

HIGH LIGHTS OF 3rd NATIONAL EXTENSION EDUCATION CONGRESS - 2005

The 3rd National Extension Education Congress on “**REVITALIZATION OF EXTENSION SYSTEM IN NEW ECONOMIC ORDER**” was organized by the Society of Extension Education, Agra, U.P in Collaboration with National Dairy Research Institute(ICAR), Karnal (Haryana) from April 27 - 29, 2005.

The congress was inaugurated by Dr. Balaram Jakhar, Hon’ble Governor, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE and Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, New Delhi presided over the function.

Dr. P. S. Lamba, Former Vice-Chancellor, HAU, Hisar & Mohan Lal Shukhadia University, Udaipur was the Chief guest and Dr. Panjab Singh, Former Secretary, DARE and Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, New Delhi presided over the valedictory function of the congress.

Dr. Nagendra Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu, Dr. D. P. Singh, Vice-Chancellor, JNKVV, Jabalpur, Dr. Pramata Singh, Vice-Chancellor, RAU, Bikaner, Dr. Rajbir Singh, Director, NDRI, Karnal, Dr. P.N.Jha Former Vice-Chancellor, RAU, Samastipur, Bihar, Dr. G. Trivedi, Former Vice-Chancellor, RAU, Samastipur, Bihar, were kind enough to grace and bless this congress.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, Director, NRC on Rapeseed Mustard, Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Dr. R.B. Sharma, Director Extension, IGAU, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Dr. B.S. Nadagoudar, Director Extension, UAS, Dharwad (Karnataka), Dr. H. D. Yadav, Asso. Director Extension, Hisar. Dr. Sakila Khan, Associate Director Extension, (Fisheries), NDUAT, Faizabad, Dr. P. N. Kalla, Professor & Incharge, APEX Centre, Jaipur Campus, RAU, Bikaner, Dr. T. S. Sohal, Former Head, Dairy Extension, NDRI, Karnal were among the other dignitaries who graced the congress.

The compendium (2005) published on this occasion included summaries of the research papers (163 papers) on diverse areas of Extension Education plus some more learned papers appeared in this compendium, whereas group works examined these papers and points of views in depth. Four groups worked on various themes as follows:

1. **Conceptual, structural and institutional arrangements for farmer driven and farmer accountable extension system under new world economic regime.**
2. **Integration of services oriented towards Farming System Approach to address the diverse household needs (agriculture, horticulture, livestock, aquaculture, market, credit etc.)**
3. **Gender concerns in revitalizing extension system.**
4. **Opportunities & Challenges of Cyber Extension.**

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 3rd NATIONAL EXTENSION EDUCATION CONGRESS:

In the wake of economic liberalization initiated in 1991 and our accession to WTO in 1995 leading to globalisation, the question of economic return from agricultural activities has

acquired added importance. The process of globalisation of trade, liberalization of economy and the revolution in information technology gave birth to the concept of global village. Hence the need for re-orienting our agricultural extension system to meet the challenges and to grab the ensuing opportunities cannot be overlooked. As such, the Society of Extension Education decided to hold the congress in question with the following themes related to above-mentioned issues to conclude the observations and recommendations. One hundred sixty three research papers were submitted by distinguished scholars, agricultural/ extension scientists/ professional and policy makers including some of the Vice-Chancellors which were published in the compendium. Many of these papers were presented as key papers in combined technical sessions, some of them were presented in the technical sessions including poster session, utilized for the deliberations and finalization the recommendations under the different themes. Based on such interactions and detailed discussion, the observations/ recommendations concluded for the benefits of sound agricultural policies including desired improvements in the teaching, research and transfer of technology in the discipline of extension and rural development programmes are given as under the different themes.

Theme I: Conceptual, Structural and Institutional Arrangements for Farmer Driven and Farmer Accountable Extension System under New World Economic Regime:

Definitions of extension range from a persuasive technology transfer model to that of a facilitative human development model. Demand driven is a relatively recent label for a notion that has been around since people began to write about extension as an academic discipline and educational practice. The studies under this theme indicated that the people are less concerned with specific techniques and methods and more with making institutional changes, which will lead extension service providers to more responsive to what clients want. In most cases it involved changing the distribution of power and responsibilities among three key sets of actors; (a) clients, (b) those who deliver the service and (c) government. Thus, farmers need to be supported with information, knowledge and the skills to adopt not only improved but also appropriate technologies having characteristics of productivity enhancing, vulnerability reducing and employment creating. Extension support must now address a broader range of farmer objective that should include:

1. Choice of technological options appropriate to available land, capital, labour and knowledge resources, besides, management of technologies such as the optimal use of critical and new inputs;
2. Decisions about how and when to change enterprise or farming system, such as diversifying from crop produc-

tion to mixed farming or vegetable or animal production by assessing both domestic and foreign market demand for products and product quality criteria directed towards food safety and organic product.

3. Cooperation between small-scale producers needs to be ensured to increase their presence and power in the market, besides, sourcing readily accessible and accurate information on an on-going basis.
4. Assessing the feasibility of off-farm and on-farm income generation opportunities to provide long-term benefits.
5. Advance planning of farm enterprise in relation to changing policies on input subsidies and trade liberalization requires special attention.

The extension professional and policy makers have received a good feedback for planning and initiating thinking for reorientation of conceptual, structural and institutional changes for farmer driven and farmer accountable extension system in order to meet the challenges of new economic order.

Theme II: Integration of Services Oriented towards Farming System Approach to Address the Diverse Household Needs:

In order to address the diverse household needs, linkage between education, research and extension was identified as a powerful tool, which has not been given due attention in the existing system. Farming system is a complex interrelated matrix of soil, plant, animal, implement, power, labour, capital and other inputs as well as resource management strategy to achieve the goal of economic and sustained agricultural production to meet diverse requirements while preserving resource base and maintaining a high level of environment. Therefore, any agricultural technology well suited to a particular agro-ecology, socio-economic and cultural settings may not be acceptable by farmers of different situations.

The delineation of the major farming systems would provide a useful framework based on which appropriate agricultural development strategies and interventions can be determined. Only the major farming systems would, therefore, required to be identified in order to estimate the magnitude of resource base. The farming system approach needs to consider both biophysical dimensions (such as soil nutrients and water balances) and socio-economic aspects (such as gender, food security and profitability) at the farm level where most agricultural production and consumption decisions are taken. The intensification of crop production may be driven by population expansion and land shortages.

The power of the approach lies in its ability to integrate multi-disciplinary analyses of production and its relationship to the key biophysical and socio-economic determinants of a farming system. Enabling infrastructure and the availability of technical and market information will be important influence of integration of services oriented towards farming system approach. Accordingly, policy makers may make the use of such recommendations for advance planning.

Theme III: Gender Concerns in Revitalising Extension System:

Rural women still do not have ownership of land and the

'pattas' are allotted in the name of their husband. Due to this, they can not take independent decision on various agricultural aspects. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed to promote women access to resources. Though women make substantial contribution to agricultural development, their access to the most crucial input "credit" is limited. Since they are not landowners, the credit flow generally goes in the name of male members (i.e. owners). For promoting women's access to farm input and credit, following measures were suggested:

1. Credit flow to rural women could be channelled through credit and thrift societies.
2. Voluntary agencies in each district may be identified which could help in developing women organizations (Self Help Groups).
3. Credit organizations should simplify the procedures and modalities to suit the educational level of rural women and also organize credit camps in village exclusively for women.

Gender concerns require topmost priority to encourage and support the establishment of local women group and organisation to take up the responsibilities of communicating the appropriate technologies to rural women.

Theme IV: Opportunities and Challenges of Cyber Extension:

It was concluded that "Cyber Extension" would be the major form of technology dissemination in the near future. However, it was felt that the rural population still had difficulty in accessing crucial information in order to make timely decisions. Therefore, it is essential that information availability should be demand driven rather than supply driven.

The challenge is not only to improve the accessibility of communication technology to the rural population but also to improve its relevance in assessing the local and international market trends.

Rapid development of telecommunications and computer-based information technology (IT) is probably the biggest factor that would be required for change in extension approach and system. This would facilitate and reinforce other economic changes. There are many possibilities for the potential applications of the technology in agricultural extension. IT will bring new information services to rural areas and farmers will have much better control in receiving information. Information resource centres need to be promoted and established in the villages by both central and state Govt. with computer aided expert systems to help farmers to access information.

Need for agricultural and rural information based on advisory services would intensify in future. As such, the establishment of Farmers Information and Advisory Centre (FIACs) at the block level in the selected blocks of each states needs priority.

I am hopeful that the outcome of the congress in the form of recommendations will serve as the guidelines for future extension research and formulation of extension development programmes.

SEE AWARDEES-2005

The Society has presented the following awards in order to encourage researchers, extensionists, teachers, professional, trainers, etc. in the Congress-2005.

SEE FELLOW AWARDEES:

1. Dr. Panjab Singh (Former DG, ICAR & Secretary DARE, govt. of India) Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, Varansi, U.P.
2. Dr. Nagaendra Sharma, Vice- Chancellor, SKUAST-J, Jammu & Kashmir
3. Dr. G. Trivedi, Former Vice-Chancellor. RAU, Pusa, Samstipur, Bihar
4. Dr. B.S. Nadagoudar, Director Extension, UAS, Dharwad, Karnataka
5. Dr. Shakila Khan, Asso. Director, NDUAT, Faizabad, U.P.

YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDEES:

1. Dr. Ashok Kumar Sharma, Scientist, Agril. Ext., NRCM, Bharatpur (Raj)
2. Dr. Gopal Sankhala, Scientist, Dairy Ext., NDRI, Karnal
3. Dr. B. S. Meena, Scientist, Agril. Extension, IGFRI, Jhansi
4. Dr. Akaram Khan, Asstt. Prof., Agril. Ext., IGAU, Raipur (CG)
5. Dr. V.P.Yadav, Asstt. Prof. Agril. Extension, CCSHAU, Hisar

BEST PAPER PRESENTATION AWARDEES:

1. Dr. Suman Kalyani, CTRI, Rajmundri, East Godawari, AP
2. Dr. Poonam Parihar, SKUAST-J, J&K
3. Dr. Randhir Singh, DWR, Karnal
4. Dr. Sumit Gaguli, NDRI, Karnal
5. Dr. H. R. Meena, IVRI, Garh Mukteswar

BEST POSTER PRESENTATION AWARDEES:

1. Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IVRI, Izzatnagar
2. Dr. V. S. Solanki, IVRI, Izzatnagar
3. Dr. S. R. K. Singh, VPKAS (ICAR), Almora


4. Dr. B.S. Meena, IGFRI, Jhansi
6. Dr. Lakhna Singh, Sr. Scientist, Zonal Coordination Unit (ICAR), Kanpur
7. Dr. Sadhna Pandey, IGFRI, Jhansi
8. Dr. S. K. Gupta, College of Agril. (JNKVV), Mandsaure (MP)
9. Dr. B. S. Yadav, RAU, Bikaner (Raj)

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEE-2005

1. Dr. B. K. Singh, Sr. Scientist, Agril. Extension, IARI, New Delhi-12

The precious assistance and cooperation of Dr. Rajbir Singh, Director, NDRI, Karnal, was highly appreciated which made our plans and endeavors a splendid success. I also express gratefulness for multidimensional cooperation of Dr. R. M. Fulzale, (Head, Division of Dairy Extension), Dr. J.P.S. Chauhan, Dr. Gopal Sankhala, Dr. Omvir Singh, Dr. K.S.Kadian, Dr. B.S.Malik, Dr. J.S. Malik, Dr. Jancy Gupta, Dr. S.K. Jha, Dr. J.C. Markhandey, Dr. Dwileep Gosain, Dr. Brij Kishor Singh, Dr. Ram Kumar, Dr. I.D. Gupta, Dr. Archana Verma, Shri Ashwani Sharma and Dr. Khajan Singh, etc. for enthusiastic teamwork throughout the tenure of the congress.

Many of my friends and all other faculty members of NDRI, Karnal, CSSRI, Karnal and DWR, Karnal have tendered me their hands of cooperation during planning, preparation and organizing the Congress. I express my thankfulness to all of those.


(Jitendra Chauhan)
(General Secretary)

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