

Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVK's) And Their Role in Capacity Building of Farmers and Youths

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Krishi Vigyan Kendra's (KVK's) play a very important role in the dissemination of technology and they are the only institute at the district level in India for technological backstopping in agriculture and allied sectors. As a bridge between the institutions and farmers, starting from the green revolution era, KVKs played a key role in the progress of India in her travel from food deficit country to self-sufficient/self-reliant Nation. In the difficult days of agriculture like natural disasters, pandemic, epidemics etc., KVKs always stood with the farmers, holding their hands as a friend. By the recommendation of Education Commission (1964-66) and discussion of Planning Commission and Inter-Ministerial Committee as well as recommendation by the committee headed by Dr. Mohan Singh Mehta appointed by ICAR in 1973 the idea of establishment of Farm Science Centre (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) was developed. The first KVK, on a pilot basis, was established in 1974 at Pondicherry under the administrative control of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore.

ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Jodhpur is formerly known as Zonal Project Directorates (ZPDs) functioning under Division of Agricultural Extension. ICAR has established a vast network of KVKs all over the country under the administrative control of various ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), State Department of Agriculture, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other institutes for implementing the central governmental projects/schemes. The major functions of the ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute are; planning, monitoring and reviewing of KVK activities in the zone; to identify, prioritize and implement various activities related to technology integration and dissemination; coordinating with SAUs, ICAR institutes/organizations, line departments and voluntary organizations in the zone for



implementation of KVK mandated activities; and facilitating financial and infrastructural support to KVKs for effective functioning.

Mandate and Activities of KVK's

The overall mandate of the KVK is to develop and disseminate location specific technological modules at district level through Technology Assessment, Refinement and Demonstration and to act as Knowledge and Resource Centre for agriculture and its allied activities. The specific activities to carry out this mandate are:

- ✓ Conducting On-farm testing to identify the location specificity of agricultural technologies under various farming systems
- ✓ Organizing frontline demonstrations to establish production potential of various crops and enterprises on the farmers' fields
- ✓ Organizing need-based training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills in modern agricultural technologies related to technology assessment, refinement and demonstration, and training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.
- ✓ Creating awareness about improved technologies to larger masses through appropriate extension programmes
- ✓ Production and supply of good quality seeds and planting materials, livestock, poultry and fisheries breed and products and various bio-products to the farming community.
- ✓ Work as resource and knowledge centre of agricultural technology for supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector for improving the agricultural economy of the district.

Training plays an important role in the advancement of human performance in a given situation. Training provides a systematic improvement of knowledge and skills which helps the trainees to function more effectively and efficiently in their given work on completion of the training. Training is a process of acquisition of new skills, attitude and knowledge in the context of preparing for entry into a vocation or improving one's productivity in an organization or enterprise. An effective training requires a clear picture of how the trainees will need to use information after training in place of their local practices what they have adopted before in their situation. Training helps to enhance human capabilities in improving the level of thinking and ways of life.



The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK's) offers a very good opportunity to farmers by organising trainings to work closely with trainees in developing a more skilled and educated workforce. KVK conducted both on-campus and off-campus type of trainings. The training programmes of KVK are multipurpose to cover not only the single farmer but also for the entire needs of a farmer's community. It covers agricultural technology (plant protection, beekeeping, horticulture, agronomy, animal production, soil science etc) home crafts, childcare, family welfare, cooperation, fisheries, cottage industries etc depending upon the needs of an area and the farmers. KVK's impart trainings and education with a view to raise the level of knowledge, skill, attitudinal changes and transferring recommended improved agriculture technologies to maximize the production and productivity and also to develop entrepreneurs among the farming community. Training programmes cover practicing farmers, farm women, youths and extension personnels.

KVK Bikaner established in the year 1983 working under the jurisdiction of Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultura University (SKRAU), Bikaner.

KVK Bikaner is regularly conduction on and off campus trainings under his jurisdiction area (Sri Dungargarh, Kolayat, Nokha, Bikaner, Bajju, Panchoo Blocks). The main objective is to popularize latest agricultural technologies among the farmers by organizing short- and long-term training programmes at village level or at KVK level. Believing in the concept that every KVK scientist is serving for farmers, the KVK scientist works in active association and close co-operation with farmers through frequent farmer-scientist interactions through Kisan Chopals and Kharif and Rabi Samellans and diagnostic field visits enabled University scientists to earn good will confidence and credibility of farmers. In order to reinforce and strengthen this mode of approach to solve many problems and complicated issues of farmers.

Agri-Input Dealers in the country are a prime source of farm information for the farming community, besides the supply of inputs and credit. However, majority of these dealers do not have formal agricultural knowledge. In order to build their technical knowledge and skill in agriculture and to facilitate them to serve the farmers better and to act as para – extension professionals, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) has launched a self-financed “One-year Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) Program” during the year 2003. KVK, Bikaner also conducted this diploma twice for Input dealers.



Since 1974 after the establishment of First KVK at Pondicherry now they have grown to 732 KVKs in 2023. As the KVK's are act as a frontline extension system in technology transfer, KVK's have their footprint in every successful technology developed by institutions and adopted by farmers.

