

Material for ICAR newsletter/ website

Farm Level Stress & Innovations: Innovative Farmers Meet

7-8 October, 2017

Agrarian distress and farm level stresses are the issue of concern in the present situation. The relative contribution of agriculture to the GDP has been declining without proportionate decline in people dependent on it leading to huge pressure and distress. The distress level is high considering farmer suicides which account for 11.2% of all suicides in India. All this gets compounded by varied climatic change, natural calamities, unbearable burden of debt and increased competition from imports and exploitation by middlemen which leads to farmer stress. Despite these dismal situation, some farmers are doing considerably well in the similar circumstances by innovating and exhibiting entrepreneurial behaviour. Other Framers can gain from their experiences and best practices for mitigating stressors.

Two days Farm Innovators Meet on the topic Farm Level Stresses and Innovations was organized at KVK Baramati by ICAR- IARI, New Delhi and ICAR- ATARI, Pune on October 7-8, 2017 in which farmers from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh &Telangana and researchers from ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, ICAR Grapes, ICAR NIAMS, ICAR-NRCP, ICAR-DOGR, ICAR-DFR, ICAR-ATARI, Pune, ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad & respective KVKs participated in the programme. This initiative was intended to enhance awareness of the innovative capacities of the farmers, to identify farmer-led innovations having potential to be adopted for larger impact and to share the experiences of farmers-led innovations in the field of agriculture and allied sector., The 3rd **Farm Innovator Meet** was organised by ICAR-IARI in collaboration with ATARI, Pune. It was aimed to address the regional issues with regional innovative behaviour exhibited by successful farmers and to upscale and out scale Farmer led Innovations to cope with distressing situations in dry areas of the region. This meet was third in continuation of two such earlier meets organized at IARI since 2015 when this pioneering initiative was taken to integrate farmer led innovations with modern scientific system to bring about agricultural transformation. It was in the direction of forming a networking of farm innovators, research institute and agri marketing agencies for dissemination of farmers' innovations and utilize the farmer innovators as extension agents.

Dr. N.P. Singh, Director, NIASM, Baramati inaugurated the programme in presence of Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ATARI, Pune, Dr. Y.G. Prasad, Director, ATARI, Hyderabad, , Dr. S.D. Sawant, Director, ICAR-NRCG, Dr. Rashmi Singh, Dr M.S.Nain and Dr J.R.Mishra from IARI, New Delhi, Mr. Vishupant Hingane, Trustee, Agricultural Development Trust, Baramati , Dr. Syed Shakir Ali, Head, KVK Baramati and other dignitaries. Dr Lakhan Singh and Dr Shakir Ali welcomed all the dignitaries and farmers. Dr. Rashmi Singh, Principal Investigator of the IARI project “Maximizing Farm Profitability through Entrepreneurship Development and Farmer Led Innovations” apprised all of the background and significance of organizing Farm Innovators Meet. Dr. M.S. Nain detailed the framework for out scaling of farmers’ innovations for coping with stressful situations. Dr. J.R. Mishra presented the documentation framework of Farmers’ Innovations. Dr. S.D. Sawant gave information on specialized technologies in Grape cultivation & different varieties developed by NRCG. Director ATARI, Pune Dr. Lakhan Singh highlighted the need for tailor made technologies and contingency planning. Dr. N.P. Singh, Director NIASM inaugurated the meet and stressed the need to go beyond documentation and work for enhancing farmers’ incomes. After inaugural session, four technical sessions were conducted targeting Agrarian stress, Specialised Technological Options, Farmers Groups and Farmer Producer Organisations.

Second day was devoted to visit to different units of KVK Baramati, interaction with Mr. Popatrao Pawar, Sarpanch, Hivre Bazar, progressive farmer and Hon. Mrs. Sunanda Pawar, Trustee, ADT Baramati. Significance of Innovations by farmers for exytension purposes was highlighted in the address by Dr. J.P. Sharma, Joint Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. The full day was devoted to the sharing of experiences by thirty three innovative farmers from three states.

Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG (Agricultural Extension) and Director, ICAR-IARI during plenary session stressed the need to document and popularize the methodologies developed by innovative farmers to other farmers in the region so as to spread best practices for coping up with the dry spells and to get more farm incomes by using optimum resources at hand. He announced that the cases of innovative farmers experiences will be documented as videos which may be given to all KVKs for educative purposes and also to be put up on you tube and other social media. This was done to devise a framework for *Farmer Led Extension Approach* for dissemination of sector specific farm technologies and methodology to mitigate agrarian stress conditions. Programme

was concluded with the by distribution of certificates to the innovative farmers by chief guest DDG (Extension). A total of 60 farmers and 30 scientists from KVKs of Maharashtra, Telangana& Andhra Pradesh participated the programme.



DDG (Ag Ext), ICAR and Direcor ICAR-IARI interacting during Farmers Innovator Meet at KVK Baramati on Oct, 8th 2017



Awarded Innovator Farmer Sh Popatrao Pawar sharing his experiences with the participants on best practices to combat stress conditions and developing community based Model village



Dr A.K.Singh, DDG (Ag Ext), ICAR and Direcor ICAR-IARI during plenary session



Participants of Farmer Innovator Meet, October 7- 8 2017