Kurup and Smt. C.K Asha, Dr.Rajendran P, VC, KAU, Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director, ATARI, Bangalore, Shri. Jayesh Mohan, District Panchayath member, Kottayam, Shri. P.V. Michael, Block Panchayath President, Ettumanoor, Shri. Salimon A.P, Panchayath President, Kumarakom, Dr. C.N Ravishankar, Director, of CIFIT, Kochin, Dr. Sajan Kurien, DE, KAU, Dr. G. Jayalakshmi, PC, KVK Kottayam, officials from KAU and line departments, and Farmers participated in Inaugural Ceremony.
The Quarter that ended was also the last quarter of FY 2016-17. Needless to say, it was packed with events and activities such as SAC meetings, project meetings, Action Plan Meetings, RAC meetings etc.

Early in the quarter while attending the SAC meeting of KVK, Ernakulam and KVK, Kottayam, I had the opportunity of visiting some innovative initiatives taken by the KVKs and excellent farmers in Kerala. While talking about the start-ups in agriculture one can think of many ventures. One of them could be service industry for supply of pre-planted grow-bags for roof top gardening especially for peri-urban homestead farms. I visited one such group mentored by KVK, Ernakulam. This group prepares grow-bags with appropriate soil medium and sells them to peri-urban customers. This model can be developed further by vertically linking a few more activities that will add value to the chain. Instead of just selling the bags filled with potting mixture, these bags can be planted with popular vegetables like chillies, brinjal, tomatoes etc and sold at a higher value. In a way this service can come in handy to those who wish to have some vegetables grown in the balconies of their apartments.

Another interesting farmer I met was Mr. Joseph, who has specialized in organic cultivation of nutmeg. He takes special care of each nutmeg plant and supplies directly to the traders. He proudly says that there is no loss in cultivation of nutmeg as long as you maintain the plants well and produce over 2000 nutmegs per plant. KVK, Ernakulam has entered into a unique arrangement with the sub-jail of the town and enlisting the support of the inmates of the jail where the undertrials participate in packing and sealing of KVK products with the able support of Jail Superintendent.

Also, visited a smallholder farmer Mr. Siddappa near Hiriyur who has integrated Horticulture, Silviculture and Animal Husbandry on his tiny farm and is recognized as a successful IFS farmer. In Ballari and Gangavati, although there was a wide spread failure of crops due to failure of monsoon, some of the farmers were successful in harvesting a good crop of Chickpea.

It was a learning experience at the Research Advisory Committee meeting of CIFT, Kochi which has many technologies that can be taken forward through KVKs. The Action Plan Meeting of Karnataka and Goa KVKs at Bagalkot and a visit to the hydroponics unit of KVK, Bagalkot were the other highlights during the quarter. I must also mention that the Action Plan meetings for the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry were also completed during the quarter.

It was heartening to note the participation of Subject Matter Specialists at the 2nd KVK Symposium held at TNAU, Coimbatore during the quarter. The long-awaited inauguration of the administrative building of KVK, Kottayam was completed during the quarter. Meeting of the Karnataka State Co-ordination Committee on doubling of farmer’s income by 2022 at UAS, Bangalore and a similar meeting with the District heads of line departments at Bellary were the other significant activities.