

PILOT TRAINING PROGRAMME ON DIGITAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION FACILITATOR AT KVK MYRADA, ERODE FROM 6th JUNE 2024 TO 10th JUNE 2024

Day 1: 06.06.2024

ICAR KVK MYRADA Erode district in association with ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore, Agriculture Skill Council of India and National Skill Foundation of India organized pilot training programme on **"Digital Agriculture Extension Facilitator"** at ICAR KVK, MYRADA campus from 06.06.2024 to 10.06.2024.

On 06.06.2024, Digital Agriculture Extension Facilitator training programme inaugurated at KVK campus. Dr.P.Alagesan, Senior Scientist and Head welcomed the delegates, officials and training participants. Dr.N. Anandaraja, Professor and Head, Training division, Directorate of Extension Education, TNAU Coimbatore briefed about five-day session plan and its usages for future agriculture scenario. Dr.P.P.Murugan, Director of Extension Education TNAU explained the importance of the training to extension officials working in agriculture and allied sector.



Shri.Sai Krishna, Chief executive officer, NSFI explained the training task and its importance in the upcoming field of agriculture. Felicitation address was given by Dr. E. Karunasree, Director of Extension Education, Dr.YSR Horticultural University, AP, Shri. Arvind G Risbud, Executive Director of MYRADA and Shri.S.Venkatesan, Joint Director of Agriculture Erode District. Dr.Shaik.N.Meera, Director, ICAR - ATARI, Zone X Hyderabad preside over the pilot training programme and emphasized about importance of digital agriculture and its benefits to small and marginal farmers. Dr.M.Senthilkumar, Associate Professor, DoEE TNAU Coimbatore delivered the vote of thanks.

Followed to this, self-introduction session by the participants and shared each of their experiences in the field of digital extension. 28 participants participated from KVK, Department of Agriculture & Horticulture, Farmer Producer Organizations, Krishi Mitras, Research Scholars and progressive farmers. Dr. Sai Krishna, CEO of NSFI explained about the course objectives, module wise time frame, learning outcomes, roles and responsibilities of the Agricultural extension facilitators in disseminating digital agricultural technologies to the grass root level.



Dr. Shaik.N.Meera, Director, ICAR – ATARI, Zone X, Hyderabad, handled the session on Introduction of Digital Agriculture, History of Agricultural Technology, understanding the importance of digitalization in agriculture and key components in digital agriculture. Dr. N. Anandaraja Professor and Head, Training Division, TNAU explained about the improved farm management practices, challenges and opportunities in adopting digital agricultural technologies. Dr. M. Senthilkumar, Associate Professor, DoEE, TNAU handled the session on benefits of digital agricultural technologies and explained about the some of the commonly used digital agricultural technologies in Indian context. The participants divided into subgroups and provided assignment on enlist the problems faced by farmers in agriculture and the available solution for the same in digital agriculture.

Day 2: 07.06.2024

The participants exposed to the irrigation automation company called “**Mobitech wireless solution**” located in Perundurai region. The participants exposed on automatic weather station and its usages, sensor based irrigation to the crops and fertigation processes through wireless solutions. Interacted with the company officials on the feasibility of sensor-based farming for small and marginal farmers and the initial establishment cost, maintenance, etc., Visited IoT enabled farm established by the company and learned about the practical usage of the irrigation automation at field level.



The participants also visited the innovative farmer (Mr. Shanmugasundaram, Chithode) field who is practicing Banana Forest, Vertical farming and value addition in Banana based products.



In the afternoon session, the participants presented their group activities and shared their knowledge on digital agriculture. Dr. N. Anandaraja handled the session on Need for and importance of precision agriculture in the current scenario and presented the success cases from Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts. He also shared about his experiences in the implementation of precision farming projects in Tamilnadu. Dr.M. Senthilkumar explained about the smart farming for enhancing the extension advisory services, digital tools used for crop management, precision farming, and livestock management.



Day 3: 08.06.2024

Recap of the previous day session was handled by Dr.N. Anandaraja and also presented the different tools used for content creation. Followed to this, Mr.Hari Balaji from **Aerotix**, delivered the session on Importance of drone in agriculture, classification of drones, pilot licensing and operational guidelines for drone usage in agriculture. The participants interacted about the types of advanced drones and its multi usage in agriculture. Demonstration conducted on the drone operation, buffer zone, height from the crop, take-off and landing methods in drone. Mr. Bharath Krishna, Consultant from NSFI handled the session on post-harvest management, traceability and block chain technologies, and digital transformation technologies in post-harvest management and traceability in different crops and shared the cases like Dehaat, eKart platform and its functions in agricultural produces marketing.



In the afternoon session, Dr.P.A. Saravanan, Head of Thiruppur KVK delivered the session on SOP for pesticide and nutrient spraying with drones, guidelines for pest management using drones, Do's and Don'ts while operating drones, safety measures for the pilot operators and standardization of chemicals for pest and disease management. Ms.Haritha, consultant Digital Marketing explained about the use of different social apps for digital marketing, development of content for innovative marketing approach, wider publicity of the products through different digital platforms. She also demonstrated the content development app to the participants for innovative posters creations.

Day 4: 09.06.2024

The participants divided into subgroups and group works assigned on data collection by using different tools and digital application tools and its usages in agriculture. A separate Google forms developed for different tools and its application in agriculture developed by DoEE unit, TNAU. The participants engaged in filling the forms in multiple responses for various tools.



Day 5: 10.06.2024

In the forenoon session, Dr. E. Karunasree, Director of Extension Education, Dr.YSR Horticultural University, AP handled session on types of data, data collection methods, online handling and storing of data for digitalization. Mr.Praveen, Agriculture Officer from Department of Agriculture Marketing and Agri Business briefed about e-NAM and its features and how it helps the farmers to marketing their products without intermediates. Mr. John, Entrepreneur explained about ONDC (Open network for Digit Commerce) functions, how it networks the producers and buyers, trapping the potential of online platform sources for marketing and also share the success cases of ONDC.



In the afternoon session, M.Senthil Kumar, Associate Professor, DoEE, TNAU Coimbatore handled the session on Data collection tools, retrieving and utilisation of data in digital agriculture. The participants practically oriented about the questionnaire development by using digital apps and test verified among them. Followed to that the participants provided with post evaluation questionnaire and online feedback from for the effectiveness of the programme. The participants shared their feedback about the five days programme and few participants feedback has been documented as video for further up-gradation of the training programme. The participants certificate has been given to all the participants and follow to this, the valedictory programme has been organized in which Dr.E.Karunasree, DEE, Dr.YSRHU presided over the programme and given the concluding remarks on the five days programme.





Press and Media Coverage:



5-day training programme on digital agriculture begins

The Hindu Bureau
ERODE

A five-day skill training programme on digital agriculture extension facilitation is being held from June 6 to 10 at the ICAR Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), MYRADA campus in Gobichettipalayam here.

Organised in association with ICAR- Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, National Skill Foundation of India (NSFI) and Agricultural Skill Council of India, the programme was inaugurated on Thursday.

P. Alagesan, Senior Scientist and Head, MYRADA KVK, welcomed the gathering, and N. Anantharaja, Professor and Head, Training Division, TNAU, briefed about the five-day session plan and its usages in the future agriculture scenario.

P.P. Murugan, Director of Extension Education, TNAU, explained the importance of the training to the extension officials working in the agriculture related fields. Sai Krishna, Chief Executive Officer, NSFI, explained the training task and its importance in the upcoming field of agriculture. E. Karunashree, Director of Extension Education, Dr. YSR Horticulture University, Arvind G. Risbud, Executive Director, MYRADA and S. Venkatesan, Joint Director of Agriculture, Erode district, also spoke.

In his presidential address, Shaik. N. Meera, Director, ICAR ATARI, Zone X, Hyderabad explained about the importance of digital agriculture and its benefits to the small and marginal farmers. As many as 30 participants attended the training. M. Senthilkumar, associate professor, TNAU, delivered a vote of thanks.
