

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Zonal Coordinating Unit VIII was established in September 1979 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore to monitor the activities of **Lab to Land Programme**. Subsequently, the unit was transferred to Bangalore in September 1981. Since 1986, this unit was given the additional responsibility to monitor all the ICAR Projects under the Division of Agricultural Extension located in this zone comprising of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS OF THE ZONE

At present the Zonal Coordinating Unit monitors activities of 74 KVKs in four states namely Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa and two Union Territories namely Pondicherry and Lakshadweep. During the year one KVK has been established in the district of Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu.

State wise Status of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

Name of the State	No. of Districts	Details of KVK				TOTAL
		SAU	NGO	ICAR	Others	
Karnataka	27	21	04	01	-	26
Kerala	14	07	03	04	-	14
Tamil Nadu	30	17	10	-	* 02	29
Pondicherry	04	-	-	-	**02	02
Goa	02	-	-	01	** 01	02
Lakshadweep	01	-	-	-	** 01	01
TOTAL	78	45	17	06	06	74

ICAR – Indian Council of Agricultural Research SAU – State Agricultural University NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
* Deemed University ** State Department of Agriculture

STAFF POSITION

Total number of sanctioned posts in the 74 KVKs of Zone is 1184 out of which 966 (82%) are in position. Highest number of vacancies is in Programme Assistant category (34%). Total number of sanctioned post in each KVK is 16.

ACTIVITIES OF KVK

KVKs plan their activities based on the current problems in the major crops/enterprises of the operational area. Normally, a group/block of villages are covered in each taluk of the district by working intensively on the prioritized problems treated as thrust areas for KVKs. Problem identification and prioritization of thrust areas is the fundamental activity of KVKs. Following are the thrust areas on which the KVKs of Zone VIII performed their interventions namely skill training of farmers, vocational training to rural youth, in-service training of extension personnel, organizing frontline demonstrations to establish production potentials on farmers' fields and provide feedback, on-farm testing, organizing extension activities, production and supply of quality seed and plant materials and analysis of soil, water and plant samples.

- ⇒ Sustainable crop production through integrated nutrient management and organic farming strategies
- ⇒ Integrated Pests and Disease management
- ⇒ Scientific management of dairy and small livestock with appropriate feeding, breeding and health management practices
- ⇒ Introduction and popularization of improved varieties/hybrids of crops through technical and material back-up
- ⇒ Development and promotion of crop diversification and alternate land use systems
- ⇒ Empowerment of women and youth through improved nutrition, health, income and reduction of drudgery
- ⇒ Promotion of horticulture as a mechanism of crop diversification, augmenting family income and national income through export
- ⇒ Natural resource management for sustaining resource productivity
- ⇒ Value addition, processing and market facilitation of household and commercial enterprises
- ⇒ Soil, water conservation and watershed management for drought proofing and sustainable rainfed farming
- ⇒ Capacity building of rural youth and women to establish self-employment units
- ⇒ Small scale mechanization for saving time and reducing cost and drudgery
- ⇒ Popularization of crop production technologies and integrated farm development strategies

- ⇒ Capacity building of farmers through information access, exchange and forecasting mechanisms
- ⇒ Increasing income from fishery enterprises through production, processing and marketing enhancing activities

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND REFINEMENT

A total of 391 technologies were taken up for assessment by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in order to evaluate and assess their impact on location specific basis in different farming system including Varietal/feed evaluation (38), nutrient/feed management (116), cropping system (33), soil and water conservation (04), weed management (31) and insect/disease management (128).

A total of 188 technologies were taken up for refinement by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in order to evaluate and assess their impact on location specific basis in different farming system including Varietal/feed evaluation (22), nutrient/feed management (55), cropping system (22), soil and water conservation (05), weed management (20) and insect/disease management(64).

Out of 391 technologies tested, 188 technologies were assessed to make them easily acceptable by the farming community. Majority of technologies assessed were in the theme area of insect/disease management (78) followed by nutrient/feed management (70). With reference to the crops, majority of the assessments were carried out in vegetables, fruits and flower crops (71) followed by cereals (50).

Out of 188 technologies tested, 47 technologies were refined to make them easily acceptable by the farming community. Majority of technologies refined were in the theme area of nutrient/feed management (18) followed by insect/disease management (14). With reference to the crops, majority of the refinements were carried out in vegetables, fruits and flower crops (15) followed by commercial crops (11).

FRONTLINE DEMONSTRATIONS

The Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs) were conducted to demonstrate the production potential of the newly released production technologies in a given farming system. Training programmes and field days were organized for extension workers and farmers in the demonstration plots for dissemination of technologies. During the year, **12530** frontline demonstrations were organized including **6306** on oilseeds, pulses, and cotton covering an area of **2999.04** ha; besides **6224** demonstrations on various crop, livestock and other enterprises.

Oilseeds: During the year, 2572 demonstrations were conducted covering 1138.6 hectare area on major oilseed crops viz., groundnut, sesamum, soybean, safflower, castor, and sunflower. The percentage increase in yield varied from 23.48 in sesame to 48.18 in castor.

Pulses: Demonstrations were conducted in Bengalgram, Redgram, Greengram, Blackgram, and Horsegram. A total of 855 hectare area was covered with 1885 farmers. The percentage increase in yield varied from 23.38 in bengalgram to 53.03 in horsegram.

Cotton: A total of 1849 demonstrations were conducted in cotton covering an area of 1005.44 ha. The percentage increase in yield varied from 12.4 to 61.3.

Cereals and Horticultural crops: The KVKs conducted frontline demonstrations on cereals, fodder, commercial and horticultural crops covering an area of 1201.18 ha benefiting 4269 farmers.

Enterprises: Frontline demonstrations on enterprises like agricultural implements, livestock and mushroom were conducted by KVKs.

Farm implements: Forty five KVKs conducted demonstrations on agricultural implements like bhendi plucker, coconut harvester, groundnut decorticator, cono weeder, drum seeder, paddy harvester, thresher, seed drill, etc. A total of 1057 farmers were involved in these demonstrations.

Livestock Enterprises: Fifty two KVKs conducted demonstrations on livestock enterprises with technologies like breed popularization, nutrition management, disease management, Artificial Insemination etc. Specific technologies include mineral mixture supplements, de-worming, optimum feeding and de-worming in goats, backyard poultry, quail rearing, etc. A total of 747 farmers were involved in these enterprises.

TRAINING

During the year, 8320 training programmes were organized with the participation of 268540 farmers including rural youth, and in-service extension personnel. Besides KVKs of the state conducted 1512 sponsored training

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programmes which benefited 52371 participants. The above training includes 252 vocational training programmes for 3334 youths on various vocations.

Farmers' Training: A total of 6570 training programmes were organized for the benefit of 217691 farmers and farmwomen on various technologies related to orchard management, production and value addition of ornamental, plantation, tuber, spices, medicinal and aromatic, and agro-forestry plants, plant protection, soil health and fertility management, livestock production and management, household nutritional security, economic empowerment of women, drudgery reduction of women, methods of protective cultivation, farm machinery, tools and implements, processing and value addition, fisheries, production of inputs at site, and capacity building and group dynamics. Discipline-wise analysis of these programmes gives the following details:

Training for Rural Youths: The training programmes for rural youth were organized for imparting skill oriented trainings on increasing production and productivity of crops, orchard management, production and value addition of fruit plants, livestock production and management, economic empowerment of women, methods of protective cultivation, farm machinery, tools and implements, processing and value addition, fisheries, production of inputs at site, and capacity building and group dynamics. As many as 1150 skill oriented training programmes were organized for 32691 rural youth.

Training Programmes for Extension Personnel: A total of 600 training programmes were conducted covering 18158 participants. These training programmes were organized for extension functionaries working in government and non-governmental organizations related directly or indirectly with the development of agriculture. The training was imparted to upgrade their knowledge and skills in frontier areas of agriculture technologies related to increasing production and productivity of crops, plant protection, soil health and fertility management, livestock production and management, farm machinery tools and implements, economic empowerment of women, capacity building and group dynamics and household nutrition security.

Training Programmes (Sponsored): Out of a total 6570 training programmes (217691 participants) conducted by the KVKs for the farmers and farm women, rural youth, and in-service extension personnel; 1512 training programmes were conducted on sponsorship by various organizations covering 52371 participants. The participants were from various government and non-governmental organizations associated directly or indirectly with the development of agriculture. The training was imparted to upgrade their knowledge and skills including increasing production and productivity of crops, commercial production of vegetables, production and value addition of fruit plants, ornamental plants and spices crops, soil health and fertility management, processing and value addition, methods of protective cultivation production of inputs at site, farm machinery, tools and implements, livestock production and management, fisheries, household nutritional security, economic empowerment of women, drudgery reduction of women, and capacity building and group dynamics.

Vocational Training Programmes : Out of 1150 training programmes conducted for rural youth, 252 programmes were specifically conducted for 3334 persons, on various vocations including agricultural para-workers and para-vet training, capacity building and group dynamics, commercial floriculture, commercial fruit production, commercial vegetable production, composite fish culture, dairy farming, income generation activities, integrated crop management, mushroom cultivation, nursery, grafting etc., organic farming, piggery, poultry farming, production of bio-agents, bio-pesticides, bio-fertilizers etc., repair and maintenance of farm machinery and implements, rural crafts, seed production, sericulture, sheep and goat rearing, value addition, vermin-composting, tailoring, stitching, embroidery, dyeing etc.

Extension activities

KVKs of Zone VIII organized 65992 extension programmes covering 1733948 farmers and others to create awareness about improved agricultural technologies. The activities include advisory services, agriculture camps, animal health camp, celebration of important days, diagnostic visits, exhibition, exposure visits, extension literature, ex-trainees sammelan, farm science club conveners meet, farmers seminar, farmers visit to KVK, field day, field visits, film show, group meetings, kisan gosthies, kisan mela, lectures, mahila mandal conveners meetings, method demonstrations, scientists visit to farmers field, self help group conveners meetings, soil test campaigns, workshops, newspaper coverage, popular articles, radio talks and TV coverage.

PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF QUALITY SEED , PLANTING MATERIAL, LIVESTOCK AND BIO PRODUCTS

KVKs of Zone VIII produced and provided 3312.93 qtl. of seed material (cereals 2318.72 qtl., oilseeds 224.17 qtl., pulses 176.54 qtl. vegetables 285.54 qtl. 0.09 qtl. of flowers and others 307.88 qtl.) valued at Rs. 2968215 and provided to 18629 farmers. Regarding planting materials KVKs supported 47011 farmers by providing 1675333 numbers of planting materials (fruits 166157, vegetables 37140, spices 31158, forest species 180962, ornamental plants 122036, plantation crops 157629 and others 980251) with an income of Rs.7499139.

In the field of livestock production KVKs have provided 539224 livestock (Cattle 2936, sheep and goat 662, poultry 15263, fisheries 64812 and others 455551) to 5577 farmers with an earning of Rs.1576539. By way of production of quality bio control agents

and bio fertilizers KVKs have earned an income of Rs. 5914490 by providing 295767 kgs of bio-agents, 10423 kg of bio-fertilizers and 1102 kgs of bio- pesticide to 79484 farmers respectively.

Analysis of soil, water and plant materials

Sustainable growth in agricultural production is possible only if the soil fertility and productivity are maintained at an optimum level. In this regard, the farmers find it extremely difficult to know the proper type of fertilizer, which would match his soil. For increasing the Fertilizer Use efficiency (FUE), he must take into account the requirement of his crops and the characteristics of the soil. Soil testing programmes initiated in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) enable the farmers to determine the level of nutrients required for various crops in different part of his field.

The basic objective of the soil, water and plant testing programme is to give farmers a service leading to better and more economic use of fertilizers and better soil management practices for increasing agricultural production. High crop yields cannot be obtained without applying sufficient fertilizers to overcome existing deficiencies.

A fertilizers recommendation from a soil testing laboratory is based on carefully conducted soil analyses and the results of up-to-date agronomic research on the crop, and it therefore is most scientific information available for fertilizing that crop in that field.

Each recommendation based on a soil test takes into account the values obtained by these accurate analysis, the research work so far conducted on the crop in the particular soil areas, and the management practices of the concerned farmer. The soil test with the resulting fertilizer recommendation is therefore the actual connecting link between agronomic research and its practical application to the farmers' fields. However, soil testing is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. A farmer who follows only the soil test recommendations is not assured of a good crop. Good crop yields are the result of the application also of other good management practices, such as proper tillage, efficient water management, good seed, and adequate plant protection measures. Soil testing is essential and is the first step in obtaining high yields and maximum returns from the money invested in fertilizers.

In Zone VIII, out of 74 KVKs, soil, water and plant testing laboratories were established in 52 KVKs during the period 2004-05, 2005-2006, 2006-07 and 2007-08. The state wise details are furnished below.

During the year, KVKs of Zone VIII analyzed 22018 samples of soil, 6210 samples of water, 19 samples of manure and 324 samples of plant generating Rs.1214588.00, Rs.226526.00, Rs.2175.00 and Rs.10020.00 respectively. Total number of 6713 villages was covered in which 24586 farmers were benefited. The total amount realized of SWTL is Rs.1453309.00.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Out of the 73 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the zone, 17 centres have conducted two scientific advisory committee meetings as per the mandate, 48 centres have conducted one meeting during the reporting period. Remaining 9 centres have been advised to convene the meeting at the earliest. The dates of the SAC meetings held at the various centres is given below.

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