



KVK East Khasi Hills **NEWSLETTER**

VOL: 1

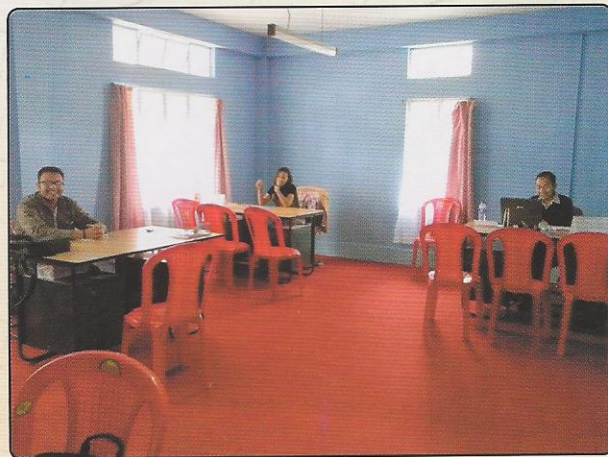
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Krishi Vigyan Kendra or Farm Science Centre is an innovative science based institution which was established mainly to impart vocational skill training to the farmers, rural youths and field extension workers. The first KVK, on a pilot basis, was established in 1974 at Pondicherry under the administration control of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. The activities of the KVK include technology assessment, refinement and transfer, aiming to bridge the gap between the technology developed at the research institutions and its adoption at the field level by the farmers through demonstration of technology and training programmes. The concept of technology assessment and refinement is based on participatory mode ensuring greater scientists – farmer linkage and access to agricultural technologies generated by research systems to the farming community. The technologies taken up by the farmers is in accordance to the felt needs, natural resources and the potential of agricultural growth in that particular area. The KVK provides training not only in agriculture and allied vocations but also in other income generating activities that supplemented the income of farm families.



A view of the State Bio-Control Laboratory which presently houses the KVK East Khasi Hills



A view inside an office room of the KVK Office where the present officers are sitting

CONTENTS

- From the P C's Desk
- Mandates and Objectives of KVK
- Interface meeting
- Staff position of KVK
- ZPD visit to KVK
- Orientation Programme
- Staffs' Training
- Scientists' visit to farmer's field
- Awareness Programme
- Front Line Demonstration (FLD)



Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), East Khasi hills district in Meghalaya located at Upper Shillong started functioning with the assumption of charge of the Programme Coordinator i/c on February 18, 2009 in compliance to the State Government Notification No. AGRI(G)178/97/307 dated February 13, 2009 on the specified terms of reference - to plan, impact & oversee the functioning of the KVK, to monitor the fund released for its, to ensure co-ordination with Farmers Training Centres/ Institutes, to accelerate its operation as per norms, to supervise the office establishment, to supervise building infrastructure and to liaison between the KVK and the State Government. To ensure better understanding on the functioning of the KVK, the Programme Coordinator attended the Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs 2008-2009 held at the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat from September 5-7, 2009 and presented the annual Action Plan of the KVK for 2009-2010. The appointment of Subject Matter Specialists, Farm Manager and Programme Assistant in April 2010 strengthened the KVK to undertake certain activities as per its Mandates and objectives. Dr. A.K.Gogoi who had taken over his new assignment as the new Zonal Project Director of Zone III with all his encouragement and support provided vibrant life to KVK East Khasi hills. It is hope that this Centre with all the technical and financial support from the Zonal Project Directorate and the State Government as Host organization will go on further to fulfill the purpose for which it has been set up in the district.

MANDATE & OBJECTIVES OF KVK:

The mandates of KVKs are as follows:

- Conducting "On Farm Testing" for identifying technologies in terms of location specific land use systems.
- Organising training to update the extension personnel with emerging advances in agricultural research on regular basis.
- Organising short and long term training courses in agriculture and allied vocations for the farmers and rural youths with emphasis on "Learning by doing" for higher production on farms generating self employment.
- Organising Front Line Demonstrations (FLD) to generate production data and feed-back information.

In order to achieve the above mandates, the following broad objectives would help the KVKs to develop their specific objectives:

- i) To promptly demonstrate the latest technologies to the farmers as well as extension workers of State Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture/Fisheries/Animal Science/ NGOs with a view to reduce the time lag between technology generation and its adoption.
- ii) To test and verify the technologies in the socio-economic conditions of the farmers with a view to study the production constraints and to modify the technologies to make them appropriate.
- iii) To impart trainings to the practising farmers and farm women, rural youths and field extension functionaries by following the methods of "Teaching by doing" and "Learning by Doing".
- iv) To back-up with training and communication supports to the district level development departments viz.; Agriculture/Horticulture/Fisheries/Animal Science and NGOs in their extension programmes

INTERFACE MEET HELD

The meeting held at the Training Hall of the Bio-Control Laboratory on June 11, 2010 was chaired by Dr. R. B. Dympep, Programme Coordinator incharge which was attended by the Scientists from the Zonal Project Directorate (Zone-III), the SMS of the four KVKs of East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts in Meghalaya.

At the outset, Dr. A. K. Gogoi, ZPD (Zone-III) explained the purpose of the meeting and discussed at length on the functioning of the KVKs. Dr. A.K. Singha re-affirmed the need for urgent constitution of the respective Scientific Advisory Committees, to which it was confirmed that the proposals have been sent to the State Government for its approval. It was also stressed on the need to install KVK signboards as per specification to indicate KVK presence in the district. Again, emphasis was stressed on compilation of district profiles and other basic information to be placed on KVK websites.

Timely submission of reports should be maintained to ensure timely compilation at the Zonal level which can also be communicated through e-mails. Conduct of Trainings, On Farm Trials (OFT) and Front Line Demonstrations (FLD) which formed the core activities was emphasized to be initiated by the new KVKs.

STAFF POSITION under KVK East Khasi Hills:

Name	Designation	Qualification & Discipline
1. Dr. R.B. Dympep, Joint Director of Agriculture(A&A)	Programme Coordinator i/c	PhD in Agril. Entomology
2. Shri Donbor Sing R. Sohliya	Subject Matter Specialist	M.Sc(Agri) in Plant Pathology
3. Shri Enboklang Kharkrang	Subject Matter Specialist	M.Sc (Agri) in Agronomy
4. Smt Iadahunlang Kharkongor	Subject Matter Specialist	M.Sc (Agri) in Horticulture
5. Smt Agreesia Syndor	Programme Assistant	B.Sc (Agri)
6. Smt Baphiralin Kharshiing	Farm Manager	B.Sc Agri)



Dr. A.K. Gogoi, ZPD, KVK interacting with KVK Staffs

KVK Zonal Project Director(Zone III) visited KVK East Khasi Hills

Dr. A.K.Gogoi, the Zonal Project Director (Zone III) made his first visit to the Centre on May 11, 2010 and held discussion with the KVK technical staff on various topics ranging from the need to conduct an orientation programme for all the recruited staff of the three new KVKs of

Meghalaya. He stressed the importance of surveying the district before carrying out the work in order to modify and formulate a new Action Plan, taking into consideration the needs of the farmers through PRA approach (standard methodology), as well as the preparation of digitized maps utilizing GPS and 3-D maps. ZPD also stressed on the immediate submission of the plan and cost estimates for getting an early approval of the Zonal Project Directorate. He further insisted that the KVK farm should be a Model farm where proper allocation of land for various land-use involving diversified cropping systems as well as proper maintenance of records. Soil sampling of the farm for various physical, chemical and biological properties should be initiated and analysis can be taken up at the Research Institute. He also stated that early constitution of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is required for the approval of the activities of the KVK. The Director also instructed the preparation of a website of the Centre according to the ICAR guidelines which should be regularly updated (monthly). Lastly, he advised the Subject Matter Specialists for compilation of detailed information on soil nutrient depletion, forest type, agro-forestry, developmental schemes of line departments as well as collection of farmers' innovations wherever possible.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



Group Photograph of all KVK Trainees

A one day Orientation Programme was conducted on May 13, 2010 in the Training hall of the State Bio-control Laboratory building which also housed the office establishments of KVK East Khasi Hills district in the presence of Dr. A. K. Gogoi ZPD (Zone III) as Chief Guest, Dr. R. B. Dympep, Programme Co-ordinator i/c, KVK East Khasi Hills District, Shri S. Thabah, Programme Co-ordinator i/c, KVK West Khasi Hills District, Dr. R. Bordoloi, Programme Co-ordinator KVK, Ri Bhoi District, Dr. M.V. Sajejev Scientist (Agril.Extension), ZPD-Zone III. All the SMS's, Farm Managers and Programme Assistants of the three KVKs of Meghalaya attended. In his inaugural speech, the ZPD stressed the importance of training and the district survey in order to chalk out the activities of the KVK. He also conveyed the need of preparation of the profile for the concerned district and highlighted the importance of radio talk for wide publicity. The technical session was initiated by Dr. R. Bordoloi in which various aspects of KVK activities

like OFT, FLD, etc were highlighted. Dr. M.V. Sajejev pointed out the formalities in submission of the different types of reports by the KVKs as per prescribed formats. The KVK staff were also advised to check the necessary details from the ZPD-Zone III website at www.icarzc3.gov.in

STAFFS' TRAINING

Shri Donbor Sing R. Sohliya (SMS Plant Protection), Shri Enboklang Kharkrang (SMS Agronomy) and Smt Baphiralin Kharshiing (Farm Manager) were deputed to attend the training course on "Designing and Management of Training Programme" held at the Extension Training Institute, AAU Jorhat during 24th-29th May, 2010 for clear concept on organizing training programmes. The training was inaugurated by Dr. D.K.Gogoi, Professor & Head, EEI. The programme laid emphasis on the important topics such as training need assessment, formulation of training objectives, selecting content and deciding training methods, developing training plan, monitoring and managing training programme to name a few. The Valedictory session of the training programme was held in the presence of Dr. S.K.Dutta, Director of Extension Education AAU, Dr.D.K.Gogoi, Professor & Head, EEI and Dr. P.K.Neog, Professor EEI.

FIELD NEWS

Scientists visit to Farmer's Field



Farmers interacting with KVK Scientists at Myllichem

The SMS's of the Centre made a field visit to Madan Ing Syiem village located in Myllichem area and had a fruitful interaction with 15 farmers. The following findings emerged from the interaction :

- Megha Rice I & II improved varieties supplied by the Agriculture Department proved to be very popular with the farmers of the area.
- Use of manure and fertilizers is in vogue for crop cultivation.

- Improper adoption of improved package of practices in respect of rice cultivation.
- Existence of a Farmer's club with active co-operation of the members.
- Crops grown in the area are rice, potato, beans, garden pea, cabbage and cauliflower.
- Infection by Late blight disease is a problem for the crops.
- Gundhi bug, army worm and stem borer are the insect pests prevalent in the rice fields. Blast, brownspot are the common diseases of rice crop.



Farmers and Scientists Interaction in the KVK

Awareness cum Interaction programme with Farmers

The awareness-cum-interaction programme for farmers from six villages of Myllichem C & RD Block viz., Sadew, Nongpiur, Mawklot, Laitjem, Sanmer and Baniun was conducted on June 29-30th June 2010 at the KVK headquarter in which a total of 30 farmers participated. The Programme Coordinator i/c, Dr. R.B.Dympep elaborated on the KVK mandate and objectives and called upon the farmers to extend their

cooperation with the Centre for their overall benefit in agricultural development. Later, the scientists made the farmers aware of the activities of the Centre and in an informal discussion, the various problems faced by the farmers and the solutions offered by the scientists were highlighted. The programme was extremely fruitful as the scientists could grasp the idea of the farming system and crops grown in these areas situated in the vicinity of the KVK headquarter.

Front Line Demonstration (FLD)



Line sowing demonstration to farmers

FLD plots were selected in Myllem village for demonstrating two proven technology under two subjects which is describe below:

Agronomy: Proper spacing or line sowing in rice cultivation is a well known practice which enhances crop production due to proper weed management and as a result increases the income of farmers. Broad casting method or random spacing without line sowing is prevalent in Myllem village and as a result weed

management is difficult thereby affecting the total production. Therefore the above technology is being demonstrated and the results are awaited.

Plant Protection: Need based technology are highly recommended in all agricultural practices. In this particular village it was observed that in the seed nursery, seedlings are affected by fungal diseases like blast, brown spot etc. to name a few which ultimately lead to a poor crop stand ultimately affecting the productivity of the area. It was learnt that the best technology that we can offer to the farmers is seed treatment or root dip treatment with fungicides or insecticides as and when required. So in this particular village, root dip treatment with bavistin was advocated and demonstrated to the farmers.



Root dip mixture being prepared in the field



Rice root dip treatment in farmer's field

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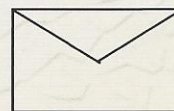
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