

Proceedings of Zonal Review Workshop of Farmer FIRST Programme(FFP) under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata held on 21.04.2022 at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

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 organized by ATARI Kolkata on 21st April, 2022 at 3 PM under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. P. Chahal, ADG (AE) and Member, Programme Management Committee (PMC) of FFP, ICAR, New Delhi to review the Physical/Financial Achievements (2021-21) and to finalize the Action Plan (2021-22) of the programme. The following persons were present in the above mentioned workshop.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Dr. V. P. Chahal	ADG (AE) and Member, PMC, FFP, ICAR, New Delhi and Chairman, Review Workshop
Dr. S. K. Roy	Director-cum-Chairman, Zonal Programme Management Committee (ZPMC), FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. P. J. Mishra	Dean, Ext. Edu., OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. P.P. Pal	Pr. Scientist, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. S. K. Mondal	Pr. Scientist, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. K. S. Das	Pr. Scientist-cum-Member Secretary, ZPMC, FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. S.K. Mishra	Pr. Scientist and PI, ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack
Dr. H. K. De	Pr. Scientist and PI, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar
Prof.M. K. Mishra	Co-PI of FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. D. Sethi	Sr. Scientist and PI, ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar
Co-PIs, SRFs and other staff of FFP Centres under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata	

In his address, Dr. S. K. Roy welcomed all dignitaries and participants of the workshop. He stressed upon the fund allotment, its timely release and utilization, 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/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 particularly on number of modules/villages/farm families/farmers covered/extension activities, success stories documented by each project implementing centre etc. under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata and presented the Institute-wise proposed budget for the year 2022-23. He also requested to the PIs/Co-PIs of the projects to use standard terminology for Modules mentioned in the FFP guidelines only. No additional terminology for Module should be created from their own. Finally, AUC should be sent to ATARI Kolkata at the earliest.

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. In his remarks, Prof. Mishra urged about the frequent interaction between four FFP implementing institutes, strengthening of Farmer-Scientist interaction and documentation of production potentiality resulting from new interventions.

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 expressed his views that all 4 projects under this Zone were running well but there were chances of improvement. He requested PIs to gradually shift the adopted villages following the guidelines of FFP and Farmer FIRST Approach. Dr. Chahal concluded the workshop with the following remarks:

- ❖ Best technologies/practices of FFP were to be upscaled involving state line departments/other organizations through convergence mode.
- ❖ Interventions on Natural Farming were to be included under NRM/Enterprise based Modules by each centre.
- ❖ Proposed BE (2022-23) must be need-based and minimum requirements should be proposed. All PIs/Co-PIs were suggested to be converged with various related departments/ organizations of State Govt. and Central Govt. to get financial support from them for strengthening basic infrastructure at the adopted villages.
- ❖ The information/report/data (Annual Reports, Apps, Action photographs, Activities, Publications etc.) related to FFP must be uploaded in '*FFP Portal*' regularly by the Centres.
- ❖ The *Apps* related to FFP Module are to be popularized among the farmers.
- ❖ Technology update must be compiled and the proven technology model should be shared to other institutes/organizations for its widespread adoption in the district.
- ❖ The project centres are to be worked on Precision Farming, use of drone in agriculture etc.
- ❖ Every project centre would prepare separate Action Plan for all modules at the institute level for scaling up of adopted technologies.
- ❖ Farmers' innovations should be highlighted, well documented and the innovations were to be validated in other farmers' fields.
- ❖ Only critical inputs should be provided to the farmers.
- ❖ The Council had received the proposed budget (BE 2022-23) from all Centres and it would be finalized and communicated to the project institutes very shortly.
- ❖ After 4-5 years, each centre should adopt new villages following FFP guidelines while some activities will still continue in existing villages.

TECHNICAL SESSION:

In this session, four Principal Investigators of Farmer FIRST Programme under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata presented their physical/financial progress (2021-22) and Action Plan (2022-23) one after another which were discussed in details by the dignitaries. The PIs/ Co-PIs were requested to incorporate the suggestions in their Action Plan for improvement. The salient comments on the projects have been given below.

ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack (Presented by Dr. S. K. Mishra):

- § It was a very nice presentation which was appreciated by all expert members.
- § Considering the budget utilization during the year 2021-22, Dr. Mishra was requested to restrict the budget utilization allotted to his Institute.

- § Proposed BE (2022-23) was towards higher side.
- § In case of new interventions (Mushroom Spawn Production, Rice Seed, Hatchery Unit, Natural Farming etc.), details were to be included.
- § Prof. P. Mishra appreciated the involvement of NGO for converging and upscaling the technologies.
- § Dr. S. K. Mondal suggested for statistical analyses on the presented data (benchmark data vs. data of 2021-22). While new villages would be adopted, sustainability of old villages were also to be followed up.
- § The work on FPC formation was also satisfactory.
- § Dr. P. P. Pal suggested for presenting the salient achievements for the particular period under review. He urged to all PIs to study the impact of the technologies on other nearby villages.

ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar (Presented by Dr. H. K. De):

- § The presentation was very good and quite different particularly on impact studies.
- § While discussed the Action Plan (2022-23), as per recommendations of previous workshop, Dr. H. K. De informed that more modules and latest variety of seeds were included in the programme. The proposed '*Kisan Chaupal*' formation and its use at the adopted villages were appreciated by the members which could provide better service deliveries to the agricultural farming community. However, Dr. Mondal requested for incorporating new interventions under different modules in details.
- § Dr. Pal pointed out that number of farmers per intervention was missing.
- § More success stories might be recorded in the given proforma.

OUAT, Bhubaneswar (Presented by Dr.M. K. Mishra):

- § From the last two workshops, it was observed that PI was absent and other Co-PIs presented the Achievements and Action Plan. It was learnt that PI (Prof. R. K. Paikaray) used to be busy with other Administrative Posts of the University and very soon he would be retired from his service. It was reflected in the progress of the project. Therefore, it was urged to request the Honb'le Vice-Chancellor, OUAT, Bhubaneswar that in future, the project should be handed over to such person who could give sufficient time to the project.
- § The presentation was not satisfactory. In most cases, the results were not quantified. Comparison between data of base year and last year (2021-22 i.e. the year of review) was missing. Action photographs from the different fields/farmers should be presented.
- § Adopted villages should be shifted/changed with new PRA following guidelines of FFP.
- § Modules/interventions were to be relooked before implementation.

ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar (Presented by Dr. D. Sethi):

- § The presentation was a very poor. It was reflected that neither PI nor Co-PIs had time to prepare presentation. However, considering the potential of new PI i.e. Dr. Sethi, it was advised to select/reselect his team (scientific manpower) in such a way that every scientist could contribute substantially for the project. The Action Plan (2022-23) and

FFP guidelines should also be taken into account during team selection. The information on the revised team must be communicated to ICAR-ATARI Kolkata including the Council.

- § In the presentation, data were very limited which could compare the effect of interventions between the base year/previous years and the year under review (2021-22). The PI was requested to present the result accordingly in future.
- § Fund utilization during the year 2021-22 was not proper. It should be seriously planned in future.
- § The data on average cost of cultivation per ha was appearing too low in line transplanting of paddy compared to conventional transplanting. The data might be rechecked.
- § Input distribution should not be the motto of this programme. The PI was advised to study the impact of adopted technologies in the selected villages.
- § Recorded success stories should immediately be sent to ATARI Kolkata.

Meeting ended with the formal vote of thanks to the Chair by Dr. S. K. Mondal.
