



Convergence between Agricultural Research and Extension



**Government of India
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
&
Department of Agricultural Research and Education
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1. As you are aware, food and nutritional security for the country is of critical importance. This is reflected not only in the Millennium Development Goals but also in our national policies. Equally important is the policy of inclusive and sustained economic growth. Therefore, government has been consistently focusing attention on how to improve farm incomes and also livelihood security in the rural areas. This is a *sine qua non* for sustaining production levels to meet our future demands.
2. Through various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Government has been addressing the needs of the agriculture and allied sectors over the years with beneficial effects. While the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHD & F) have been mainly involved in designing programmes and schemes targeting specific areas in these sectors, the Indian Council of Agricultural



Research (ICAR) has been providing the necessary scientific research back-up for better scientific and technological inputs to improve productivity. In the past several years, we have seen positive outcomes of schemes such as National Horticulture Mission, National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize, Macro Management in Agriculture and Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seed. Similarly, the ICAR system has been able to develop several varieties and other scientific and technological tools which have helped the farmer directly in improving productivity of land and thereby the farmer's income.

3. While at the level of the Ministry of Agriculture satisfactory coordination structures have evolved, there is scope for improvement in the interaction between the scientific community and the field functionaries who are responsible for implementation of schemes and programmes for the benefit of the

farmers. One of the reasons for the success of the Green Revolution was that scientists, administrators and farmers all came together to engineer a paradigm shift in the way agriculture was practised. Over the years, this cohesion has not been all that strong. More often than not the farmer is deprived of the benefits of scientific and technological advancements due to lack of interface between the scientist and the administrator, between the administrator and the farmers and between the scientist and the farmer. It is, therefore, important for us to rethink our strategy on how best we can bring about a direct interface among the scientist, the administrator and the farmer or in other words how successfully we roll out the “lab to land” approach.

4. In the States, the agricultural research and education system is available through the State Agriculture Universities (SAU), several specialized ICAR institutions and the KVKs. Similarly, the extension mechanism through ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management

Agency) and the State Agriculture Officers and lower functionaries is available for extension authorities and for rolling out various schemes of Central and State Governments.

5. In order to enable the farmers to draw the full benefit of the scientific and other manpower available within the State, the following decisions have been taken:-

(a) Besides regular participation in ATMA GB & Management Committee, the Programme Coordinators of the KVKs in the District should have an interface meeting with the Project Director, ATMA once a month during the cropping season and work out a strategy of providing crop advisories to farmers for various stages of crop growth. Scientists available in the KVKs will advise and mentor Block Technology Teams in identifying technological needs in various Blocks in the District and programmatic interventions to meet such needs. In addition, SAUs have to designate an expert who would be in-charge of one District to provide instant guidance to extension functionaries in

the District with support provided under ATMA @ Rs. 24000 per year (including expenditure on mobile communication). Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan (CDAP) or District Agriculture Action Plan (DAAP) under ATMA developed on the basis of the Strategic Research and Extension Plan (SREP) should be refined in the process jointly by ATMA and KVKs from the Block level and acted upon for the purpose.

(b) Project Director ATMA and Programme Coordinator of KVK should jointly visit at least five villages every month in the District to guide and supervise the extension related work assigned to scientists and the extension officers, including BTM & SMSs supported under ATMA. At the end of the month, a joint progress report will be submitted by the Project Director, ATMA and Programme Coordinator of KVK, to the Secretary & Director (Agriculture & allied departments such as Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries etc.) of the State and the Vice Chancellor(s) of SAU(s).

- (c) In consultation with the Secretary (Agriculture) of the State, the Vice Chancellor(s) of the University(ies) will allocate districts to specific scientists in the SAU, who would interact again with the ATMA and KVK of the assigned districts and provide technological inputs to the farmers through this mechanism.
- (d) Every month, both for (b) and (c) above, the minimum number of villages to be visited by the ATMA and KVK personnel and the minimum number of field visits by SAU scientists shall be fixed by the Vice Chancellor of the State Agriculture University in consultation with the Secretary (Agriculture) / Agriculture Production Commissioner. Thorough review of the feedback from the field visits should be taken in the next monthly meeting for taking immediate corrective action.
- (e) Quarterly meetings should be organized by the Vice Chancellor of the University in which an interface would take place between the KVKs, District Agriculture Officers, Project Director ATMA and the scientists of the SAUs and the action taken will be reported to Secretary (Agriculture & allied departments such as Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries etc.) or Agriculture Production Commissioner. The Vice Chancellor of the University will also give a brief summary of the quarterly activities and progress to DG, ICAR.
- (f) ATMA and KVK should coordinate with each other in the conduct of Field Days, Kisan Melas, Goshties and setting up of Farm Schools, so that there is no duplication in coverage and they should ensure percolation of appropriate scientific practices down to the field level.
- (g) ATMA Management Committee having Programme Coordinator, KVK as its member may review the progress of technology application - related activities funded by ATMA. Besides this, the KVK may also provide an Agricultural Technology Update (ATU) on half yearly basis i.e. before the start of Kharif and Rabi crop seasons to the ATMA for its wider dissemination among the farmers of the district.


- (h) Funds for KVK activities under ATMA programme will be released directly to KVKs under intimation to respective controlling authorities i.e. Director Extension Education (DEE) & Comptroller and Directors of ICAR Institute in case of KVKs run by Universities and ICAR institutes respectively. For the KVKs run by NGOs, funds will be released directly to KVKs under intimation to Zonal Project Directors of the zone concerned. Utilisation Certificates for the funds released by ATMA will be provided by the KVKs only along with a qualitative progress report. However, the respective host organisations and monitoring authorities (i.e. Universities, ICAR institutes and Zonal Project Directors) will continue to supervise all activities of KVKs including the ones related to ATMA. All these monitoring officers will submit a report to the State Government and to the Agriculture University once in every Quarter regarding physical and qualitative progress and problems being faced in implementation of policies. Thus, ATMA also will become aware of such pertinent observations.
- (i) The long term researchable issues may be documented, agro-climatic zone-wise with the involvement of Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS). These issues will be formally communicated to the concerned ZARS through the respective SAUs with the approval of the Inter- Departmental Working Group (IDWG). The IDWG having Vice-Chancellor/s of SAUs as well as Director(s) of ICAR institutes in the State as its members will review the progress of research work taken up by the ZARSs on such issues.
- (j) KVKs will provide advice to ATMA and the District Administration for the implementation of Flagship programmes of the DAC namely – NFSM, NHM, RKVY, NAIS etc. The KVK Scientists will technically advise the Block Technology Teams (BTTs) and will also be actively involved in preparation of Block Action Plans (BAPs), especially with regard to research related issues / gaps and strategies. Regular participation of a KVK scientist in the meetings of Block Technology Teams will be ensured at least once in a quarter. The partici-

pating scientist will also take feedback for his colleagues in the KVK in respect of their respective areas of expertise.

- (k) In case of escalated queries in Kisan Call Centres, KVKs will give requisite technical inputs to district level officials as per the requirements of Kisan Knowledge Management System.
- (l) Successful and innovative models of convergence between SAUs and Development Departments of the State in Agriculture and Allied Sectors (eg: District Agriculture Technology Transfer Centres of Andhra Pradesh) need to be developed and replicated in all the States.
- (m) All steps as laid down in the Guidelines for Modified ATMA Scheme Guidelines,

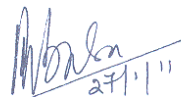
2010 to ensure better convergence between research and extension will be taken.

- 6. Additional requirement of TA/DA, etc. will be met by the respective Departments from their own budgetary allocations. However, funds available under ATMA Cafeteria for Research-Extension-Farmer linkages may also be appropriately utilized.
- 7. Senior officials from DAC and DARE/ ICAR would be visiting the States from time to time to review the progress in getting better coordination and interface between the scientific community and the State agriculture machinery on the one hand and the farmers on the other.



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Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR



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Secretary (A&C)



To,

1. Chief Secretaries / Administrators / Advisor(s) to Administrator of all States & UTs
2. Principal Secretaries / Secretaries (Agri & allied Departments) in all States & UTs
3. Vice Chancellors / Director of Extension / Comptroller of SAUs
4. Heads of ICAR Institutes / All Officers of DAC & DARE
5. Commissioners / Directors of Agriculture & allied Departments / State Nodal Officers of ATMA in all States and Union Territories / Directors of all SAMETIs & EEIs
6. Zonal Project Directors / Programme Coordinators of all KVKs
7. Chairmen of All ATMA Governing Boards and Management Committees
8. All Block Technology Managers under ATMA