A Review Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri. Radha Mohan Singh, Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 23 June 2016 at KVK Vijayapura (Bijapur). He reviewed the progress of various central sector schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil health card distribution, Kamadhenu etc. in Karnataka state. Among those present in the review meeting were Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Development Commissioner and Directors of various development departments of Government of Karnataka, heads of line departments of Vijayapura district and Directors of ICAR institutes based in Karnataka. Also present were Programme Coordinators of 31 KVKs in Karnataka with whom the Hon’ble Minister interacted on their activities.

Followed by review meeting, the Hon’ble Minister inaugurated kharif Awareness Programme at KVK and addressed over 500 farmers who had gathered for the programme. He interacted with farmers and obtained first-hand feedback from some of those who have been benefited from Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Soil health card distribution. Farmers of the district expressed their happiness particularly to interact with Shri. Radha Mohan Singh because he is the first Union Minister of Agriculture to visit the town of Vijayapura since Independence. Shri. Ramesh Jigajinagi, Hon’ble Member of Parliament representing Vijayapura Loksabha Constituency and other elected representatives graced the occasion. Dr. D.P. Biradar, Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad presided over the event. Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru coordinated the entire event on behalf of ICAR.

Mausim, the Monsoon...

Monsoon is the seasonal reversal of winds and the associated rainfall. The word monsoon is derived from Arabic word mausim, which means weather. Owing to yearly appearance of torrential rain, indicating a marked shift in weather, mausim gradually became monsoon. Normal date of monsoon’s arrival over Kerala coast, which heralds the onset of rainy season in the country, is first June, and covers entire country by mid-July that marks the beginning of kharif season. Indian Meteorological Department declared the onset of monsoon in Kerala on 7 June, which mark a delayed onset of monsoon this year.
**Review Meeting of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru**

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE), and Director General (ICAR), New Delhi reviewed the progress of KVK activities on 20 May, 2016 at Conference hall of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru. A total of 40 officials representing ICAR Institutes, SAUs and KVKs in Zone VIII participated in the meeting. Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru made presentation on activities of ICAR-ATARI and KVKs. Selected KVKs of the Zone also made presentations on the major achievements of KVKs. Dr. H.Philip and Dr. K. Jagadeeshwara, DEEs of TNAU Coimbatore and UAS Bengaluru, respectively also spoke about the KVK activities in their respective jurisdiction.

Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Sciences), Horticulture Division, ICAR, New Delhi suggested interventions like bee hives, production of micronutrient mixtures, production of seeds and seedlings, supplying seeds to farmers for raising nursery etc. to augment income to revolving fund of KVK. Dr. Mohapatra interacted with scientists, farmers and members of SHGs/farmer groups. In his concluding remarks he emphasized on exploring the use of mobile application by KVKs to reach large number of farmers in time. Further, he asked ICAR-ATARI and KVKs to work towards helping the farmers in doubling their farm income.

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**DG, ICAR Visited KVKs Idukki and Kottayam in Kerala**

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) visited KVK, Idukki on 15 and 17 April, 2016 and KVK, Kottayam on 19 April, 2016, respectively, along with a team of scientists. The team visited all units of KVKs including farm and gave suggestions for holistic improvement. The Director General also interacted with the staff of KVKs. He emphasized that there is a need for taking all the tested technologies by the KVKs to the doorstep of farmers so as to reap the real benefit of technology. Further, he ensured that ICAR will take necessary steps for sustaining rice cultivation of Kuttanad region in a profitable manner through application of appropriate technologies.
Annual Zonal Review Workshop of KVKs in Zone VIII 2015-16

Annual Zonal Review Workshop of KVKs in Zone VIII was held at KVK, Wayanad during 20-23 April, 2016. Invited dignitaries and experts, Directors of Extension of SAUs of Zone VIII, Programme Coordinators of KVKs, Scientists from ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru and RARS, Wayanad and KVK staff attended the Workshop.

Dr. P.B. Pushpalatha, Director of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur welcomed the dignitaries and participants. Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru briefed about the activities of KVKs in Zone VIII and action plan for the year ahead. Dr. A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agril. Extn.), Agricultural Extension Division, ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the Workshop.

Dr. A.K. Singh, in his inaugural address, advised KVKs to
- showcase their potential in terms of magnitude of technology adoption by farmers,
- upscale technologies which have been tested across KVKs and across agro-ecosystems,
- converge with line departments and network with private extension agencies like seed producers, and
- document change taking place in the cropping system of a district and identify reasons for the change.

Workshop was conducted with three concurrent sessions and KVKs from different states were allotted in each concurrent session. During the valedictory session, observations and suggestions made by the expert panel for the improvement of KVKs during their respective presentations were presented by the Chairman of each concurrent session. The presentations made by 13 KVKs were adjudged as ‘best presentation’ by the expert panel, and were awarded with certificate of appreciation.

A poster exhibition was organised in which each KVK presented a case study of a technology which was successfully disseminated during the last three years.
NICRA Action Plan-cum-Review Meeting 2015-16 was held during 10-11 May, 2016 at ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru. Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru; Dr.J.V.N.S.Prasad, Co-Principal Investigator (Technology Demonstration Programme) of NICRA, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad; Dr.D.V.S.Reddy, Principal Scientist and Principal Investigator of NICRA at Zone VIII, and Programme Coordinators of 11 NICRA KVKs of Zone VIII viz., Chikkaballapura, Villupuram, Davangere, Alappuzha, Belagavi, Gadag, Tumakuru-II, Namakkal, Kalburagi, Ramanathapuram and Thiruvarur participated in the meeting. Respective Programme Coordinator of KVK presented annual progress of work in NICRA villages during 2015-16 and also action plan for the year 2016-17 before the expert panel. Director, ICAR-ATARI explained about the need for more systematic documentation and publication of work done by KVKs.

Meeting on Fisheries Capacity Development Programmes

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad organized a meeting on fisheries capacity development programmes in Zone VIII in collaboration with ICAR-ATARI Bengaluru on 25 May, 2016. Identified 14 KVKs of which five from Karnataka, three each from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, two from Puducherry and one from Goa in Zone VIII participated in the meeting. Dr. Sreenath Dixit, Director (ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru), in his opening remarks, emphasized the need for quality training programmes rather than the number of programmes. Dr.R. Suresh, Senior Consultant (NFDB) elaborated on the focus and purpose of the capacity building activities through KVKs to enhance fisheries productivity and production in the country. Meeting concluded with the following action points:

- KVKs will focus on providing training to targeted beneficiaries in relevant topics related to fisheries in their respective district.
- Activities will be followed up based on further need assessment of beneficiaries who are really interested to continue fisheries related activities.
Meeting of Zonal Programme Management Committee (ZPMC) for Farmer FIRST Programme was held on 4 June, 2016 at ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru. The Committee consisted of Director, ICAR-ATARI as Chairman; Dr.A.K. Mehta (Former ADG(Agril. Extn.), ICAR) and Dr. H. Philip (Director of Extension, TNAU) as expert members; Additional Director of Fisheries from Government of Kerala, Additional Director of Agriculture from Government of Karnataka represented the line Departments of the Zone VIII; two farmer representatives of Zone VIII; and Dr.D.V.Kolekar (Scientist), Member Secretary. Committee screened the project proposals received under Farmer FIRST Programme as per the guidelines provided by the ICAR, New Delhi. Short listed project proposals were forwarded to Agricultural Extension Division, ICAR, New Delhi to place them before the National Programme Management Committee (NPMC) for Farmer FIRST Programme at national level for consideration.

International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21 June, 2016 at ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru as per the circular issued by the ICAR, New Delhi. Staff and Scientists of the institute participated in the practice of sub yoga exercises with the help of step by step instructions given in a yoga teaching module prepared by Isha Yoga Centre, Coimbatore. On the occasion, Dr.Sreenath Dixit, Director said that Yoga is an ancient science and the exercise of which will enhance overall wellbeing of body and mind.

An Interactive Meeting was held with Dr. V. V. Sadamate, Former Advisor Agriculture, the then Planning Commission, Government of India with Scientists of ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru on 28 June, 2016. He made a presentation on the topic “Future challenges and solutions in agricultural extension for enhanced performance”. During the discussions, Dr. Sadamate advised ICAR-ATARI to empower farmers to form farmer organizations or producer companies. He also advised to diversify farmer field schools of KVKs to other specific areas like horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, etc. Feedback collation and analysis was another important area stressed by him. The collected feedback regarding technology testing and demonstrations by the KVKs should be analyzed based on a set of parameters and the segregated reflections should be directed to the concerned stakeholders. He suggested technology mapping as another area where KVKs and ICAR-ATARI can take initiative for strengthening technology application research in the country.
Scientific Advisory Committee Meetings of the KVKs viz., Malappuram, Haveri, Uttar Kannada, Dharwad, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Salem and Dharmapuri were conducted during the quarter.

A total of 43 Awareness Programmes on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) were organized by KVKs in Zone VIII with participation of 24976 farmers in 2nd quarter of 2016.

Shri. Radhakrishnan is an enthusiastic farmer who always tries to find out solutions by himself to many of the problems faced on his farm. He belongs to Kasaragod district in Kerala. He follows coconut-based farming system which includes different intercrops like pepper, tapioca, spices, pineapple, etc.

The idea of growing tapioca in gunny bags occurred to Shri. Radhakrishnan when he lost almost 100% of his tapioca crop during 2013 due to wild boar attack. And then, in June 2014 he planted 50 tapioca setts in gunny bags at the rate of one sett per bag. He used empty fertilizer bags of size 75 X 50 cm dimension for planting the setts. Each bag was filled with 50 kg of mixture of soil (laterite), ash, dried FYM and vermicompost in the proportion of 2:1:1:1. All sides of the bag are then stitched well to make it a compact portable bed. A small piece of PVC pipe was poked into each sack for fertigation. Setts with 4 nodes each were planted into holes dug in the filled up bags. He used short duration variety of tapioca (Vellayani Hraswa) which would yield in 6 months. Fertigation using ‘Beejamrith’ - as he calls it - (diluted solution of water drained from the cattle shed) and cowdung slurry at an approximate rate of 500 ml per sack was given at 10 days interval. Each set yielded 7- 8 kg fetching Rs. 18 per kg and he made earnings of above Rs.6000 from 50 bags which he placed just around his house as a trial. Though the setts yielded from 6 months Shri. Radhakrishnan went to utilize the space of the bags thus harvesting them even after a year.

The major advantages Shri. Radhakrishnan felt in this innovative approach are that the crop could be saved from wild boar attack and that weed growth was almost nil.

Contact No. of Shri. Pollakkada Radhakrishnan: 09946458026.
(Source: KVK, Kasaragod)
**Local newspapers covered more than 310 events and national dailies covered more than 14 events related to major activities of KVKs during the quarter. KVKs made more than 63 radio programmes and 45 TV programmes. Further, frequent announcements were also given by KVKs through Radio and TV. As a national level coverage, success story of Mrs. Omana Kaithakkulath belonging to Calicut district of Kerala was published in ICAR Website (www.icar.org.in).**

**From Director’s Travel Note.......**

During the quarter, I had the opportunity to visit several KVKs of the Zone. With the beginning of quarter, KVKs in Karnataka organized awareness campaigns to inform farmers about Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. I attended one such campaign held at KVK Davangere in presence of Shri. G. M. Siddeshwar, Hon’ble Union State Minister who represents the Parliamentary Constituency of Davangere. I also travelled to KVK Idukki where Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, New Delhi reviewed the activities of KVK in presence of Shri. Chhabilendera Raul, Secretary, ICAR. I presented an account of the performance of KVKs of the Zone in the review meeting chaired by DG, ICAR at Munnar, Kerala.

It was a great opportunity to meet all Programme Coordinators of KVKs in the Zone during Annual Zonal Review Workshop held at KVK, Wayanad. KVKs displayed posters depicting successful technology capsules during the Workshop. Dr. A. K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agril. Extn.) inaugurated Workshop and gave valuable suggestions for improving the visibility of KVK System in the country.

Besides the above, I regularly visited KVKs for monitoring their activities and attending SAC meetings of KVKs. The most important event of quarter was the visit of Shri. Radha Mohan Singh, Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India to KVK Vijayapura. The Hon’ble Minister reviewed the activities of agricultural development of the state and also interacted with Programme Coordinators of KVKs in Karnataka and farmers of Vijayapura district.

Sreenath Dixit