

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5957
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03/04/2018

FUNCTIONING OF KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS

5957. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the feed back received by the Government on functioning of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in various States of the country including Tamil Nadu and the details of the role envisaged for KVKs in agriculture growth and development; and
- (b) the initiatives and steps taken by these KVKs in Cauvery delta region to educate farmers to take up crop diversification/alternate cropping etc.?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) A Third Party evaluation of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) has been carried out by National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD), an autonomous institute under NITI Aayog. The major observations and findings of this evaluation are as follows:-

- It was observed that KVKs are playing a proactive role in transferring new technology at field level with beneficial impacts.
- The KVKs have an edge in technology transfer over other service providers by virtue of having better technical expertise and demonstration abilities.
- About 40 percent farmers reported that they implemented the technology immediately after its dissemination by KVK and that 25 percent did so from the next agricultural season.
- On an average a KVK covers 43 villages and 4300 farmers per year.
- 96% farmers' requests were attended by KVKs.

- 42% technologies adopted by farmers resulted in higher productivity.
- About 25% of the persons trained started self-employment ventures.
- With the intervention by KVKs, about 80 percent of the farmers have modified their agricultural patterns which were related to diversification of crops and changes in cropping pattern, seed planting technique, use of fertilizers and pesticides, changes in machinery used and in water use pattern.
- More than 50 percent of the farmers have mechanized their farm operations.

Further, NILERD conducted categorization study of the KVKs on the basis of mandated activities, impact of the activities, allied activities, accolades and other parameters.

The study revealed that 91% KVKs are in A & B category (43% in A and 48% in B), 8% in C and 1% in D category. The reasons of KVKs placed under C & D category may be attributed to vacant staff positions and infrastructure as these KVKs are new and are under establishment stage.

As far as KVKs of Tamil Nadu are concerned, 45% KVKs are in A category, 48% in B category and 7% in C category.

As regards role of KVKs, these grass root level scientific organizations are mandated with technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development of farmers and extension personnel. Besides, KVKs also produce quality seeds and planting materials; and provide diagnostic and advisory services to the farmers for adoption of good agricultural practices.

(b) The initiatives and steps taken by the KVKs in Cauvery delta region to educate farmers to take up crop diversification / alternate cropping are given in the **Annexure**.

The initiatives and steps taken by KVKs in Cauvery delta region to educate farmers to take up crop diversification / Alternate cropping

Three KVKs situated in the Cauvery delta region namely KVK, Tiruvarur, KVK Sikkal and KVK, Pudukottai are actively involved in demonstrating, training and exposing farmers in technologies of alternate cropping, crop diversification, etc. KVK-wise details are as follows:-

KVK Thiruvarur, Thiruvarur District

1. The KVK Thiruvarur had implemented revival of millets in Thiruvarur District. In this Scheme, 30 acres of Kudiraivali (Barnyard Millet) was demonstrated in farmers' field and popularized through local newspapers during 2015-16 & 2016-17.
2. During Kuruvai season of 2017, KVK Thiruvarur has introduced maize as an alternate crop to paddy in 107.5 acres due to paucity of water/delay in release of Cauvery Water.
3. Training programmes, awareness programmes and field days on millet cultivation were conducted to showcase the Maize as the best alternate crop during Kuruvai Season, which require only one third of water in comparison to paddy cultivation.
4. Front Line Demonstration (FLDs) on hybrid maize {Co(MH)-6 WCS} and castor (Yethapur-1) were conducted in 2013-14 & 2014-15.
5. Introduced and popularized cultivation of vegetables like Bhendi, Chillies, Bottle gourd through trials, FLDs & training programmes.

KVK Vamban, Pudukkottai district

1. KVK, Vamban had demonstrated climate smart and less water requiring crops like pearl millet, Barnyard millet, mixed fodder bank with cereal and legume fodders through FLDs.
2. Promotion of short duration YMV resistant Black gram varieties, Bhendi hybrid (CO4), Brinjal (PLR Z), and Bottle gourd (PLR I) through FLDs.
3. Organized Farmer field school on pulses and groundnut.

KVK Sikkal, Nagapattinam district

- KVK Sikkal had taken up various initiatives in promoting alternative cropping and crop diversification through promotion of black gram Var VBN-8 as an alternate crop for Kharif season.
- Awareness programmes on alternate crops were organised through training programmes and mass media like All India Radio, News Papers and TV programmes.
- Cluster Front Line Demonstrations on green gram and black gram (Var. UBN-6) were organized on large scale (100 acres) during 2016-17 and 2017-18 with very high yield of black gram.
