

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Kvks) are The Knowledge Centres for Farmers

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Introduction

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is a noble concept established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on the basis of technology transfer from the laboratory to the farmer's field in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, floriculture, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, broiler farming, and allied subjects. During 1974, KVKs were formed across the country, based on the recommendations of the Mohan Singh Mehta Committee. Working guidelines are gradually being developed in order to place the KVK as a beacon for rural residents. During the 1960s, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research focused on agricultural and related research to generate new technologies. During the 1960s, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research focused on agriculture and related research to develop new technologies for increasing crop production in the country's various agroclimatic zones. Many innovations have been developed as a result of scientists' relentless efforts to increase production. However, the innovations established in the research sector are not disseminated by state government extension agencies. Many innovations have been found to be unable to reach farmers due to high adoption costs and a lack of interest on the part of extension agencies. As a result, the technology transfer was ineffective and incomplete. KVKs were later introduced. Later, KVKs were developed to enable farmers to participate easily and actively in Front Line Demonstration and on-Farm Testing.

The country's Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) were established in 1974, with the first one in Pondicherry, following comprehensive discussions and studies and the recommendation of the Government of India's Education Commission (1964-66). The original goal was to create specialised institutions that would provide pre- and post-matriculate vocational education in agriculture and related fields to meet the training needs of a large number of boys and girls from rural areas. As a result, Krishi Vigyan Kendras



(Agricultural Science Centres) were developed as revolutionary institutions to provide vocational training to practicing farmers, school dropouts, and field-level extension staff. The output of KVKs was evaluated during each plan cycle, and more and more KVKs were developed in the country over time. On the occasion of his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2005, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India declared that by the end of 2007, each of India's rural districts will have at least one KVK. Since then, 634 KVKs have been built across the region.

KVKs have the following responsibilities:

1. Organizing frontline demonstrations (FLD) to determine the production capacity of various crops and enterprises on farmers' fields.
2. Conducting on-farm testing (OFT) to determine the location specificity of agricultural technologies under various farming systems.
3. Conducting on-farm testing (OFT) to determine the location specificity of agricultural technologies under various farming systems.
4. Organizing need-based training for farmers to upgrade their knowledge and skills in modern agricultural technologies related to technology evaluation, refinement, and demonstration, as well as training for extension staff to orient them in the frontier areas of technology growth.
5. Increasing public understanding of improved technologies through effective extension programmes.
6. Produce and distribute high-quality seeds, planting materials, livestock, poultry, and fisheries breeds and products, as well as various bio-products to the farming community.
7. Serve as a platform and information centre for agricultural technology, assisting public, private, and voluntary sector projects aimed at improving the district's agricultural economy.

Despite the fact that KVK was established as a training and extension organisation, current mandates suggest that it is much more than that. It is important to recognise that technology transfer is not a primary feature of KVKs, but rather the responsibility of state departments. The KV stands for "Knowledge Value". Different scientists from various disciplines are



assigned to the Krishi Vigyan Kendra as Training Associates, depending on the unique needs of that field.

Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

The objectives of all the activities undertaken by KVK are:

- a. To demonstrate the new improved technology to the farmers as well as to the extension agencies directly in the farmers field with their active participation.
- b. To identify the important problems of that area as per the need of the farmers and prioritization of the identified problems as per their importance.
- c. To collect feedback from the farmers and extension agencies and to communicate this message to research scientists for modification of technology.
- d. To impart training on different topics to different group of the villagers.
- e. To provide new and important information to the extension agencies and NGOs for wider circulation in that locality to improve their economic condition.
- f. To prepare different extension models and verify these models in the farmers field with their participation to create confidence among them.

To achieve the above-mentioned objectives KVK undertake following types of activities in the adopted villages:

- Farm Advisory Service
- Training programme for different categories of people.
- Training programme for the extension functionaries.
- Front Line Demonstration
- On Farm Testing (OFT).

Farm Advisory Services:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra otherwise known as Farm Science Center. It provides solution to any problems related to agriculture and allied subjects as and when faced by farmers of that particular locality. Interested farmers /persons can get proper advices regarding the establishment of new entrepreneurship on non-traditional sector. The main function of advisory service center is to provide continuous and constructive advice along with sound theory and practical knowledge to the contact villagers regarding agriculture and its allied subjects for their cultural and economic improvement.

The objectives of the Farm Advisory center are as follows:



- (a) To study the socio-economic status of the villagers.
- (b) To keep close relationship between KVK and villagers.
- (c) To prepare individual farm model for uplift of rural people.
- (d) To provide training and advice to the rural people so as to enable them to take part in the agricultural planning of the village, blocks as well as district.
- (e) Formation of farm club farm center or village committee for easy transfer of new information related to agriculture to the villagers in short time.

Training programme for different categories of people:

Training is one of the most important activities of Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Training is planned and systematic effort to increase the knowledge, improves the skill and change the attitude of a person towards a particular subject. Training need assessment is the first and foremost factor to be considered before conducting any training programme. Depending upon the need and categories of trainees, KVK imparts mainly following three types of training:

- a. **Training to the practising farmers and farm women:** Trainings on different subjects were conducted by the scientists of the KVK as per the need of the local farmers of a particular area as well as the types of trainees and different audio-visual aids are used to increase the efficiency of the training. As the trainees are practicing farmers and farmwomen, more emphasis was given on the practical than theory to improve their skill to change their attitude and increase their knowledge for that particular topic.
- b. **Training to the Rural Youth:** This type of training was imparted to the rural youth (Both male and female) mostly those are left their education in midway i.e. school dropouts. The main objective of this training is to provide sufficient knowledge and skill regarding a new entrepreneurship so that they can start their own business singly or collectively and generate some income for their livelihood. The main thrust areas of this type of training are mushroom cultivation, bee keeping, preservation of fruits and vegetables, broiler farming, goat rearing, tailoring, wool knitting, hand crafts and exotic vegetable cultivation etc. for more profit. In this training more emphasis was given on the practical aspects and trainees were do the practical themselves to get more confidence. The scientists of the KVK provide knowledge regarding the availability of the raw materials as well as the marketing of different products in that particular locality for the interested participants.

- c. *Training programme for the extension functionaries:* In this group mostly government employees of agriculture along with extension functionaries of line department and members of different NGOs operated in that locality are trained in different aspects. The main objective of this type of training is to refresh the memory and upgrade the knowledge and skill of the extension functionaries by providing recent and new information regarding new techniques as well as new approach of solving different problems faced by farmers of that locality. As the extension functionaries of different department act like a bridge between the scientists and villagers, the refinement of the knowledge is highly essential and quite helpful for effective and efficient transfer of the technology.

Front Line demonstration

Front Line Demonstration (FLD) is the field demonstration conducted under the close supervision of the scientists because the technologies are demonstrated for the first time by the scientist themselves before being fed into the main extension system of the state department of Agriculture in that particular area. In this method newly released crop production and protection technologies and its management practices are adopted in a block of two to four hectares in the farmers' field. Only critical inputs and training for this demonstration are provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendra. In FLD both farmers and extension functionaries are target audience. From the FLD, it is possible to generate some data related to factors contributing to higher yield and also constraints of production under various farming situations. Front Line Demonstration is conducted in a particular area after thorough discussion and consultation with the farmers of that locality. Depending upon the requirement of that area highly efficient new proven technology with higher potentialities is selected for this programme. Generally, a field day is observed in the demonstration field when the crop is at maturity stage and interaction between the scientists, farmers and extension functionaries takes place in the field. The crop is harvested in the presence of the interested group of farmers so that they can visualize-the importance of new technology easily and effectively.

On Farm Testing (OFT)

Testing of any improved technology along with the farmers practice in the farmers field with active participation of both the scientists and farmers is known as OFT. In this method two to three improved varieties or two to three improved technologies are tested in

the same field so as to compare the results of these treatments. As per the suggestions of the farmers as well as local soil and climatic conditions the improved technology may slightly be modified by the scientists of KVK to get maximum return. All these activities of the KVK are undertaken as per the suggestion and approval of the Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee consists of representative from the Vice-chancellor of State Agricultural University or Director of the Institute, representative from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, representative of the District Collector, representatives from Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandary, Sericulture, progressive male and female farmers, male and female social workers of that area and Training Organizer of the concern KVK. The Scientific Advisory Committee held once in a year to review the work of KVK and provide suggestions for future plan of work. The future technical programme of the KVK is prepared as per the suggestion of the farmers of that particular area. Besides these activities each KVK has got different demonstration units such as Mushroom unit. Bio-fertiliser unit, vermi-compost unit, broiler farming unit, bee keeping unit, fruit preservation unit, etc. for the lagers. When a person will visit KVK, he will be able to see all the enterprise in the demonstration unit and he can interact with the scientists regarding the establishment of his own enterprise. These units will help the villager to increase his confidence on a particular enterprise.

Summary and Conclusions

From these discussions, it can be concluded that the scientists of KVK provide required knowledge, impart training to improve the skill and attitude of the people towards a particular subject, provide proper guidance to solve any problem faced by the people related to agriculture and allied topics. Krishi Vigyan Kendra provides inspiration, constructive and constant advice to the people of that area to start new entrepreneurship for their livelihood and show them proper way when need actual help as the light house help the sailor in the sea. So we can rightly say that Krishi Vigyan Kendra is the light house for the rural people. Research organizations develop technologies for the masses and based on this, KVK develop location specific technology modules for a group of farmers.

KVKs demonstrate the technologies in farmer's fields to establish its production potential, which is further taken up in massive scale by the extension departments. There are new varieties of crops, new breeds of animals and fish released by the research organizations.

These may not be available for the farmers in sufficient quantities. Here comes the role of KVKs using its own facility for seed production or through public-private partnership in satellite seed production/breeding units. Getting updates for farmers and development officials through training programmes refresh their knowledge and this important function is also being done by the KVKs. KVK is the knowledge and resource centre of all agricultural technologies in district level which is the only organization in the country where farmer get the services of all agricultural-animal husbandry-fisheries professionals under one umbrella

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