

SOME INNOVATIVE APPROACHES ADOPTED BY THE STATES

Andhra Pradesh

1.1 Agriculture education has moved from farmer training centres into villages by establishing a state wide network of polam badis (farmer schools). Polam badi offers practical demos and training on field for 16 weeks. Each badi has 30 farmers and a field area of 25 acres. Since Rabi-2004, 6947 Polam-badies have been organised and 2,08,410 farmers educated on farm technologies. 1966 farmers worked as Facilitators in Kharif 2006 in the Polam Badi programme. They conducted the polam badi in 983 villages. The feedback is that farmer to farmer technology transfer is very effective, has high acceptability amongst farmers, is a cost effective extension outreach, the farmer has better accessibility, complements inadequate extension network, and enables empowerment and increases self-esteem of farmers.

Chhattisgarh

2.1 Village level awareness generation through 'Gram Sampark Abhiyan' from 4th to 12th April 2007.

2.2 5 year Seed Rolling Plan formulated. Also a Seed Bank scheme has been introduced. Under the Surajdhara Scheme, seeds on 75 % subsidy to small & marginal farmers are being provided from the State budget. New Seed Production Scheme @ Rs. 500 per quintal to oilseed /pulse seed growers has been introduced.

2.3 A State Agriculture Training Academy has been set up to train all line departments.

2.4 Under the Horticulture Mission, a Cluster Approach (crop based) has been adopted. 99 Clusters in 1005 villages involving 84,798 farmers have been identified. The Chhattisgarh Horticulture Model comprises (a) Orchard development (b) Compulsory Inter cropping (c) Micro Irrigation and (d) Vermicompost. Advanced Marketing Arrangement (MOUs) have been made for 3550 acres area of aromatic crops with 10,500 acres area under pipeline. 12 NGOs have been selected for involvement in the programme. For post harvest management, 200 processing units are proposed for which 78 sites have been identified and 3 units installed. Micro-Irrigation scheme with a maximum subsidy of 70% (GoI share 40%) is provided. State Government increased share from 10 % to 30% for small and marginal farmers. For women empowerment and nutritional status, 7000 beneficiaries have been identified using NGOs for mushroom production programme..

Gujarat

3.1 Krushi Mahotsav, as an intensive convergence and mass contact strategy, which was successfully tried in 2005 & 2006. The State will continue the same programme this year from 20-4-2007 to 19-5-2007. This is a uniquely intensive month-long programme of mass contact with farmers. Contact is through a mobile exhibition van called “Krushi Rath” that visits every village. Experts accompany the “Krushi Rath” to offer advise to the farmers. The focus is on visiting each village, advising and assisting an individual farmer, providing free input kits to 15 poor farmers in each village and additional 15 kits per village in tribal areas. Community base schemes like water conservation are taken up through public participation.

3.2 State has planned to bring 19.84 lakh hectare cultivable waste land under cultivation by developing it. The land is given on lease to Corporate / Industrial sector, and capable farmers for development. Emphasis is laid on cultivation of horticultural crops and bio fuel crops. Emphasis is also given on Micro-irrigation on that land. Gujarat State Land Development Corporation is working for reclamation of saline and alkaline soil(9024 ha covered up to February '07 in 2006-07). GSLDC has reclaimed 15500 ha land under costal salinity (State Plan).

3.3 15.33 lakh Soil Health Cards have been provided to farmers.

3.4 Under the ATMA project, more than 40 technology packages in electronic form have been prepared. In the current FY, almost 100 such packages will be prepared. These packages will be available to the farmers on the website or through TV. Such packages will be given to all the villages that are given facilities of computers. The farmer will not require to wait for the extension functionary for advise.

Harayana

4.1 The farmers were reached through schools and their children very effectively this rabi season to spread the message of advantages of early sowing. The children were asked to work sums demonstrating the loss to the farmer in not going in for early sowing. The children, in-turn, influenced their parents to reap the benefits of early sowing. This was an innovative form of extension work.

4.2 To avoid post harvest losses, Straw Reapers (25 to 35 kg per acre) have been effectively used. 1193 units were distributed against MMM target of 447.

4.3 Free SMS Service for farmers 9915862026 has been introduced, which has proved to be a great success. The response has been overwhelming.

Kerela

- 5.1 A contingency programme to meet natural calamities has been introduced with creation of buffer stock of seeds of paddy and other annual crops and strengthening of bunds to prevent breaches during floods and removal of debris.
- 5.2 A new scheme has been introduced covering on-farm trials, frontline demonstrations and participatory technology development to link with food security.
- 5.3 Farmers Counselling Centres in 3 distressed districts of Palakkad, Wayanad and Kasaragod has been started.
- 5.4 Establishment of 6 agriculture whole sale markets have been set up with assistance from European Union for an efficient marketing system.
- 5.5 A Paddy Board has been set.

Maharastra

- 6.1 Growing vegetables, ornamental plants in greenhouses through Self Help Groups near cities has proved a success.
- 6.2 Adoption of SRI technique for higher productivity in paddy.
- 6.3 Contract farming in cotton including organic cotton, extra staple cotton has been introduced successfully.

Rajasthan

- 7.1 Jal Chetna Yatra – Kisan Mahotsava Program – a pre Kharif Panchayat level campaign to reach out to farmers with special focus on conservation & efficient use of water is an innovation introduced. Krishi Yojanaen Aapke Dwar - a pre Rabi Panchayat level campaign to reach out to farmers was also very successful. In addition, inter-state exposure visits were organized for 6000 farmers through state efforts. Israel visit of a 97 member delegation was also organised.
- 7.2 To encourage girl students to choose Agriculture as a subject, the stipend has been raised to Rs.3000/- for 10+2 standard, Rs.5000/- for graduation and Rs. 10000 for Ph. D students.
- 7.3 Operation 150 %-Collaborative farming in Barley has been successful with Cargill in Jaipur, Alwar, Dausa and Sikar districts and with Pepsico in Ganganagar Hanumangarh, Jaipur and Jhunjhunu districts.