Proceedings of Review Workshop-cum-Monitoring Field Visit of Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata conducted at ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar

A two-days review workshop-cum-monitoring field visit programme was organized at ICAR-CIFA Bhubaneswar by ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Kolkata in collaboration with ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar during 21.03.2023 to 22.03.2023. On the first day, review workshop of four FFP institutes was conducted in the conference hall of ICAR-CIFA at 9 AM under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pradip Dey, Director-cum-Chairman, Zonal Programme Management Committee (ZPMC), FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata. The objectives of the programme were to review the salient achievements (2022-23) and to discuss the action plan (2023-24). Dr. H. K. De, Pr. Scientist-cum-PI of ICAR-CIFA coordinated the programmes. A total of 65 persons (Annexure-I) attended the above-mentioned workshop.

Inaugural Session:

After formal welcome by Dr. H. K. De, all participants introduced themselves. Dr. K. S. Das presented a brief overview of FFP programme by explaining its objectives, uniqueness of the programme, past physical achievements including number of villages//modules/farm families covered, success story documented and financial achievements including year-wise fund allocation and its utilization against each center. He urged to all PIs/Co-PIs to specify the details of interventions followed/included under different modules while comparing the economic feasibility and also to verify the data sets before reporting.

Dr. A. Sarangi stated that frequent interactions between farmers and scientists could provide farmers' feedback for selecting proper interventions to sustain farmers' income from their agri-produces. He also agreed to select adopted villages from close proximity of the institute for better monitoring through homogeneous team activities.

Dr. P. Das stressed upon more livelihood enrichment programmes for small and marginal farmers and also about the sustainability of the project. He advised the members to follow cluster-based approach at Panchayet level instead of village approach.

As per FFP guidelines, farmers' innovations available in a locality should be considered while selecting different interventions under specific module for addressing farmers' problems. The proven technologies should be communicated to the Govt. of Odisha for large scale adoptions in the state. The criteria for shifting of villages must be followed as mentioned in the guidelines, addressed by Dr P. J. Mishra.

In his inaugural address, Dr. P. K. Roul conveyed great satisfaction about the way the project achieved its objectives and motivated the farmers to build greater coordination with institutes for achieving desired outcomes in crop and livestock production. He also emphasized on adopting one or two villages and converging the efforts of all four centres in Odisha so that a replicable model emerges that would certainly draw the attention of other stakeholders and could help to establish the contribution of scientific farming practices. He urged that farmers and scientists should be in the same platform for maximum utilizations of the technologies. Location specific, demand driven programme and opportunity-based modules for entrepreneurship development should be selected. The farmers should participate actively in research and development rather than simply acting as beneficiaries. Dr Roul also suggested that different technology modules as well as IT concepts like drone technology should be implemented timely in the farmers' field in collaboration with all ICAR Institutes and OUAT. One WhatsApp group might be formed involving four FFP institutes of Odisha for cross learning.

Dr. Dey, in his remarks, pointed out the project status, its implementation and suggested that centres would have an optimum mixture of crop, horticulture, livestock including fisheries, natural resource management, agri-enterprise and IFS module. He also suggested that a proforma of structured impact assessment for the entire project could be prepared to gauge the impact of the project with respect to livelihood improvement of the targeted beneficiaries. He advised all the teams to publish multi-institutional as well as multi-authored research paper in high impact journals.

The inaugural progrmme was ended with the formal vote of thanks to the Chair by Dr. I. Siyaraman.

Technical Session:

In the technical session, following four PIs of Farmer FIRST Projects under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata presented the Physical and Financial Achievements (2022-23) and Action Plan (2023-24) of their respective projects. The details of adopted villages, where different activities were conducted, are mentioned in Annuxure-II. Both were discussed in details in the house and PIs/Co-PIs were requested to include suggestions given by the dignitaries in their Action Plan.

Chairman: Dr. P. Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

Panelists: Dr. P. Das, Director (I/C), ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar

Dr. P. J. Mishra, Dean, Ext. Edu., OUAT, Bhubaneswar

The project-wise salient comments are given below.

ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack (Presented by Dr. B. Mondal):

- § The presentation was appreciated by the expert members which covered different interventions under prescribed modules spread over wide area of the adopted villages.
- § Dr. Mishra praised the demonstrations conducted at eight cluster villages to compare the efficacy of manual and drone technology. He suggested to Dr. Mondal that the technology developed by the institute particularly using neem oil as an organic pesticide to control insects, mites and fungi in crops and that too, spraying through drone technology should be popularized among farmers.
- § Dr. P. Dey informed the house that Cuttack district has been identified by the ICAR to work on milk-based product under *'One District, One Product (ODOP)'*. He suggested to Dr. Mondal to include different activities to address ODOP also under their FFP programme.

Farmers' feedback: Scientists were always with the farmers since FFP project was implemented. Farmers of adopted villages were benefitted from getting latest variety crops, providing guidance, latest technologies, problem solving attitude etc. for which they were able to increase income from agricultural produces. Famers also pointed out that cultivation of tomato, paddy and offseason vegetables gave more income. They requested scientists for frequent visits during disease and pest incidences in crops to reduce production loss.

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

- § It was felt by the house that the presentation was not up-to the mark. It was suggested to improve the same in future.
- § Dr. Sethi was appreciated to take initiatives for adopting new villages at the nearby area of their institute.

- § Dr. Das pointed out that the detail information about interventions done under different modules, quantification of results in terms of data and action photographs were lacking in the presentation under physical achievements. Number of farmers per trainings was more which should be restricted to 30 or 35. He also suggested to mention the details about different interventions to be taken in the Action Plan (2023-24).
- § The issue of revalidation of fund, remained as opening balance at the institute, was raised by Dr. Sethi which was clarified by Dr. Das. Dr. Sethi was suggested for full utilization of fund in the current financial year (2022-23).
- § The chairman enquired about the cropping intensity of the implemented area and efficiency of sprinklers used in the project. He suggested Dr. Sethi to include production level data in all the interventions wherever it was missing for better comparison of effects.

Farmers' feedback: Farmers appreciated the FFP team for letting them about introducing SRI methods, supplying latest varieties crop seeds, popularizing mulching techniques, and supplying drip/sprinkler irrigation systems for increasing crop production. That led to increase livelihood status of tribal farmers in adopted villages.

OUAT, Bhubaneswar (Presented by Prof. B. S. Rath):

- § The presentation on physical/financial achievements (2022-23) and action plan (2023-24) was in a lucid manner.
- § Dr. Das showed his satisfaction with the performance of dairy animals resulting from adopting different managemental interventions taken under livestock-based module. He also suggested the management strategies to further decrease of kid mortality for rearing Ganjam goats at field level.
- § Dr. Lenka enquired about the possibility of adopting button mushroom cultivation by the farmers.
- § Dr. Dey appreciated to Dr Rath for geotagging done in some of the demonstration plots. He advised to involve more landless farmers in their Farmer FIRST activities. Dr Dey urged to all the PIs/Co-PIs who were implementing FFP in Khordha district to incorporate some activities on fishery aspects to address *ODOP* of Khordha district.

Farmers' feedback: Farmers were receiving more ideas, facilities, guidance and technologies from FFP team of OUAT since 2016-17 which increased their income from different crops and livestock production. They appreciated about the var. *Mrinalini, Swarna Sub 1, Lalat, Kaala Jera* (black rice) etc. However, it was requested to the scientists to help them getting appropriate market price for black rice.

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

- § Dr. De explained the objectives, physical and financial achievements including action plan in an organised manner.
- § Dr. P. Das remarked that the number of programes/activities should be justified with the funds allotted for.
- § Dr Lenka advised to Dr. De to include B:C Ratio in the production level data which were missing in some interventions.
- § The regular updating of content in FFP Portal and implementing the concept of 'Aquaculture Field School' in FFP villages by ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar were appreciated by the chairman. The chairman requested to Dr. H. K. De to develop a proforma for assessing the impact of technologies which could be followed by all

four Farmer FIRST Project institutes under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata. He also appreciated the activities and achievements under fish-based IFS module. Therefore, considering the scope of ornamental fisheries in the state, technologies developed by the institute might be disseminated among the farmers for increasing agricultural income, the chairman added.

Farmers' feedback: The FFP team of ICAR-CIFA Bhubaneswar were continuously helping the farmers of the adopted villages through solving various problems related to agriculture and through providing guidance and new technologies. Farmers fetched more income from selling seedlings of pointed gourd than selling its fruits.

Dr. P. J. Mishra expressed his satisfaction upon the present deliberations of all PIs. However, he requested to develop a format for uniform presentation for FFP. Good publication should be done from the project works, he added. Dr. P Das expressed his views about the achievements and scope of the projects. He thanked to the authority of ATARI Kolkata for choosing their institute as a venue for workshop and also thanked all participants of the workshop for active participation in discussion using one platform.

Dr. P. Dey concluded the workshop with the following remarks.

- Farmers' feedback from all Farmer FIRST projects were praiseworthy.
- Some of the activities should be continued in old adopted villages even after shifting into new adopted villages. Rather, impacts of different technologies applied should be assessed in those old villages.
- Head of the institute must assure the conductance of Institute Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting as per guidelines of the FFP.
- All PIs/Co-PIs were suggested to be converged with various related departments/organizations of State Govt. and Central Govt. for smooth functioning of the project. He requested to find out the way how different Govt. schemes could be energized through FFP.
- Action photographs of different activities in the fields and demonstrations must be geo-tagged.
- He observed that under different modules, varietal interventions covered major share out of total interventions undertaken in all four institutes. Therefore, he advised to undertake an optimum mix of different interventions under Crop, Horticulture, NRM, Livestock, Enterprise and IFS-based modules as a tool for diversifying agricultural productions.
- Soil organic carbon before and after intervention should be measured.
- Points discussed in the workshop should be noted for improving the nature and style of presentation in future which could give a complete picture of different activities.
- Information on different activities should be uploaded in the FFP Portal.
- Two new success stories from each centre might be submitted to ICAR-ATARI Kolkata.

The technical session was ended with the formal vote of thanks to the Chair by Dr. I. Sivaraman.

Farmers' Field Visit Programme:

In the early morning on 22.03.2023, a field visit programme was organized in collaboration with the team, OUAT, Bhubaneswar under the leadership of Dr. P. Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata to monitor the progress of different activities being carried out by FFP Team, OUAT at their new and old adopted villages. The visit was coordinated by Dr. H. K. De. The persons attended the field visits are given in the Annexure-III.

The team visited the mushroom spawn production unit at Gobinpur village and various demonstration sites at Gopalpur, Gobindapur and Bramhapura II village under Parichhal Panchayet, Khordha district, Odisha. It was observed that various latest technologies including new variety crops were implemented successfully in the farmers' fields which helped farmers to fetch more income from agriculture. An animal health camp was organized at Gopalpur village which was also attended by the team members where team members interacted with large number of livestock farmers. A Farmer-Scientist interaction programme was organised at Gobindpur village where farmers' queries were addressed by FFP monitoring team. The programme ended with the happy notes from the farmers for including such activities under Farmer FIRST Project which benefitted large number of agricultural farmers in the adopted villages.



Review workshop-cum field visit of FFP Project under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

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Venue. Annexure -1
ICAR-CIFA. Conference Hall

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Review workshop-cum field visit of FFP Project under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata Supported by

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Review workshop-cum field visit of FFP Project under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

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Annexure -I

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Annexure -I

Review workshop-cum field visit of FFP Project under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

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Review workshop-cum field visit of FFP Project under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

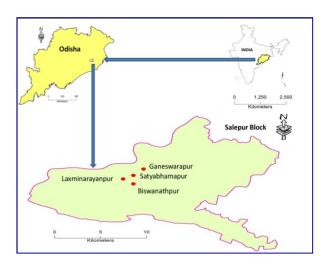
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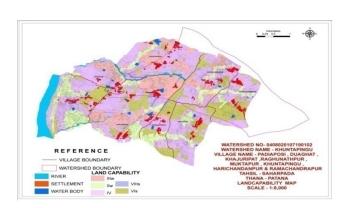
Operational villages (in Odisha) of Farmer FIRST Programme under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata



ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack

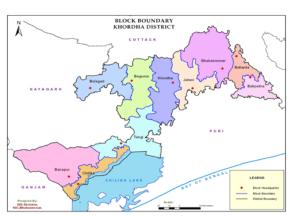


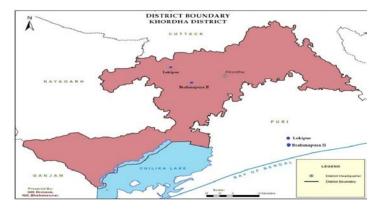
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ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar





OUAT, Bhubaneswar

List of participants monitored farmers' fields and other activities conducted at adopted villages under Farmer FIRST Programme by the Team, OUAT, Bhubaneswar

Name	Designation
Dr. P. Dey	Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata and Chairman, Review Workshop
Dr. K. S. Das	Pr. Scientist-cum-Member Secretary, ZPMC, FFP, ICAR-ATARI
	Kolkata
Dr. H. K. De	Pr. Scientist and PI, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar
Dr. B. S. Rath	Professor & Head (Agronomy) and PI, FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. H. K.Sahoo	JD (EE), OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. M. Satapathy	Prof. (Agronomy) and Co-PI, FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. S. K. Palai	Prof. (Floriculture) and Co-PI, FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. M. K. Mishra	Prof. (Plant Pathology) and Co-PI, FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. D. Karna	Prof. (Animal Breeding and Genetics) and Co-PI, FFP, OUAT,
	Bhubaneswar
Dr. G. S. Sahoo	Prof. and Head (Veg. Sci.), OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. P. K. Nayak	Prof. (Soil Science), OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. P. Tripathi	Prof. and Head (Horticulture) and Co-PI, FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Dr. (Mrs.) U. Dei	Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Odisha
Mrs. Abinita Sahoo	SRF, FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Sh. J. K. Pahadsingh	Field Assistant, FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar
Mr. T. K. Rout	Field Assistant, FFP, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar
Mr. Sandeep	Field Assistant, FFP, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar
Farmers	Sh. R. Baliarsingh, Sh. Harihara Pradhan, Sh. N. K. Sundaray, Sh. S.
	P. Muduli, Sh. K. C. Sahoo and many others

Glimpses of FFP Review Workshop-cum-Field Visit Programme

























