

Proceedings of Zonal Review Meeting under Farmer FIRST Programme held at ICAR-ATARI, Jodhpur on 19.12.2018

Zonal Review Meeting of Farmer FIRST Programme was organized at ICAR-ATARI, Jodhpur on **19th December, 2018** under the Chairmanship of Dr VP Chahal, Assistant Director General (Agri. Extn.), ICAR New Delhi on major theme of integrating technologies and enriching knowledge. Principal Investigators and Co-PIs from different ICAR Institutes and state Agricultural Universities viz; CAZRI, CSWRI, CIRB, CSSRI, NDRI, IARI, AU Jodhpur and CCSHAU HIsar actively took part. Consortium leaders from IASRI and DKMA, New Delhi also participated in this meeting.

The major objective of meeting was to review the progress of the sanctioned projects mainly on approach process, methodology and indicators, physical and financial progress and also to discuss the operationalization mechanism of the implementation of FFP to achieve the major goal and objectives.

Dr VP Chahal, ADG in his Presidential address emphasised upon the involvement of research Institutes of ICAR and SAUs selected under Farmer FIRST programme as part of KVK Scheme. He also stressed that farm families selected under this programme must be involved as active partners in research mode i.e technologies selection, assessment and application for improving the livelihood security in a sustainable way.

Dr SK Singh, Director, ATARI briefed about the FFP being implemented in the country and major initiatives by the Government of India to double the income of farming community during next five years. He urged for implementation of demand driven and need based technological modules. He also stressed upon development and promotion of resource conservation technologies for monitoring system properties, diversification and intensification to be promoted through establishment of need based Integrated Farming System in prevailing situation. He emphasised upon deriving synergy among process, approach and content for larger interest of farming community. He suggested for optimal utilization of natural resources by establishment of Integrated Farming System models in participatory mode. Dr PP Rohilla, Member Secretary briefed about the project modalities and evaluation through different committees constituted as per FFP guidelines. He explained that how FFP is unique programme holistic in nature consisting of several activities based on Integrated Farming System which covers interventions related to crop, livestock, natural resources and capacity building etc. in participatory mode with the farm families. The benefit given to farm families either in cash or kind has to be uploaded under DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) portal under this project.

The Chairman emphasized that all the interventions of the programme must be implemented covering technical inputs for the improvement of the existing farming system of the selected village (s). Agro-ecological analysis by applying Participatory Rural Appraisal tools must be done to identify and prioritize problems, assessment of resources, existing

constraints and aspirations of farmers of different categories in the selected village (s). The interventions may be of several in nature i.e. OFT, FLD, training and extension activity etc. Selection of only useful interventions which would show more impact in short time need to be done. This programme should be in participatory mode, hence, input distribution activity should be avoided and some contribution from the selected farmers must be undertaken.

There was a brief discussion amongst the participants and several doubts were cleared by the Chairman related to the FFP implementation, financial, technical and administrative.

Individual Principal Investigator presented the progress of FFP and the suitable suggestions were given by the house for incorporation and improvement:-

Delhi Institutes- 5: IARI, IASRI, NIAP, DKMA, NAARM

1. IARI New Delhi: Dr R R Burman presented progress and performance of different modules of the project which have been implemented successfully, however, the following were the suggestions for improvement:

- Do proper evaluation of the IFS as per feedback from the farmers.
- Under horticulture module, Cheri tomato can be tried at some farmer's field.
- Plant protection intervention must be monitored regularly.
- Performance indicators including technical observation, economic and farmers' opinion must be presented in each intervention.
- Interventions must be implemented covering all 4 major components of FFP.
- Budget utilization was found satisfactory during the reporting period.
- Overall performance and way of presentations were excellent.

2. IASRI New Delhi: Dr Mukesh Kumar presented about different modules of the project, as the institute is partner of Consortia team. The following were the main achievements:

- Webpage of Farmer FIRST Programme has been developed successfully and provided user ID and Password to all the PIs and Co-PIs; which has enabled ATARIs and DAE to online monitor the progress of the project.
- Presently, 258 interventions, 162 events, 469 images, 15 videos and 67 publications related to FFP have been uploaded by 23 Centres.
- Images and Information on news items, achievements, publications and success stories have been uploaded on the portal as received from the PIs.
- Total 8710 numbers of visitors have visited the FFP portal since February 2018; in last one month 651 visitors have been visited.
- The portal provides the information about FFP programme, projects details, news and highlight, achievements, success story, latest publications, FFP in media, Images gallery etc.

- Budget has been utilized properly as per sanctioned heads under FFP.

3. NCAP New Delhi: Dr Shiv Kumar, PI did not attend the Meeting due to health problems as informed over phone.

4. DKMA, New Delhi : Ms Aruna T Kumar as part of Consortia team presented the achievements. The following were the major achievements:-

- Graphical abstracts received from all the partner institutes have been compiled in a form of book by DKMA.
- Overall assessment of course contents, Co-ordinators skill and support, relevance of needs, learning from course and course in general were also assessed after completion of the training programmes.
- For Farmers' Innovations one format has been developed on webpage of Farmer FIRST which would be useful for partner institutes in compiling the online information.
- Budget utilization was found satisfactory. However, PI submitted a request to combine the budget under IT and computer Head for altogether procurement.

5. NAARM Hyderabad: Dr Venkatesan as part of Consortia team couldn't attend the meeting. However, Nodal Officer presented the achievements. The following were the major achievements:-

- Training need assessment, documentation and development of training resource materials have been completed.
- Application of improved methodology in FFP implementation is in progress.
- Documentation of location-specific technologies based on attributes of innovation is in progress.
- Developing compendium of success stories and farmers' innovation has been completed and will be released shortly.
- Budget utilization was found excess of Rs 0.50 lakh, hence request has been submitted for an early release of next instalment.

Haryana Institutes - 4 : CIRB, CCSHAU, NDRI, CSSRI

6. CIRB Hisar: Dr Ashok Boora, Co-PI presented about different modules of the project undertaken for diversified farming through livestock and agriculture. The following were the achievements and suggestions for improvement:

- More efforts are required for execution of horticulture based interventions. Bee keeping can be promoted as entrepreneur development among rural youth.
- Science led technological interventions must be executed in participatory mode.

- The area under nutritional garden must be mentioned clearly for each village.
- The problem of the area should be identified and interventions should be decided accordingly.
- Happy seeder may be included for better residue management under NRM of farmer FIRST programme, if required in the selected villages.
- The budget is underutilized, which needs to be spent judiciously for the current financial year. It has been suggested that concerted efforts are required to utilize fund properly. Also the PI must check for the previous year's unspent balance, if any. It may be informed immediately to ATARI office for adjustment before budget release in this Financial Year.

7. CCSHAU Hisar: Dr RS Shoeran, Co-PI presented about different modules of the project. The following were the achievements and suggestions for improvement:-

- Under crop module the yield of wheat HD-2967 performed well at farmers' fields.
- Orobanche weed management in mustard using spray of glyphosate @62.5 g/ha at 25-30 DAS and 125 g/ha at 50 DAS has been found quite effective and adopted by farmers.
- Under fodder production High yielding multicut variety of oat HJ-8 with balanced fertilization has performed very well in field conditions.
- Under Horticulture module Hisar Safeda guvava variety has been demonstrated by the farming community.
- Under livestock module feed supplementation with mineral mixture has been found effective in enhancing milk production and overall health of the milch animals.
- Training on Bee keeping to unemployed youth and small farmers has significant impact and a few of them have started at commercial level.
- Action photos with proper labels and sign boards were missing and needs to be included in future presentations.
- Budget utilization was found satisfactory during the reporting period and no extra budget would be allotted under HRD head.

8. NDRI Karnal: Dr Sankahla presented about different modules of the project crop, fodder production, animal nutrition, dairying and horticulture. The following were the achievements and suggestions for improvement:-

- Under inter crop module the name of crop may be mentioned clearly.
- For IPM in rice the name of insect-pests should be mentioned clearly.
- Under milk processing component, suitable and economically viable techniques may be developed for rural youth and other stakeholders.

- SMS portal component under FFP has been developed by NDRI for benefitting farming community. Efforts of NDRI Karnal has been well recognized. It must be encouraged for further agro-advisory to the concerned farmers of the area.
- Plantation done under horticulture module must be monitored critically and survival rate of plants should be recorded periodically.
- Budget utilization was not found satisfactory, however, the PI assured for best utilization of the budget during the remaining period of financial year.

9. CSSRI Karnal: Dr Shoeran presented progress and performance of different modules related to empowering of farmers through selective interventions in salt affected agro-ecosystem of Ghaggar region. The following were the achievements and suggestions:-

- Under crop module diversification through salt tolerant varieties of Rice (CSR 30 Basmati) and wheat (KRL 210) has been done successfully.
- Under NRM module, ground water recharge structure with filtering unit has been implemented successfully at farmers' field for sustainable utilization of natural resources.
- Under livestock module, Artificial Insemination has been implemented at commercial level which needs to be scaled-up in collaboration with State Animal Husbandry Department.
- Kisan clubs and Cooperating centres have been formed in collaboration with NABARD in the project area.
- Soil Health Cards have helped in cost effective farm management practice curtailing farm input costs on fertilizers, management strategies to reclaim the problematic soils.
- Budget utilization was found satisfactory during the reporting period.

Rajasthan Institutes -3 : CAZRI, CSWRI, AU Jodhpur

10. CAZRI Jodhpur: Dr Avinashlingam presented about different modules related to sustainable livelihood interventions for enhancing smallholders' income in Western Rajasthan. The following were the achievements and suggestions for improvement:-

- The name of the input provided to the farmers must be mentioned as demonstration, and not to use the distribution word.
- Interventions must be implemented as per the major 4 major themes of Farmers FIRST Programme guidelines. Farmer preferred technologies need to be undertaken.
- Under convergence which suitable technologies have been expanded under Farmer FIRST Programme may be presented in the house.
- The Chairman recommended that four components need to be addressed and presented in future.

- More emphasis need to be given on implementation of IFS models in flexible mode.
- Budget utilization was found satisfactory during the reporting period.

11. CSWRI Avikanagar: Dr Raj Kumar Chahal PI presented about different modules of the project. The following were the achievements of project and suggestions for improvement:-

- The achievements of the project are not up to the mark as per the modules implemented in the selected village (s).
- The modules selected under FFP must be need based and area specific.
- The presentation was not as per expectation and lacking in scientific data related to different interventions implemented at farmers' field.
- The Chairman recommended to review the progress and an interaction with institute's Director along-with PI and Co-Pia involved in the Farmer FIRST Programme may be done to sort out all issues related to FFP.
- Budget utilization was not found satisfactory during the reporting period and rigorous efforts are required to utilize the budget religiously.

12. AU Jodhpur: Dr Ishwer Singh, PI presented about different modules of technology integration for doubling participatory research and extension approaches. The following were the achievements and suggestions for improvement:-

- Under horticulture the month in which nursery was raised and exact dimensions of the plot used must be mentioned.
- The data related to multi technological observations may be collected and type of soil and structure of the soil may be mentioned.
- Under livestock module, Backyard poultry should be promoted as entrepreneurship development especially for rural youth.
- Budget utilization was found satisfactory during the reporting period.

Common Recommendations for all the PIs

- In all the demonstrations implemented scientific data must be shown in presentations for support and significance.
- Field day should be organized under crop module at full crop growth stage involving all the concerned stakeholders for creating confidence through informal discussion and interactive learning.
- Focus on all the 4 major components of Farmer FIRST (Farmer Scientist interface, Technology Assemblage, Application and feedback, Partnership and Institution Building and Content Mobilization) as mentioned in the guidelines need to be given.
- All the successful interventions should be up-scaled in collaboration with State Government and other nodal agencies.

- Compile progress report of two years I.e. 2016-17 and 2017-18 along-with success stories developed under Farmer FIRST Programme by the partner institutes.
- Good action photos with suitable banner with minimum words are requirement of good and effective presentation.
- Preparation of simple documents in local language based on achievement of technologies demonstrated under different modules for the benefit of farming community.
- Inter-Zonal cross learning may be practiced through exposure visits of the selected farmers to the successful entrepreneurs developed under Farmer FIRST Programme.
- All the PIs must update the activities and budget information on the web page of Farmer FISRT using their own ID and PW. Also share the important events, field days, dignitaries' visits, images and other related activities undertaken under this programme.
- All the PIs must check the previous year's budget carefully, if there is any unspent balance the same may be informed to concerned ATARI office; so that it may be adjusted/ settled before budget release in this Financial Year. Otherwise, there should be audit para.

The Chairman concluded the session with concrete remarks that all the Principal Investigators should indicate Geographical Indicators, more and more Innovations covering 4 major themes of the project should be identified and documented. More emphasis must be given on publication in form of research paper (s) in referred journals, success stories, case studies etc of major outputs under Farmer FIRST Programme. Principal Investigators and Co-PIs of different ICAR Institutes and SAUs attended the Zonal Review Meeting under Farmer FIRST (FFP) which was attended by Project partners from Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan states. The meeting adjourned with thanks to the Chairs.

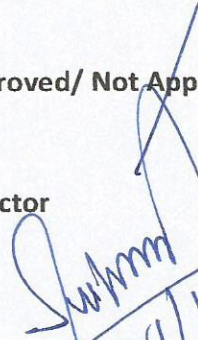
Submitted to Director, ICAR-ATARI for kind perusal and approval.

Dated : 21.12-2018


Member Secretary, FFP

Approved/ Not Approved

Director


31/12/2018