

## Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in India Agriculture

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### Introduction

The first KVK was established in 1974 at Puducherry. The number of KVKs has risen to 731. The KVK scheme is 100% financed by Govt. of India and the KVKs are sanctioned to Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working in Agriculture.

KVK, is an integral part of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), aims at assessment of location specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement and demonstrations. KVKs have been functioning as Knowledge and Resource Centre of agricultural technology supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector for improving the agricultural economy of the district and are linking the NARS with extension system and farmers.

### Aim

The aim of the portal is to transfer the technologies developed by the agricultural scientists to the farmers in a fast and effective manner using web and mobile technology as well as to monitor the activities of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

### Objectives

- To create a platform to monitor the various activities as well as resource utilization by various KVKs;
- To create a database of the various programmes organized by the KVKs along with their detailed information and learning resources;
- To help the farmers in resolving their queries using web and mobile technologies;
- To provide information about various facilities and activities performed by the KVKs and to provide linkage to other important information such as weather and market information.



### **KVK System: Mandate and Activities**

The mandate of KVK is Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Development.

- To implement the mandate effectively, the following activities are envisaged for each KVK On-farm testing to assess the location specificity of agricultural technologies under various farming systems.
- Frontline demonstrations to establish production potential of technologies on the farmers' fields. Capacity development of farmers and extension personnel to update their knowledge and skills on modern agricultural technologies.
- To work as Knowledge and Resource Centre of agricultural technologies for supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector in improving the agricultural economy of the district. Provide farm advisories using ICT and other media means on varied subjects of interest to farmers
- In addition, KVKs produce quality technological products (seed, planting material, bio-agents, livestock) and make it available to farmers, organize frontline extension activities, identify and document selected farm innovations and converge with ongoing schemes and programs within the mandate of KVK.

### **History of KVKS**

The Education Commission (1964-66) recommended that a vigorous effort be made to establish specialized institutions to provide vocational education in agriculture and allied fields at the pre and post matriculate levels to cater the training needs of a large number of boys and girls coming from rural areas. The Commission, further, suggested that such institutions be named as 'Agricultural Polytechnics'. The recommendation of the Commission was thoroughly discussed: during 1966-72 by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Planning Commission, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other allied institutions. Finally, the ICAR mooted the idea of establishing Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Agricultural Science Centres) as innovative institutions for imparting vocational training to the practicing farmers, school dropouts and field level extension functionaries. The ICAR Standing Committee on Agricultural Education, in its meeting held in August, 1973, observed that since the establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) was of national importance which would help in accelerating the agricultural production as also in improving the socio-

economic conditions of the farming community, the assistance of all related institutions should be taken in implementing this scheme. The ICAR, therefore, constituted a committee in 1973 headed by Dr. Mohan Singh Mehta of Seva Mandir, Udaipur (Rajasthan), for working out a detailed plan for implementing this scheme. The Committee submitted its report in 1974.

### **Different Ongoing Schemes at Krishi Vigyan Kendras**

#### **Cluster Frontline Demonstration (CFLDs)**

Cluster frontline demonstration is a unique approach by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on Oilseed and Pulse crops to provide a direct interface between scientists and farmers where farmers are guided by the KVK scientists during demonstrations in implementation of improved technologies like seed treatment, IPM, INM, land preparation etc. Demonstrated fields are regularly monitored by the scientists. Cluster Frontline Demonstration project started since 2015-16 under NFSM and NMOOP

#### **Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)**

The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) strategy of tribal development is a concept intended to address the issues of backwardness in tribal areas and tribal population in an integrated way. The aim is to minimize the gap between the livelihood of tribal people and general communities.

#### **Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)**

The basic objective of the SCSP has been to channel the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors in the Plan of States for the development of Scheduled Castes, at least in proportion to their population, both in physical and financial terms.

#### **Out Scaling of Natural Farming Through KVKS**

The project “Out scaling of Natural Farming” aims at bringing sustainability in production system and restoring soil fertility. Natural Farming offers a solution to various problems, such as food insecurity, farmers’ distress, and health problems arising due to pesticide and fertilizer residue in food and water, global warming, climate change and natural calamities. It also has the potential to generate employment, thereby stemming the migration of rural youth. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has taken an initiative for promotion of Natural Farming as BharatiyaPrakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme (BPKP) under centrally sponsored scheme- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). It is largely based

on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations; periodic soil aeration and exclusion of all synthetic chemical inputs.

### Special Project on Cotton

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India has approved a special project on cotton entitled ‘Targeting technologies to agro-ecological zones- large scale demonstrations of best practices to enhance cotton productivity’ under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for implementation during 2023-24. The project is being implemented through ICAR-Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur on PPP mode in the identified clusters through value chain approach by collaboration with Ministry of Textiles, CITI & SIMA; Seed Industry Associations (NSAI and FSII); Extension partners (Cotton Development and Research Associations of CITI and SIMA); Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ICAR-ATARIs) & their Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs); State Departments of Agriculture-ATMA, Textile partners and Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to increase productivity of cotton and production of Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton.

### Different Zones Of Kvk Their Locations And Number Of Kvks

ATARI Name	ATARI Address	No. of KVKs under Atari
ICAR-ATARI Zone-I Ludhiana	PAU Campus Ludhiana, Punjab	72
ICAR-ATARI Zone-V Kolkata	Bhumi Vihar Complex Block- GB Sector-III, Salt Lake Kolkata, West Bengal	59
ICAR-ATARI Zone-VII Barapani	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region Barapani, Meghalaya	43
ICAR-ATARI Zone-III Kanpur	Rawatpur Near Vikas Bhawan Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	89
ICAR-ATARI Zone-X Hyderabad	CRIDA Campus, Santhosh Nagar Hyderabad, Telangana	71
ICAR-ATARI Zone-II Jodhpur	CAZRI Campus, Diesel Shed Road PO Krishi Upaj Mandi, Basni Jodhpur, Rajasthan	66
ICAR-ATARI Zone-IX Jabalpur	PO Adhartal, JNKVV Campus, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	82

ICAR-ATARI Zone-XI Bangalore	M.R.S, H.A.Farm (P.O), Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka	48
ICAR-ATARI Zone-IV Patna	ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone-IV, Patna.	68
ICAR-ATARI Zone-VI Guwahati	ICAR Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, ICAR CPCRI Campus Kahikuchi, Guwahati, Assam	47
ICAR-ATARI Zone-VIII Pune	ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), College of Agriculture Campus, Shivajinagar, Pune (Maharashtra)	82