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ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Changing Role of KVK in Agricultural Development, Recent initiatives and Case studies

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ABSTRACT

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. With time and pace, the role of KVKs are changing. The article throws light into the changing role of KVKs, mandates, new initiatives and case studies.

Keywords: Changing role of KVK, new initiatives, locale-specific technologies

INTRODUCTION

Based on the recommendations of Education Commission (1964-65) and M.S. Mehta Committee by ICAR, first KVK/farm science centre was established at Pondicherry. The concept of KVK are learning through work experience (technical literacy), providing training to extension agents who are already employed or practicing farmers/fishermen. There will be no uniform syllabus for KVK. Programs are tailored to meet felt needs, natural resources and potential for agricultural growth in that area.

OBJECTIVES

- To critically analyze objectives and mandates of KVK
- To analyze role of KVK in agricultural development, recent initiatives and case study

Principles of KVK

Agricultural production as the prime goal, work experience as main method of imparting training and priority to weak sections of society

Objectives & Mandates of KVK

1. Plan and conduct survey of operational area to prepare resource inventory and identify training needs
2. Plan and conduct production oriented, need based, short and long duration training course
3. Conducting front line demonstrations on latest farm technologies
4. Organize on farm research
5. Provide training facilities in homemaking, nutrition education and so on.

Mandates are **Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Development** (TADA-CD), **On farm testing** (conducted on farmers field where appropriate technologies are not available for particular agro-climatic situation), **Frontline demonstrations** (field demonstrations conducted at the close supervision of scientists of NARS because these technologies are demonstrated first time by scientists themselves before being fed into main extension system), **capacity building, knowledge and resource centre and provide farm advisory system through ICTs.**

Role of KVK in Agricultural Development

Over the years, ICAR has strengthened the KVK system as an innovative institutional model for assessment, refinement and demonstration of agricultural technologies. With strengthening of KVK during FYP 12, it plays a pivotal role in promoting integrated farming system comprising animal components, fisheries, processing and value addition.

Development of Pulse crops- About 137 KVK are conducting demonstration on pulse crops by linking KVK with IIPR, Kanpur. Productivity of green gram in Rajasthan, pigeon pea and chickpea in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Development of maize- Technology dissemination on maize is an example of linkage of Directorate of maize research, ISOPOM and 160 KVKs playing role to promote single crop hybrid and Quality Protein Maize.

Climate Resilient Agriculture- ICAR identified 100 KVKs across 29 states to have micro level observations on soil and climate change with Natural Resource Management, Div of ICAR & CRIDA.

e- Extension approach of KVK- ICAR has provided e- connectivity to 192 KVKs and eight zonal project directorates and initiated Kisan Mobile Advisory through 300 KVKs. It has made cost effective and access to information regarding weather, market and farm operations easier.

Kisan Mobile Sandesh- The KVK Chindwara Madhya Pradesh and KVK Mahasamand, Chhatisgarh has initiated IT enabled dissemination of instant bulk messages to all stakeholders in 26 August 2007 and 2009 respectively.

v-KVK- IIT Kanpur in 2010 developed voice KVK as agro advisory service provider through SMS and voice messages.

Recent Initiatives- Nutri-gardens and Poshan thali were pilot tested in KVK of Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh. Best KVK award (Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Krishi Vigyan Protsahah Puraskar, 2020) was bagged by KVK Piprakothi. KVK mobile application developed by ICAR-IASRI.

Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan (01.06.2018-31.07.2018) – Coordinated and implemented by KVK in 117 selected aspirational districts. It will be implemented in 25 villages of aspirational district with more than thousand population.

m- Kissan Portal (2013)- Web based agro advisory services to farmers with technology backstopping from KVK and research institutes of state agricultural universities.

New schemes of KVK (2018-19)

- NARI- Nutri sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovation
- KSHAMTA- Knowledge system and Homestead Agricultural Management in Tribal Areas
- VATICA- Value Addition and Technology Incubation Center in Agriculture
- FIRM- Farm Innovation Resources Management

Changing Roles of Extension in Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Kumar et al. 2020)

Enhancing the visibility of KVK

- Training center for specialized solutions for sustainable
- A storehouse of knowledge through instructional farms agriculture
- Active demonstration units at KVK to serve as good models for training farmers
- Serving as knowledge dissemination center for clusters, and training of farmers on Resource all line dept. and Intensive fieldwork in selected Taluka of new KVK departments of district.

Capacity building

- Organizing farmers into groups – farmer clubs, clusters, and training of farmers on Resource conservation technologies
- Forming farmers group for common property resource
- FPOs Training women on post-harvest and value addition
- Training of Para Extension Trainers and youths on entrepreneurial motivation and knowledge enterprise development

Field Extension Work

- Conducting benchmark surveys for problem identification
- Sensitizing farmers about new technologies, Livestock development and demonstration center
- Quality seed production of important crops, seedlings and Impact assessment of technologies
- Conducting on-farm trials on selected technologies and Prioritizing research and extension targets through Agro-ecosystem analysis

Harnessing ICT

- Establish a web interface with social media and
- Developing crop-specific mobile apps
- Maintaining a knowledge repository in coordination with ATARI
- Developing online ferti-meter for the proper combination of fertilizers use based on soil health cards
- Linking of market and crop insurance information on the website with agmarknet / eNAM
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Institution based intervention on promoting composite fish culture in rural Odisha: A case study of KVK-Khordha

A sample of 42 fish farmers benefitted from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) were analysed to understand the adoption of Scientific Management Practices (SMP), effectiveness of KVK activities and constraints faced by farmers. Majority of the farmers were of middle aged group, practicing grow-out culture by utilizing their own financial resources. The adoption of SMPs was found to be higher after the intervention of KVK in the respective villages by practicing soil and water analysis, scientific stocking density, supplementary feeding techniques and other relevant practices to increase fish production. The respondents of the study perceived that the Front Line Demonstrations was the most effective method compared to other activities/services of KVK. The study concludes that institutions are vital for the welfare and also updating with technical know-how to achieve higher fish production. After KVK intervention water quality testing through lab was one of the highest with 95.24% along with proper stocking density (94.24%), use of extension agencies (92.85%) followed by liming the pond (87.51%). It is evident that the intervention of KVK on all means has improved the adoption of scientific management practices in composite fish culture by the fish farmers. (Sahoo *et al.* 2016)

CONCLUSION

KVK is one of India's most important institutional innovation inspiring in 21st century. Chander (2015) has following suggestions make functioning of KVK more vibrant:

- **Diversified farm systems including Agrotourism** - KVK farms and KVK adopted villages can be developed as agro-tourism sites, to demonstrate diversifying farm income portfolio. KVKs' demonstrations must be cost effective for adoption by farmers
- **Resource generation** - KVKs can compete and tap funds available from various government schemes/NABARD/Agricultural Skill Council of India for skill & entrepreneurship development in rural areas. KVKs should be in a position to generate a part of their resources from the sale of planting materials and other produce from their farms.
- **Address capacity gaps**- Apart from updating technical skills in the area of their respective subject, the KVK staff, need to be trained on innovation management (Sulaiman *et al.* 2014).
- **ATMA-KVK convergence**- Proposed changes like quarterly joint meetings, earmarking of funds to KVKs, visit of ATMA staff to the cluster villages of KVKs and ATMA sponsorship for Technology Weeks (being organized by KVKs) are achieved successfully, which may be shared for wider replication in other districts.
- **Proactive role of zonal project directories**- The ZPDs need to be proactive not only in collection of data, preparation of reports for prompt onward transmission to Agricultural extension division of ICAR, effective monitoring &

evaluating the performance of KVKs under the jurisdiction, but also in guiding/facilitating the KVKs to play more wider roles to promote and apply new knowledge.

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