

Chapter-2

Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendra and its Convergence

S Mukherjee, S K Acharya and G C Mishra

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The concept of Krishi Vigyan Kendra was framed by Professor Swaminathan, Father of Agriculture Research of India. Professor M S Swaminathan convinced Government of India that there is absolute necessity to develop Krishi Viigyan Kendra in each district of India with an objective to cater following Mandate and Activities for the farming community of the District:

Mandate of KVK

The mandate of the KVK includes technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology product.

Activities of KVK

- On-farm testing to identify the location specificity of agricultural technologies under various farming systems.
- Organize Frontline Demonstrations to establish production potential of technologies on the farmers' fields.
- Training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills in modern agricultural technologies.
- Training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.
- To work as resource and knowledge centre of agricultural technology for supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector for improving the agricultural economy of the district.

India Government established first KVK in Pondicherry during 1974 with the financial aid and governance of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). The first KVK in West Bengal and second in India was established in Kapgari Village of West Medinipur District in 1976. At present total 641 numbers of Krishi Vigyan Kendras are being existed in different districts of India. Presently Government of India is establishing 2 KVKs in larger districts with an intention to reach farmers of all blocks.

2.2 ACTIVITIES

Keeping in mind with the aforesaid mandates and activities, all Krishi Vigyan Kedras are carrying out ON FARM TRAILS for location specific sustainable innovative technologies. All On Farm Trials are being conducted thrice in different blocks of the district in consecutive years with an intention to refine technologies during the course of three years. Successful technologies of KVKs along with normal conventional technologies of SAUs/ICAR are being disseminated to farmers. Front line demonstration on different high yielding varieties of Oil seeds and pulses, Wheat, Paddy, Potato, potential vegetables, fruits, flowers as per feasibility of the respective district, Poultry, Duck (Khaki Campbell), Goatary, Dairy, Fodder (Maize), Poly Culture of Fish & Prawn, Fish Feed, Paddy Puddler, Improve Implements, Kitchen Garden are being carried out through Farmers Club developed by KVKs/NGOs/Lead Banks.

Trainings are being conducted for all disciplines of Agriculture Science for Farmers, Rural youth, Extension functionaries. The broad areas of training for farmers and rural youth are as follows:

- **Imparting training for Practicing farmer and farm women regarding on**

Organic farming, promotion of Food production in waste land, efficient utilization up slope medium land by scientific cultivation of cereals, oil seeds pulses, vegetables, fruits, flowers etc, promotion and production of ducklings, goatary, poultry birds, promotion and production fresh water prawn and carp culture in small seasonal ponds.

- **Training for rural youth on:**

- i) Quality seed production
- ii) Agro-processing for small scale entrepreneurship development like

- iii) Production and quality management of Vermi Compost
- iv) Nursery management
- v) Poultry farming (Broiler, Kuroiler and Duck)
- vi) Para vet nary training for Dairy management, Vet nary AID and Artificial Insemination for making of high milk production.
- vii) Utilization of perennial water bodies through Carps and Prawn culture.
- viii) Repair and maintenance of Diesel engine Pump set.
- ix) Repairing of sprayers.
- x) For Women Empowerment training on Value addition for Fruits, Vegetables and preservation.(Jam, Jeli, Pickkles etc)
- xi) Training on Naksha body making.
- xii) Training on Tailoring, Embroidery, Knitting,
- xiii) Training on Sal Leaf plate and Batti making,
- xiv) Training for Post harvest technology in Agro-horticultural crops

Extension activities are being implemented in the form of Field day, Technology week, Krishi Mela, Scientists visit to farmers field and vice versa.

Besides carrying out Mandatory activities, KVK is also rendering service to farming community by supplying good quality critical inputs in terms of seeds, saplings, breeds which are being produced in KVK's farm. KVKs are also carrying out Soil and Water analysis in their own laboratory to test major nutrients of soil with minimum cost with an objective to rationalize fertilizer policy for farmers of different blocks.

The development indicators emerged out through PRA, survey, ex-trainees' meet, exhibition diagnostic visit, appraisal reports of ICAR, workshop, seminar, SAC recommendation, local need and people' representatives recommendation were taken into accounts to take care of local problems and make awareness about latest technological advancement to the farmers of the districts. Accordingly the action plan has been chalked out to fulfill the KVK mandates.

KVKs are required to work is close collaborative mode with District Line Departments, Lead Bank, NABARD, Radio/Doordarshan to disseminate KVKs activities to all corners of district. With limited manpower, it would

be uphill task for KVKs to reach to the furthest corner. The strategic approach and targets of KVKs are highlighted :

Adoption of strategic Approach

Methodology	Details of function of the methodology
➤ Alternative land use strategy for establishment of progeny orchard	Delineation of wasteland→Zilla Parishad→Panchayat Samiti→Gram Panchayat→Capacity building to selected rural youth→Support with training & planting materials→Monitoring & follow up→Exist protocol
➤ Cluster village approach	Cluster villages →Adopt a village →PRA→Formation of grass-root organisation (SHGs, FSC, FIG, FLEK/Mahila Samiti, GPM) →Support with→Monitoring & Follow up →Convergence of other stake holders→TOT Sustainable livelihood
➤ Dovetailing of Progressive Farmers/ Farmers Led Extn. Workers/Institute	Organise an Annual Agril. Exhibition & Mela→Rewarding provision for best farmers/farm women/rural youth/Krishak Bhandar→training & support with latest technology package→Monitoring & follow up

Target Fixed at Inception

- Technology refinement and technology generation are major focus area for this particular location on the special emphasis on the thrust area.
- Imparting Need based Training programme, which are eco-friendly, technically suitable and economically viable in the resource poor areas.
- Adoption of new technology in the KVK farm and diffusion of all these technology are being done through imparting training and conducted demonstration units on farmers fields in the adjoining villages.
- To ensure quality and high yielding Seeds, Seedling, Poultry breeds, Fish seeds, Fingerling, Improve Agricultural Implements for increasing farm production and income generation to the Village community in every years.

- To create Farm Science Club, Leadership development in both cases of Farmers and farm Women .
- To organize field days, Health camp, Training Camp, Farmer day Seminar Workshop, Krishi mela, Farm advisory services for up gradation of agricultural technology and adoption of modern technology in the farming community.

2.3 CONVERGENCE

As per mandate of ICAR, KVK is required to work in close association with all line departments of district viz. Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Science, Fishery, DRDC, Marketing. In this respect KVK is converging in following ways to cater the need of the farmers of district as well as to generate revenue/resource of their own:

Sl. No.	Funding Agencies	Area of Activities
1	ATMA	Short term research, Training, Publication, Farm School, Hatchery units
2	RKVY	Integrated Farming System, Augmentation of irrigation facilities, Infrastructure development
3	NABARD	Training, Model Village, Krishi Mela
4	DRDC	Training for SHGs, SGSY
5	FPI & Horticulture	Model Nursery, Poly House, green house

All KVKs have developed District Agriculture Plans for respective district along with Department of Agriculture.

2.4 FUNCTIONING OF KVKs

All KVKs are being 100% financed by Indian Council of Agriculture Research in respect to Pay & Allowance, Travelling Allowance, Office Contingencies and Carry out On Farm Trials, Front Line Demonstrations, and Trainings. ICAR is also rendering full financial help to all KVKs to develop infrastructure facilities viz. Administrative Building, Soil laboratory, Training Hostel, Vehicle. Besides, as per demand and necessity of respective KVKs grants are being provided to develop further infrastructure facilities as and when required.

ICAR during the course of establishment of KVKs has streamlined that all KVKs will be administratively controlled by following organizations:

- Research Institute of ICAR
- State Agriculture University
- NGOs

Funds are being released by ICAR to head of aforesaid Institutes who in turn transfer the fund to respective KVKs to carry out activities under administrative control of said Institute.

2.5 MONITORING OF KVKs

KVK's activities are being monitored by ICAR during State and Zonal Workshop which are being conducted by Zonal Project Director after completion of each financial year. The progress report of the year under report and Action plan for the coming year are being discussed at length during the course of meeting. ICAR has formed an expert committee for this kind of Workshop with Directors of Extension and Education of various SAUS, Scientists from Zonal Project Director's Unit, Representative from ICAR's headquarter at Delhi. Funds are being allocated to respective KVKs after meticulously scrutinizing all activities. Besides all KVKs are required to submit monthly report to ZPD of respective zone within 5th of every month.

As KVKs were framed to serve for the farming community of district, ICAR has framed a guideline to hold Scientific Advisory Committee meeting at least once in a year with all representatives of line departments, SAUs, ICAR as well as farmers from KVK's adopted villages to fine tune KVK's activities and Action plan. Normally Scientific Advisory Committee meetings are being held immediately after Zonal Workshop of ICAR to facilitate finalization of Action Plan for the forthcoming year.

2.6 STAFF STRNGTH OF KVK

ICAR has frame lined following 16 numbers of staffs. The break up is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Number
1	Programme Coordinator	1
2	Subject Matter Specialists	6

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA: THE LIGHT HOUSE

ISBN: 978-81-930585-6-5

3	Farm Manager	1
4	Programme Assistants	2
5	Assistant	1
6	Stenographer	1
7	Drivers	2
8	Skilled Supporting Staffs	2
	Total	16

Recruitment of KVK staffs is being done by respective Host Institute in consultation with Zonal Project Directorate Unit of ICAR.