



UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BANGALORE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
CoA, UAS, GKV, BENGALURU-560 065

Name: **Pallavi, G.**
I D No: PALB1030/9029
Class: III Ph.D. (Agri. Extn.)

Venue: Dwarakinath Hall
Date: 08.01.2021
Time: 2.00 pm

Seminar on

Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP)

Enriching Knowledge - Integrating Technology

Synopsis

Indian agriculture embraces diverse actors in its endeavor to feed 1.38 billion people. The small, marginal and landless farmers are extremely vital for ensuring food security as the land holdings are shrinking day by day. The ever increasing population, climate change, changing dietary habits are continuously putting pressure on agricultural sector. Farmers tend to get interested in farming when they get profit and regular assured income.

In today's scenario, innovation and technology form the key to address growing challenges in agriculture. Therefore, the innovations/technologies developed by scientists and farmers need to be identified, experimented and integrated.

There are many agencies other than public organizations and various kinds of public-private-farmers partnerships operate in Agriculture development. Earlier farming was an adapting performance and present, participatory approaches were central. Partnerships and interactions are seen more important. Partnerships like public-private, multi-stakeholder partnership etc, and collaborations like co-management, co-breeding, co-creation, co-evolution, co-development, etc. have emerged in present day context.

The Farmer FIRST as a concept of ICAR is developed as farmer in a centric role for research problem identification, prioritization and conduct of experiments and its management in farmers' conditions. The Farmer FIRST is going to move beyond the production and productivity and to privilege the complex, diverse & risk prone realities for majority of the farmers through enhancing farmers-scientists contact with multi stake holders-participation. It aims at enriching farmers-scientists interface for technology development and application. It will be achieved with focus on innovations; feedback; multiple stakeholders participation, multiple realities, multi method approaches, vulnerability and livelihood interventions. Considering these aspects, the present seminar has been conceptualized with the following objectives

1. To understand the concept of Farmer FIRST Programme.
2. To enlist the various components and modules under Farmer FIRST Programme.
3. To know the implementation matrix of Farmer FIRST process.
4. To review some of the research or case studies related to Farmer FIRST programme.

Concept of Farmer FIRST Programme

Farmer FIRST is a concept in which the farmers participate in the research process with scientists. The focus is on **FARMER'S FARM, INNOVATIONS, RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (FIRST)**. The aim is to find out new ways of doing and bringing in synergy of the stakeholders. Farmers FIRST will create linkages between farmers-researchers and extensionists to support farmers to conduct appropriate experiments selected by them. It will help researchers and extensionists understand and know real needs of villagers.

Components and Modules of Farmer FIRST Programme

The programme is conceptualized to deal with focus on Enhancing Farmer –Scientist Interface, Technology Assemblage, Application and Feedback, Partnership and Institution Building and also Content Mobilization for knowledge sharing. These components will provide an opportunity to farmers and researchers to work together and make assemblage of a technology module for its assessment and application and generate feedback. The crop based module, Horticulture based module, Livestock based module, enterprise based module, NRM based module and IFS based module emphasizes different categories of land holders based on resource availability, socioeconomic conditions, risk bearing capacity and market availability etc.

Implementation matrix of Farmer FIRST

The matrix I of Farmer FIRST includes Situation analysis, problem identification, and preparation of Farmer FIRST activities, matrix II consist of Selection of Technology Assessment and Application modules, matrix III comprises of Action plan development and implementation, matrix IV of Monitoring/experiment evaluation, and report writing and matrix V of documentation and dissemination of successful outputs. This process will help the researchers, farmers and extensionists to frame out different approaches with the available or new technology in a consolidated way and made available to other farmers.

Research and case studies

Anonymous (2019) reported that there was substantial increase in the income of farmer after adoption of ICAR-IIHR varieties and technologies. On the other hand, nutritional and livelihood security also improved. Under subsidiary enterprise the farmer was technically guided regarding nursery of vegetable seedling production, scientific dairy management and also in field crops

Manjeet and Joginder Singh Malik (2019) reported that people's participation was found maximum in resource analysis and planning stage followed by other stages of the programme. Further, It was found that education, socio-economic status (SES), extension contact, economic motivation and farming system had a positive and significant correlation with the participation.

Conclusion

Farmer FIRST is an opportunity for the researchers, extension professionals and farmers to work together and find appropriate ways through assessing different solutions. During the production process, farmers often evolve new ideas to improve their cultivation and natural resource management activities. This creates a space for researchers, extensionists and farmers to design and organize new experiments. Farmer FIRST can be applied not only at individual farmer's level but also at village and community level as community experimentation.

References

- ANONYMOUS, 2019, "Farmer FIRST project: Enriching Knowledge – Integrating Technology and Institutions for holistic village development in horticulture-based farming system". ICAR-IIHR Annual Report, Bangalore.
- MANJEET AND JOGINDER SINGH MALIK, 2019, Extent of farmer participation in the farmer FIRST programme in Haryana, India, *International Journal of Chemical Studies*, 7(3): 482-2486.