

EXTENSION

Secretary (A&C) in her Opening address emphasised about the importance of Extension system and stressed upon the involvement of KVKs by the States in crop production strategies, including extension. D.G., ICAR and Secretary (DARE) reiterated about the need to have effective linkages/ liaison between ATMA, KVKs and Line Departments.

Extension Issues highlighted by the States in their presentations

- **Haryana:** Due to good extension work, there is a reduction of Rabi- summer rice area from 3500 ha (2003-04) to 1064 ha (2006-07) and instead , they are growing leguminous crops.
- **Punjab:** 20% of the posts of Extension functionaries are lying vacant.
- **Rajasthan:** The focus of the Government was to create gender sensitivity to empower women in agriculture sector. The state Government in all its extension activities/ approaches viz. 'jal chetna yatra', 'Kisan mahotsava', 'Beej rath', etc. lay adequate emphasis on women farmers. The state has taken a policy decision to provide benefits and assistance of all Government schemes to women farmers even if the land is not in their name.
- **Gujarat:** More than 1000 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and the suitable answers under the Kisan Call Centres scheme have been documented , printed in vernacular language for wider dissemination.
- **Maharashtra:** All the 33 districts are covered under ATMA model of technology dissemination (the districts which have not been covered under the GOI reforms scheme are covered under the state plan) and all the SREPs are in place. SEWP has been approved by the Government of India in respect of the suicide affected districts (Vidarbha Region) and the work has already started.
- **Andhra Pradesh:** The technology gaps have been identified and are being suitably addressed. Training of farmers is being taken up on a focused way. 1 lakh farmers groups have been formed during the year. ATMA activities are being operationalized in an efficient manner. Setting up of ATMAs in the 8 suicide affected districts is underway.
Kisan Call Centres services are effectively used by the farming community.
Gender cell has been set up in the State to provide them a package of support services including training and extension activities.
- **Tamil Nadu:** ATMAs established in 9 districts are functioning well. All the line departments are involved in implementing the reforms scheme. Crop-wise Farmers Interest Groups/ Farm women groups have been formed.

Tamil Nadu Women in Agri-business and Extension (TANWABE) scheme is being implemented in the state to address gender issues in agriculture.

- **Karnataka:** ATMA has been established in 9 districts and are functioning well. The action plan for the 5 suicide affected districts identified under the PM's package is being developed.
- **Uttar Pradesh :** Strategic Research and Extension Plans for all the 32 districts covered under the Reforms scheme have been prepared.
- **Bihar:** Progressive farmers are proposed to be honoured by the Chief Minister of the state during the Independence day. Thereafter, these farmers would act as extension agents. ATMA model of technology dissemination is proposed in all the districts. 15 districts are funded under the Extension Reforms scheme. The state proposes to fund ATMAs in the remaining 23 districts.
- **Jharkhand:** ATMA and KVKs are involved in the extension work and the training is provided by the SAMETI, established in Hazaribagh. 8 ATMAs have been set up under the Extension Reforms scheme of GOI. ATMAs in the remaining 14 districts are proposed to be funded by the state Government.
Technology dissemination is undertaken by ATMA, KVKs and ZRSs. The state proposes to outsource extension activities to be undertaken by the unemployed agriculture graduates in all the newly formed Panchyats.
Pick-up vans are provided to 50 agri-clinics and refrigeration facilities to 30 production centres. Training of 30,000 farmers on organic farming by NGOs is in progress. Extension and Precision farming technology is undertaken through 22 agri-clinics.
- **Madhya Pradesh :** The Chief Minister of M.P. has declared 2006-07 as 'Kisan Varsh' and the thrust area of the Kisan Varsh is HRD. Massive capacity building and training drive for agriculture field staff is proposed during the year. Focus on women farmers are given through 'Kisan Sahelis' ATMAs set up under the Reforms scheme are functioning well. The state Government proposes to set up ATMAs in all the remaining districts.
The state has requested for GOI's assistance in knowledge and capacity building of the state level training institutes
- **Chattisgarh:** ATMA established in the 5 districts are functioning well.
- **Orissa:** Gender friendly equipments viz. weeder, Paddy thresher, manual transplanter, winnower, low lift pumps, etc. are being popularized in the state.
- **Assam :** 8 out of the 12 ATMAs established have been registered. 96 BTTs and 54 FACs have been notified.

- **Arunachal Pradesh:** 7 ATMAs have been registered. All the 7 SREPs have been completed and are under printing. SEWP would be submitted by middle October. KCC is not functioning satisfactorily.
- **Mizoram:** ATMAs have been set up in 4 districts. The state proposed to request GOI for covering 4 more districts under the programme.
- **Sikkim:** ATMAs have been set up in 2 districts. ATMAs and SAMETI are functioning well.
- **Meghalaya:** have reported an expenditure of Rs. 14.00 lakh released under the Extension Reforms scheme.

A Presentation was made by the Administrative Staff College of India who were awarded the Impact Evaluation Study of the Kisan Call Centres scheme.

Secretary (A&C) in her concluding remarks stated that monitoring mechanism to find out the gap between research and extension system is to be strengthened.
