

Zonal Review Workshop of Farmer FIRST Programme Organized

Kolkata, 21st April, 2022: One online Zonal Review Workshop of Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) for three ICAR Institutes and one SAU from Odisha state under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata was conducted at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata on 21.04.2022 at 3 PM under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. P. Chahal, ADG (AE), New Delhi to review the physical and financial progress during the year 2021-22 and to finalize the Action Plan for the year 2022-23. The Director and Chairman of Zonal Programme Management Committee (ZPMC) of FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata; Prof. P. Mishra, Dean, Extension Education, OUAT, Bhubaneswar; Dr. K. S. Das, Member-Secretary, ZPMC of FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata; Pr. Scientists from ICAR-ATARI Kolkata- Dr. P. P. Pal and Dr. S. K. Mondal; four Principal Investigators (PIs)- Dr. S. K. Mishra, Pr. Scientist from ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack; Dr. H. K. De, Pr. Scientist from ICAR-CIFA; Dr. D. Sethi, Sr. Scientist from ICAR-IIWM and Dr. M. K. Mishra, Professor from OUAT; and SRFs from each concerned Institutes were present in the workshop.

In his welcome address, Dr. S. K. Roy pointed out the fund allotment, release and its utilization. He stressed upon the approval of new ZPMC members for ATARI Kolkata, change of villages after a span of 4-5 years, selection and shifting of new villages and inclusion of good modules including livestock and fisheries. He also requested to the PIs to strictly follow the recommendations of previous workshop. Dr. K. S. Das overviewed the physical/ financial achievements during the year 2021-22 and presented the proposed budget for the year 2022-23. Prof. P. Mishra appreciated the successful implementation of the project and involvement of NGO in FPO formation. He also pointed out the initiative of 'Farm Pond' by the Govt. of Odisha and fish based integrated farming system development. Dr. P. P. Pal and Dr. S. K. Mondal showed their concern about the sustainability of the farmers' income even after discontinuing the project at the adopted villages, proper statistical analysis of data to show the impact of the programme, adoption of new technologies at the surrounding villages and so on.

Dr. V. P. Chahal, in his inaugural address, opined that the projects were running well under this zone but there were chances of improvement, and the adopted villages might be changed gradually following the guidelines of FFP and Farmer FIRST Approach. While concluding the session, he stressed upon upscaling of best technologies/practices of FFP involving state line departments/other organizations through convergence mode, inclusion of interventions under NRM/enterprise based modules considering natural farming, precision farming, use of drone in agriculture, uploading information on *FFP Portal*, use of *FFP Module App*, documentation and validation of farmers' innovation at the field of other farmers, mobilization of funds from other sources, preparation of action plan for all modules at the institute level etc.

The PI of all four projects presented their physical/financial progress (2021-22) and Action Plan (2022-23) one after another which were critically reviewed, discussed by the scientists and suggestions were given. The PIs/Co-PIs of the projects were requested to incorporate the suggestions for further improvement.

The meeting ended with formal vote of thanks by Dr. S. K. Mondal.

