

CONCEPT OF FARM SCHOOL AND RELATED COST NORMS/CEILINGS

1. The National Commission on Farmers has recommended that Farm Schools may be established in the fields of outstanding farmers. Such Farm Schools will be based on the principles of **"learning by doing"** as well as 'seeing and harvesting is believing' with focus on farmer-to-farmer extension. The Farm School would help in developing a cost effective extension system.
2. Setting-up of Farm Schools was also recommended during the day-long workshop held on 15th May, 2007 on Revitalization of Agricultural Extension System.
3. The key features of the Farm Schools to be promoted under the ATMA programme are given below:
 - Farm Schools would be operationalized at Block/Gram Panchayat level.
 - These would be set up in the field of outstanding farmers and awardees of nationally recognized awards for farmers. These could also be set up in a Government/ Non-Government Institution.
 - "Teachers" in the Farm Schools could be progressive farmers, extension functionaries or expert belonging to Government or Non-Government Sector.
 - One of the main activities of Farm Schools would be to operationalize Front Line Demonstrations in one or more crops and/or allied sector activities. These demonstrations would focus on Integrated Crop Management including field preparation, seed treatment, IPM, INM, etc.
 - Farm Schools would provide season long technical backstopping/ training to target farmers.
 - The "students" of Farm Schools would be leaders of Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) formed in different villages and other farmers.
 - "Students" would visit Farm Schools as per specified schedule or as may be necessary. "Teachers" may also visit students as may be necessary.
4. Knowledge and skills of 'teachers" would be upgraded on a continuous basis through training at district/ state/ national level institutions and exposure visits, etc.
5. In addition to technical support through Farm Schools, knowledge and skill of "students" may also be upgraded through training at district/ state level and exposure visits, etc.
6. "Students" would have the responsibility of providing extension support to other farmers in the respective village or neighboring villages.

APPENDIX TO ATMA CAFETERIA – 7.2**CONCEPT OF FARM SCHOOL AND RELATED COST NORMS/CEILINGS**

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