

Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Transfer of Technology in India

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ABSTRACT

Krishi Vigyan Kendras commonly known as KVKs are the agricultural science centres established as innovative institutions for imparting vocational training to the practicing farmers, school dropouts and field level extension functionaries. This paper explores bridge the gap between lab to land, bringing innovation, knowledge, and confidence to the rural farming community. This paper aims to transfer innovative agricultural technologies to farmers through training, demonstrations, and advisory services, and fostering rural development.

Keywords: vocational, training, agriculture, production, development, programme and technology

INTRODUCTION

India is an agrarian country where about 70 per cent of its population subsists on agriculture and its allied fields. The average agricultural production of the country is very low in comparison to developed countries. One of the most important reasons for the low productivity is the lack of integration of new farm technology in the farming practices of social system. It cannot be ignored that there is wide gap between the average productivity levels of different crops and their demonstrated productivity on the farmers' field by scientists as well as extensionists. However, the country has made considerable progress in the agriculture sector in the last fifty years. Krishi Vigyan Kendras provides the comprehensive hub for technology transfer, capacity building, market information, and skill development for farmers at the grassroots level.

The transfer of technology is wheels of agriculture. It has changed the life style of the people in the country and the farmers and others who have adopted the new technology and recent methods of cultivation. Technology transfer is a difficult task. In India, there are four major streams devoted to extension work for agricultural and allied production technologies-the extension system of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and the State Departments of Agriculture, the ICAR extension system, the Department of Rural Development and the Development Works by the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). For the farming communing community, ICAR has its own effective extension programmes, the most important being Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). It includes 'teaching by doing and 'learning by doing' in agriculture and allied areas, on farm testing of technologies. Presently, KVKs are major rural institutions for dissemination of new technology from research station to ultimate users because with effect from April 1, 1992 all first line transfers of technology project viz., National Demonstration, Operational Research.

Project and Lab to Land Programme - have been merged into KVK. KVKs organize annually Kishan Melas, field days, Kishan Gosthis, Film shows, radio and television talks and exhibitions and conduct many training programmes for rural clientele. On the other hand, KVKs are institutional arrangements facilitated by the Government for technology assessment, refinement and its dissemination to suit the location specific requirement of the practicing farmers with the help of training instruments. "The government expects KVKs to aid in the dissemination of information and practices regarding these new government initiatives" (Chand, Ramesh 2017:21)

Origin of KVK-The ICAR Standing Committee on Agricultural Education at its first meeting held in August 1973, observed that since the establishment of KVKs was of national importance which would help in accelerating the agricultural production as also improving the socio-economic conditions of the farming community. The ICAR, there-fore, constituted a committee in 1973 headed by Dr. Mohan Singh Mehta for working out a detailed plan for implementation of this scheme. The committee submitted its report in 1974. The National Com-mission on Agriculture and Planning Commission was strongly recommended its implementation. The first KVK was established in 1974 at Pondicherry under

the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu). At present there are 492 KVKs (2005-2006) functioning all over India.

The Fundamental Principles of KVK:

1. Agricultural production as a prime goal.
2. Work experience as the main methodology of imparting training.
3. Priority to weaker sections of the society which are the backbones of KVK programme.

Concepts of KVK:

The following basic concepts were enumerated by the Mehta Committee (1973)-

1. The Kendra will impart learning through work-experience and hence will be concerned with technical literacy, the acquisition of which does not necessarily require an ability to read and write.
2. The Kendra will impart training to those extension workers who are already employed or to the practicing farmers and the fishermen. In other words, the Kendra will cater to the needs of those who are already employed or those who wish to be self-employed.
3. There will be no uniform syllabus for Kendra. The syllabus and programme of each Kendra will be flexible in nature and tailored according to the felt needs, natural resources and the potential for agricultural growth in that particular area.

Philosophy of KVK-The Krishi Vigyan Kendras are the grass root level technology transfer and vocational training institutions designed for bridging the gap between the available technologies at one end and their application for increased production on the other with the following philosophy. "A KVK must own about 20 hectare of land for the purpose of testing new agricultural technologies" (*Icar.org.in*)

1. Accelerating agricultural and allied production through acquisition of vocational skills, application of appropriate technologies and inputs should be the prime goal.
2. 'Teaching by doing' and 'learning by doing' and 'work-experience' are the main principles for imparting skill-training.
3. The emphasis is on improving the socio-economic conditions of weaker sections of the society by generating income oriented self-employment opportunities to make them economically self-reliant.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendras are the activity centers with training, demonstration and development base for bringing about sound and speedy technological revolution and production break-through in agriculture and allied fields with higher degree of sustainability.

Objectives of KVK-There are following objectives of KVK:

1. Plan and conduct surveys of the operational area to invent and characterize physical and human resources with special reference to identifying the technological gaps and training needs of the farming community.
2. Compile all relevant recommendations/package of practices for the district to be meaningfully utilized in the training courses and the follow-up extension programmes.
3. Plan and conduct production-oriented need-based short and long duration training courses both on the campus and in the villages for various target groups with priority on the weaker and the poorer sections,
- 4 Organize Farm Science Clubs, both in rural school and in villages to inculcate in the young generation a liking for and an interest in agricultural and allied sciences and for scientific farming through supervised projects.
5. Develop and maintain the cam-pus farms and demonstration units on scientific lines as facilities for providing work experience to the trainees as also dissemination of the latest technical know-how.
6. Provide practical training facilities of the Kendra to the teachers and the students of vocational agriculture of the higher secondary schools.
7. Impart some general education to rural illiterates and school dropouts in order to make them not only good farmers but also better citizens.
8. Provide added training facilities in the area for home making and nutrition education for rural community. Gradually enlarge the training facilities to encompass other important areas such as home-craft and cottage industries consistent with the requirements of the integrated rural development in collaboration with the concerned organizations.
9. Implement all such schemes of the ICAR and other related organizations, which intend to strengthen the training and transfer of technology programmes as well as follow up extension activities of the Kendra.
10. To train young men and women (including school dropouts, farmers and farm women) in agriculture and allied aspects relating to their needs identified based on their farming situations and farming systems.
11. To undertake on-farm testing of the technologies developed by the State Agricultural Universities and IGAR research institutes on their experimental stations in agriculture and allied aspects for their local suitability and identify constraints, if any, so that appropriate action could be taken to remove the constraints through further research or adaptive research and application.

12. To demonstrate the technologies tested and recommended for location-specific situation to find out their potentialities in maximizing the yield/incomes per unit of time and area keeping in view the optimum returns to the inputs and technologies under different resource conditions of different categories of farmers.

Mandates of KVK-There are following mandates of KVK-

1. Collaboration with the subject-matter specialist of the state agricultural Universities/scientists of the Regional Research Station in 'on-farm' testing, refining and documenting technologies for developing region-specific sustainable land use systems.
2. Organizing long-term vocational training courses in agriculture and allied vocation for the rural youth with emphasis on learning by doing for generating self employment through institutional financing.
3. Organize front-line demonstrations in various crops to generate production data and feedback information.
4. Organize training to update the extension personnel within the area of operation with emerging advances in agricultural research on regular basis.

The scheme of KVK was also examined in depth by National Commission on Agriculture. The Commission came out with the recommendations that one KVK should be available in each district by turn of the century (2000). Accordingly, 412 KVKs by 1985 and over 1200 KVKs should have been established by 2000, but presently there are 776 KVKs all over India. "A KVK can be formed under a variety of host institutions, including agricultural universities, state departments, ICAR institutes, other educational institutions, or NGOs. The 700 KVKs in operation per the ICAR website are split into: 458 under State Agricultural Universities, 18 under Central Agricultural Universities, 64 under ICAR institutes, 105 under NGOs, 39 under state departments or other public sector undertakings, and 16 under other miscellaneous educational institutions" (Icar.org.in.)

CONCLUSION

KVKs are an innovative science based institutions, which undertake vocational training of farmers, farm women and rural youth. It provides many types of training to rural youth (clienteles). The training starts from fields, farms, agronomy units, horticulture units, dairy units, poultry units, sheep units, pig units, work-shops and fisheries etc. It also works as mini Agriculture University at operational level of transfer of technology, training, adoptive, research and field extension in a specific location. The clientele includes those directly or indirectly related to agriculture and allied pursuits from the point of view of farming system.

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