

ANNUAL ZONAL REVIEW WORKSHOP OF KVKs, ZONE – X HELD AT RAJAHMUNDRY DURING 25-27TH JUNE 2024

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr.U.S.Gautam, Hon'ble Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi and participated by Dr. M. Sheshu Madhav, Director ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry, Dr. K. Suresh, Director, ICAR-IIOPR, Pedavegi, Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director, ATARI, Zone-X, Hyderabad and two Hon'ble Vice Chancellor(s) of Horticultural University of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana namely Dr. T. Janakiram and Dr. B. Neeraja Prabhakar, respectively.

In the welcome note, Dr. Sheshu Madhav has welcomed the dignitaries and described the change in mandated crops of the Institute and is now working on five crops namely turmeric, chili, ashwagandha, tobacco and castor.



Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director, ATARI Zone X made a detailed presentation highlighting the progress made in the past one year under different schemes. Zone X could mobilize Rs. 18.0 crores through collaboration with various agencies and he suggested every KVK should make use of revolving fund effectively and mobilize additional resources. A new programme on “Integrated Farming System” (IFS) is going to be launched involving 51 KVKs and 800 farmers.

Dr. Neeraja Prabhakar stressed upon improving the livelihoods based on agriculture as 46% of the population is dependent on it, improving the quality and shelf life of horticultural products and inclusion of tree and shrub components in IFS and Agroforestry systems.

Dr. T. Janakiram indicated that the contribution of horticulture has achieved greater height and could produce 354 million tons and the State of Andhra Pradesh is considered as major hub of horticulture. The State of AP is exporting mango and banana and launched many initiatives mainly “Vice Chancellor to Village” and focusing on nutrition per hectare rather than yield.

During his inaugural speech, Hon'ble DDG Dr. U.S. Gautam has stated that the project on “Digital Zone” is given to Extension Division of ICAR and many changes are expected and are desirable. Categorization of KVKs is being done and 100 out of 731 are urban. There are about 11.5 crores farmers and are to be linked to *Kisan Sarathi*. The Plan of Amrutkal-2047 must be achieved. Honorable DDG stressed upon IPR issues and documentation, similarly capacity development and training of officials at different levels. He suggested ranking of KVKs, ATARIs and identified several areas like community-based models, FPO based business plans at cluster level, incubation cum skill development centers, high tech precision farming, technology park and center of excellence in urban and peri-urban areas.



Dr.S. Senthil Vinayagam, CEO, a-IDEA highlighted the concept and the purpose of meeting the challenges of technologies integration and suggested that KVK can integrate with any “Start Up”. Start up and FPO can work together and there is a good scope in the allied sectors. He suggested few sources of funding like BIRAC, NIDHI, ABIC, Agri-Udan 6.0, Start Up India seed fund scheme, etc.

Dr. Seshu Madhav, Director NIRCA narrated success stories like propagation of turmeric using single node in root trainers, supply of quality planting material of Ashwagandha, and harvesting of tobacco leaves using robot. Dr. M.V. Prasad of IIOPR made a presentation on scope and potential for area expansion under oil palm to bridge the gap of oil as supply is less compared to the demand and the amount spent on import is about Rs.80,000 crores. Dr. E. Karuna Sree, DEE, Dr. YSR Horticulture University highlighted various programmes under TSP like integrated bee keeping, bee wax products, backyard poultry, area specific mineral mixture, cashew apple jam, fisheries initiatives and community Nutri-garden.

Dr. A. Bhaskaran, Principal Scientist, ATARI Zone-X highlighted and explained the ethics in the workplace and joy in working and fun in learning. He suggested preventive vigilance and writing to Central Vigilance Commission for minimizing the corruption.

The inaugural session ended with the release of multiple publications.



On Day-2: In the forenoon session, Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman, CEO of Centre for Research on Innovations and Science Policy (CRISP) dealt with writing skills and identified gaps in the notes of KVKs on good practices. In the afternoon, Mr. Srajeesh Gupta of Centre for Grower-Centric Ecovalue Mechanism presented the impact of global warming and the concept of carbon credits. KVKs can tap the funds of MSME on farm linked activities as service provider for secondary agriculture. Ms. Vinyasa of CSA which promoted in the beginning NPM and now organic farming and involved in organic certification. Dr. Radha Madhav delivered the lecture on tapping of CSR funds and Dr.G.Venkata Naidu on importance of livestock and the share of Zone-X at National Level. Zone X comprises of 18% livestock, >50% sheep and 36% poultry and has contributed to livestock germplasm with World renowned Ongole breed of cattle and Murrah Buffalo.

Day-3 A field visit in the forenoon and valedictory function in the afternoon was planned. In the forenoon visited Satya Deva Nursery located in Kadiyapulanka, Rajahmundry which supplies saplings of fruits and flower plants not only in India but also exporting to other countries. In the final session, an awards function was held and many KVKs received awards and letters of appreciation in different categories. KVK, Yagantipalle, Kurnool (AP) outperformed and received the rolling trophy.



The workshop ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Y. Subbaiah, Principal Scientist, CTRI and the National Anthem.

About 72 KVKs from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu attended the Workshop.