

Annual Action Plan Formulation Workshop of KVKs under Zone-III for 2013-14

The Annual Action Plan Formulation Workshops, 2013-14 for the KVKs of North Eastern Region were conducted by the Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-III in three different locations. The first one was conducted for the KVKs of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Tripura at the College of Veterinary Sciences, Khanapara, Assam during 4th – 6th March, 2013. The second one was conducted for the KVKs of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim at KVK, Ri-bhoi, Meghalaya on 11th and 12th of March, 2013 and the third one at KVK, Dimapur, Nagaland on 15th to 16th of March, 2013 for the KVKs of Manipur and Nagaland.

The technical sessions of the workshops commenced with the opening remarks of Dr. A.K. Gogoi, Zonal Project Director, Zone-III. He placed his vivid observations upon achievements made by the KVKs of the region during the last year and the future line of action to be adopted by the KVKs for ensuring further achievements. Dr. Gogoi stressed upon exploring better technological options for the North Eastern region and establishing functional linkages with the line departments and research institutions in this regard. He expressed his concern over the increased urgency for refinement of technologies to make them more and more location specific and suitable to the micro eco situation. The Zonal Project Director insisted upon maintenance of deadline and accountability in reporting. The delegates present at the different workshops drew attention of the Programme Coordinators of KVKs in different aspects. Dr. H.C. Bhattacharyya, Director (Extension Education), Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat put forward some salient points on value addition and minimal processing for multifarious benefits to be gained by the farmers. Dr. B.C. Deka, Jt. Dir., ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region (Nagaland centre) inspired the KVK representatives through his motivational talk.

Several thematic areas under which the mandated activities are performed by the KVKs were critically discussed. The most promising technologies in the areas like agro-ecology based cropping sequence and alternate cropping systems, horticulture based sustainable farming system models, orchard rejuvenation, eco-fallow management and utilization of degraded lands, resource conservation technologies, composite fish culture, scientific livestock farming, apiary and mushroom production were thoroughly discussed. Areas in which suitable technologies need to be further explored were also brought into the discussion. Such areas were agro forestry based farming system modules, drip irrigation,

protected cultivation, in-situ management of biomass, post harvest processing and value addition. In course of the discussion certain newly emerged livelihood options like rabbitry and rattery and exploration of suitable technologies through OFTs pertaining to these enterprises were critically appraised. Scope of certain small scale income generating enterprises in certain districts, goatery, renewable energy sources and their uses were also discussed. The increased need for assessing social aspects of technologies, marketing channels, linkage and convergence occupied a major part of the entire discussion.

The workshops finally came into an end with formal vote of thanks by the heads of their respective organizations.

General recommendations:

1. The vacant posts of KVKs need to be filled up on priority.
2. Action plan needs to be prepared as per the identified thematic areas under different major disciplines.
3. It has been observed that the mandated activities are not conducted by the SMSs as per the guideline, henceforth PCs will have to look into the matter critically and proper allotment of activities need to be ensured.
4. There is a need for conducting OFTs/FLDs in a cropping system mode. KVKs should identify major cropping systems of the district and demonstration must have to be laid out accordingly.
5. It is observed that the parameters for evaluation of OFTs/FLDs are not properly worked out for most of the activities. Concerned SMSs should specifically work out the relevant parameters for evaluation.
6. More thrust needs to be given upon vocational training programmes for encouraging entrepreneurship development amongst the rural youths.
7. The activities under livestock components has been comparatively less in number and there is an urgent need for initiating more activities in the thematic areas of housing, feeding management, fodder production, hygienic and clinical activities and breed improvement.

8. Few of the KVKs are properly working on the impact studies of already disseminated technologies with established methodologies. Each KVK should work out at least one study on impact assessment of successful technologies.

9. In North Eastern Hill Region, Agroforestry is one of the major thrust areas, more particularly in the degraded shifting cultivated areas. All the KVKs of the region should develop nurseries of Multipurpose Tree Species (MPTS) and needs to promote those in the farmers' fields.

10. The activities under Home Science is inadequate and not properly worked out in the action plan. SMSs of Home Science need to work out the activities as per the identified thematic areas and also explore the possibilities of more convergence with the line departments.

11. SMSs of Agricultural Extension/ Economics need to work out the areas of group formation, impact studies, technology backstopping, linkages and convergence with line departments and market led extension programmes.

12. The proposed activities under fishery component are mostly on strain improvement and integrated farming systems. However, there is a need for proposing activities under pond management, feeding management, disease management and processing and packaging. During 2013-14, more activities under the above mentioned thematic areas need to be worked out.