

PARTICIPATORY MONITORING MECHANISM OF KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS IN UP AND UTTARANCHAL

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The front line extension projects of the ICAR were designed by the scientists to show the production potentiality of modern agricultural technologies on farmers' fields, testing the technologies to identify its location specificity with farmers' perspectives including both bio-physical and socio-economic factors, organizing extension programmes in selected/limited areas around the institutions to serve as extension models for field training and extension activities, developing appropriate extension approaches and methodology for field workers and collect feedback and feed forward for improving research and extension strategy. The council (ICAR) has developed strong monitoring mechanism at different levels (ICAR, Zonal and KVK level). Organizing National Workshop, Zonal Workshop at the state level, Review Workshops at SAUs level, Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings at KVK level and personal field visits by the scientists of ICAR and concerned SAUs are major events. In addition to these, the QRT team also plays an important role for reviewing and monitoring the KVK activities once in five years. Out of them, SAC meeting is one of the best monitoring mechanism followed. SAC is constituted at each KVK under the chairmanship of the concerned Head of Institution. The main aim of organizing such meetings is regular monitoring and reviewing the overall functioning of KVKs. The committee also discusses the progress report and proposed action plan for coming six months. The district line departments, agricultural universities, progressive farmers and farm-women and ICAR representatives (Zonal Coordinator / Sr. Scientists) are its members (Shukla,

2000 and Choudhary, 1999). The meeting is held normally twice a year.

Functioning of any KVK will depend upon; at what extent linkage and involvement of district line departments are there in planning, monitoring and evaluation etc. After thorough discussion and attending meetings at KVKs, the major issues identified were: unawareness about philosophy of KVK by the district line departments, lack of joint action plan, lack of experience sharing opportunities on common platform, extent of sensitivity of people's problems, women's involvement in SAC meetings and agenda of SAC meeting dealt. Keeping these issues in view, this investigation was conducted to study the documentation of opinion and experiences of district line departments' personnel and to list the important suggestions given for improvement of action plan towards participatory management of KVK as perceived by the district line departments' personnel.

METHODOLOGY

The investigation was conducted during 2001 in Zone IV (ICAR), Kanpur where 32 KVKs of U.P. and Uttaranchal working for transferring latest agricultural technologies to the farmers. SAC meetings organized for finalization of future action plan following participatory approach with the active involvement of all the committee members, were considered for the study. ICAR representatives viz., Zonal Coordinator, Scientists and Programme Officer were participated in 26 SAC meetings of KVKs. During participation, experiences and opinion were recorded through using participant-observation and informal interaction data collection

methods. In these meetings, district line departments' personnel take active participation for effective functioning of KVKs by modifying the annual action plan of KVK activities. To supplement the recorded participant-observations, seventy-eight respondents from 26 SAC meetings (three respondents from each meeting) were selected purposively (district line departments' personnel considered as respondents) and interviewed by using semi-structured interview schedule. Six statements were also prepared that reflected six dimensions and finalized after thorough discussion with the researchers. Responses recorded on 3 point continuum following scoring pattern i.e. for higher: 2, medium: 1 and not at all: 0. Maximum obtainable score of a respondent on each dimension could ranges from 0-2. Greater the score, more positive the perceived opinion on a particular item of respondent was reflected. Mean value of scores was computed for better interpretation of data. The collected information was analyzed by using simple statistical techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The detailed interpretation and discussion of data on perceived opinion of respondents about SAC meetings are presented in Tables 1 - 7. To support the facts, mean value on each item is depicted in Fig 1.

Awareness about philosophy of KVK—The benefit of involving state line departments' personnel in SAC meeting towards relevant modifications and change in action plan of KVK activities can be taken, if they are well oriented about philosophy and approach of working. The data in Table 1 shows that most of the respondents (about 88 per cent) had awareness about philosophy of KVK while about 12.82 per cent respondents were not having awareness. Since, about half of respondents did not much awared (38.46% awared + 12.82% not awared), therefore, necessary efforts should be taken to orient them towards approach and philosophy of KVK.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents on awareness about philosophy of KVK N=78

Awareness categories	Frequency	Percentage
Much awared	38	48.72
Awared	30	38.46
Not awared	10	12.82

Sensitivity of people's problems—The result of investigation indicated that most of the respondents (about 54 per cent) were more sensitive whereas about 36 per cent and 10.26 per cent were found less sensitive and not sensitive respectively about people' problems. There is need to strengthen problem sensitivity of people by the state line departments' personnel through designing well thought training courses. Participatory management of KVK cannot be possible unless all concerned with management are highly sensitized to needs of the people.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents on sensitivity of people's problems N=78

Sensitivity of people's problems categories	Frequency	Percentage
More sensitive	42	53.85
Less sensitive	28	35.89
Not sensitive	8	10.26

Joint action plan initiative—Most of the district line departments work for rural development and KVK is also a part of such endeavor. But, due to some duplication of activities, joint action plan was supposed to be developed at KVK level. SAC meeting is one of the ideal platform where the entire concerned district line departments and KVK together can develop need based action plan with required modifications. But practically, initiative is not taken to implement as per suggestions given. In this context, the data revealed Table 3. that majority of the respondents (64.10 per cent) had not taken initiative on joint action plan whereas 25.64 per cent of respondents taken moderate initiative. It can be concluded from the data that, whatever discussion held among the SAC members, decided finally and included in joint action plan of KVK, for that responsibility and accountability must be fixed for effective implementation.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents on joint action plan initiative N=78

Joint action plan categories	Frequency	Percentage
Strong initiative	8	10.26
Moderate initiative	20	25.64
No initiative	50	64.10

Experience sharing—As revealed from the data Table 4, about 55 per cent of respondents were shared their experiences in SAC meetings. While 38.46 per cent respondents had shared their experiences sometimes and 6.41 per cent never shared their experiences among the SAC members. Unique experiences shared were utilized as a part of lessons learnt and incorporated in modifying the action plan of KVK.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents on experience sharing N=78

Experience sharing categories	Frequency	Percentage
Always	43	55.13
Sometimes	30	38.46
Never	5	6.41

Opinion about women participation—Table 5 revealed that women participation was less (64.10 per cent) whereas more participation (15.38 per cent) reported by the respondents. The contribution from women's involvement was found negligible due to less and negligible participation of women's representatives resulting ignorance of their needs and problems in action plan of KVKs.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents on opinion about women participation N=78

Women participation categories	Frequency	Percentage
More participation	12	15.38
Less participation	50	64.10
No participation	16	20.51

Agenda of SAC meeting dealt—Proper planning is an important aspect of any activity to get success. An outline and agenda of SAC meeting is must and that may be prepared and circulated to all members well in advance for effective interaction. To measure this variable, respondents were interviewed and their responses were categorized in to three categories (dealt well,

moderately dealt and not dealt). Table 6 reveals that majority of respondents (57.69 per cent) were expressed agenda dealt moderately while about 25.64 per cent of respondents opined agenda of SAC meeting dealt well. It is inferred that more emphasis should be given to prepare proper SAC agenda in advance for getting real input from experienced SAC members.

Table 6. Distribution of respondents on agenda of SAC meeting dealt N=78

SAC meeting agenda dealt categories	Frequency	Percentage
Dealt well	20	25.64
Moderately dealt	45	57.69
Not dealt	13	16.67

Suggestions given during meetings—Group responses in the form of suggestions recorded

Table 7. Suggestions given during meetings by SAC members

(Number of KVKs = 26 where SAC meetings conducted)

Group responses	Frequency	Ranking
1. Introducing location specific new crops	24	II
2. Quality seed production and availability	25	I
3. Diversification of agriculture	12	VII
4. Soil testing lab facility	3	XIII
5. Income generating activities	18	III
6. Self Help Group formation	15	V
7. Revolving fund generation	4	XII
8. Fax and internet facilities	5	XI
9. Developing extension literature	14	VI
10. Farmers' exposure visits	6	X
11. Economic analysis needed	7	IX
12. Training on bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides	16	IV
13. Training on natural resource management	3	XIII
14. Training on post harvest processing/technologies	6	X
15. Introducing zero ferti-seed drill	5	XI
16. Training on processing of dairy products	9	VIII

during SAC meetings are presented in Table 7. The important suggestions were given and reflected through participant observation are: more concern for quality seed production and availability, introduction of location specific new crops, income generating activities, emphasis on bio-fertilizers

and bio-pesticides, formation of Self Help Groups for self reliance, preparation of extension literature and desire to shift towards diversification of agriculture etc. These factors play a greater role for promoting all round development and self-dependency as perceived by the diversified group of respondents.

Suggestions for organizing SAC meetings

- ❖ Invitation letter should be sent well in advance to all the SAC members.
- ❖ Ensure the participation of ICAR representatives.
- ❖ Agenda of SAC meeting should be prepared.
- ❖ Responsibility and accountability should be fixed.
- ❖ SAC meeting should be organized before review work shop, which is normally held at SAU level.

CONCLUSION

- ❖ District line departments' personnel were having awareness about working approach and philosophy of KVK. It promotes the thought process while discussing on line action plan pertaining to KVK activities.

- ❖ Sensitivity of people's problems was found satisfactory which shows clear indication of participatory planning and management, as efforts being initiated by the farm science centres.
- ❖ Responsibility and accountability should be fixed to take strong initiative on implementation of action plan, developed jointly with development departments. Monitoring of such initiatives and actions should be done towards creating strong base to launch the effective development programmes.
- ❖ Unique experiences shared in SAC meetings must be utilized as a part of lessons learnt. Members are required to promote and motivate those who share their views and opinion frankly. Failure experiences should not to be discouraged.
- ❖ Low level of women participation is also a cause of concern. There is a need to give special attention to promote for sharing their problems, needs and alternative solutions relating to their particular area in agriculture.

REFERENCES

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