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किसानों का हमसफर
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Village adoption for farm technology management

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Banda adopted village Para Banno Begum under Block Baberu of District Banda in Bundelkhand. At adoption, this remote village was totally untouched by any farm technological interventions. The scientists of KVK first interacted with the villagers and assessed various agricultural practices, animal husbandry and horticulture in vogue. Encouraged with the enthusiasm and response of the villagers especially the youth, the first scientific farming campaign was initiated on whole village basis in *zaid* season of 2009.

Appropriate trainings and relevant field demonstrations were conducted after the initial awareness programme. Efforts made by the scientists and the cooperation extended by the villagers to the farming campaign led to 100% crop coverage in the village in *khari* 2010 that used to be only 20-25% earlier to its adoption. The area under double cropping was also increased from 20% to 100%.

The village witnessed drastic agricultural changes after adoption, like *til* variety 'Gujarat *Til-2*' giving yield of 11 quintals / hectare and a profit of 58,300 / hectare, *til* cultivation which used to be taken only on 20 acre in 2008 increased to 200 acre in 2010. Inspired by the technological management, farmers shifted to large-scale cultivation of paddy variety 'CSR 30' giving yield of 26.75 quintals / hectare. By spending a sum of 10,000 for cultivation of chilly and brinjal, a profit of 40,000 was earned by the farmers. Cultivation of brinjal alone gave a return of 45,000 / bigha for an investment of only 5,000. Faced with unprofitable farming and unemployment the villagers, mainly the youth, were migrating to cities in throngs before the village adoption programme was started 2 years ago. The technological support provided by the KVK scientists gave a confidence and new ardor to them and they are seriously occupied in agriculture. Also, now there is an environment of diversification in agriculture.

Action plan for diversified farming in rabi 2010-11: To put at least 50-acres under paddy gram rotation, at least 5 acre under vegetable pea and increase in area of cultivation of potato, garlic, and onion; to start 25 model nutritional kitchen garden for addressing nutritional security and improve village economics; to take up seed production, especially of gram, pea and lentil with seed farm technique for attaining seed self-sufficiency; and to cover the entire village with the NADEP compost for soil health balance.

Challenges before Agricultural Research and Education

New Delhi, 4 October 2010. Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India inaugurated Meeting of Vice-



Chancellors of State, Deemed and Central Agricultural Universities from all over the country at National Agricultural Science Centre, New Delhi and said, 'Innovative approach should be adopted to strengthen agricultural research and education in India. State agricultural Universities can play an important role in this direction by providing research-based projects with the help of industry'. He urged agricultural research institutes to re-orient themselves in next XIIth Five- Year Plan amid the challenges of food security and climate change. Referring to the gap in agricultural growth rate and land productivity of China and India, he emphasized more research based on these two issues. 'Four per cent agricultural growth will be needed for growing economy like India. It would require more investment in knowledge management, institutional support and diversification in agriculture, government is also willing to fund such projects', he added. He suggested a new mechanism to fund research projects instead of funding universities.

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) highlighted the role and contribution made by the ICAR institutes and agricultural universities in developing new technology and seeds for Indian farmers. He opined that some institutes can be converted into the centre of excellence. 'Institutional support, better infrastructure and faculty development can help them to emerge at international level', he said. Other speakers focused on challenges and their solutions covering all aspects of Indian agriculture.

Meet on Women Friendly Farm Tools and Equipment

Bhubaneswar, 6 October 2010. A two-day interaction meet on women friendly farm tools and equipment was held on 4-5 October 2010 by Directorate of Research on Women in Agriculture (DRWA), Bhubaneswar in collaboration with the State Department of Agriculture, Orissa, OUAT and CRRI, Cuttack. Scientists from DRWA, CIAE, Bhopal, CRRI, Cuttack, CIPHET, Ludhiana, IISR, Calicut, NRC

on Seed Spices, Ajmer, OUAT and AICRP on Home Science, ANGRAU, KVKs and Research and Development Agency of Department of Agriculture and manufactures participated.

The main attraction of the Meet was the participation of about 50 farm women carrying out different types of farming including turmeric farmers of Kandhamal. A display of about 50 farm tools and equipment including household level drudgery reducing equipment and protective clothing suitable for use for farm women was arranged on the occasion. The Meet was inaugurated by Shri UP Singh, Principal Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Government of Orissa.

International Conference on Coconut

Kasaragod, 25 Oct 2010. Prof. KV Thomas, Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution inaugurated 'International Conference on Coconut Biodiversity for Prosperity'. To take stock of the present status of research and development on coconut, particularly biodiversity conservation and utilization, and to formulate the strategies and the research priorities, this 4-day International Conference was organized at Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod.



The conference provides a platform for all the stakeholders including international scientists, administrators, policy makers, development officers and progressive farmers to come together to deliberate on the achievements made so far to identify the gaps and to formulate the future policies and programmes. The link between coconut biodiversity and sustainable development, poverty alleviation was highlighted in the conference to ensure prosperity of coconut farming communities. Prof. Thomas also inaugurated the Agri Fair-2010 at the venue.

Coordinated Efforts can Ensure Food Security

New Delhi, 16 Oct 2010. 'Every two out of five Indian children are suffering from underweight problem. Under such condition, it is difficult to develop India as a powerful nation. To overcome this problem, coordinated efforts are needed to ensure food security in India', said Prof. VL Chopra, Former member, Planning Commission. Prof. Chopra was inaugurating the programme organized on World Food Day at National Agriculture Science Complex, New Delhi. While referring to the Article 21 and 47 of Indian constitution for ensuring food security, he motivated participants to do serious work at ground level.

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR urged for second green revolution. 'It is a challenge for us to provide sustainable food security to 118 crore people of India. Climate change is posing a threat for more productivity. Maintaining bio-diversity is another challenge. ICAR is willing to take up these challenges', he said. He highlighted the role of marketing in farming and suggested more public-private partnerships.

Dr CD Mayee, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board elaborated the theme line-United Against Hunger of Food and Agriculture Organization.

Dr Rajiv Chandran, Officer In-charge, UNIC read the message of Dr Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General, United Nations.

This programme was jointly organized by the DARE, ICAR and Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

ICAR Regional Committee-VI Meet

Bikaner, 21 October 2010. Contribution of animal husbandry sector to the GDP of the State is remarkable, said Shri Murari Lal Meena, State Minister of Technical Education (Agriculture)(Independent), Government of Rajasthan. While inaugurating 2-day meeting of ICAR Regional Committee-VI at Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, he said, we should work together to conserve the indigenous livestock in order to protect bio-diversity of the State.

In his address, he mentioned about availability of fodder by facilitating cultivation of fodder crops and fodder trees, and contingency plan of each districts in the State.



Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR said that coastal areas of Gujarat and Daman Diu should be more utilized for fisheries with collaboration of States. He informed that an Investors' meet will be organized which will help to promote the horticultural crops. There shall be substantial increase in self-employment amongst rural youth by making the agriculture sector more remunerative, said Dr Ayyappan.

Dr A K Singh, DDG (NRM), ICAR suggested that organic farming could be more beneficial for farmers, he also said, cultivation of Isabgol and date palm is also better and profitable option.

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