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Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT)

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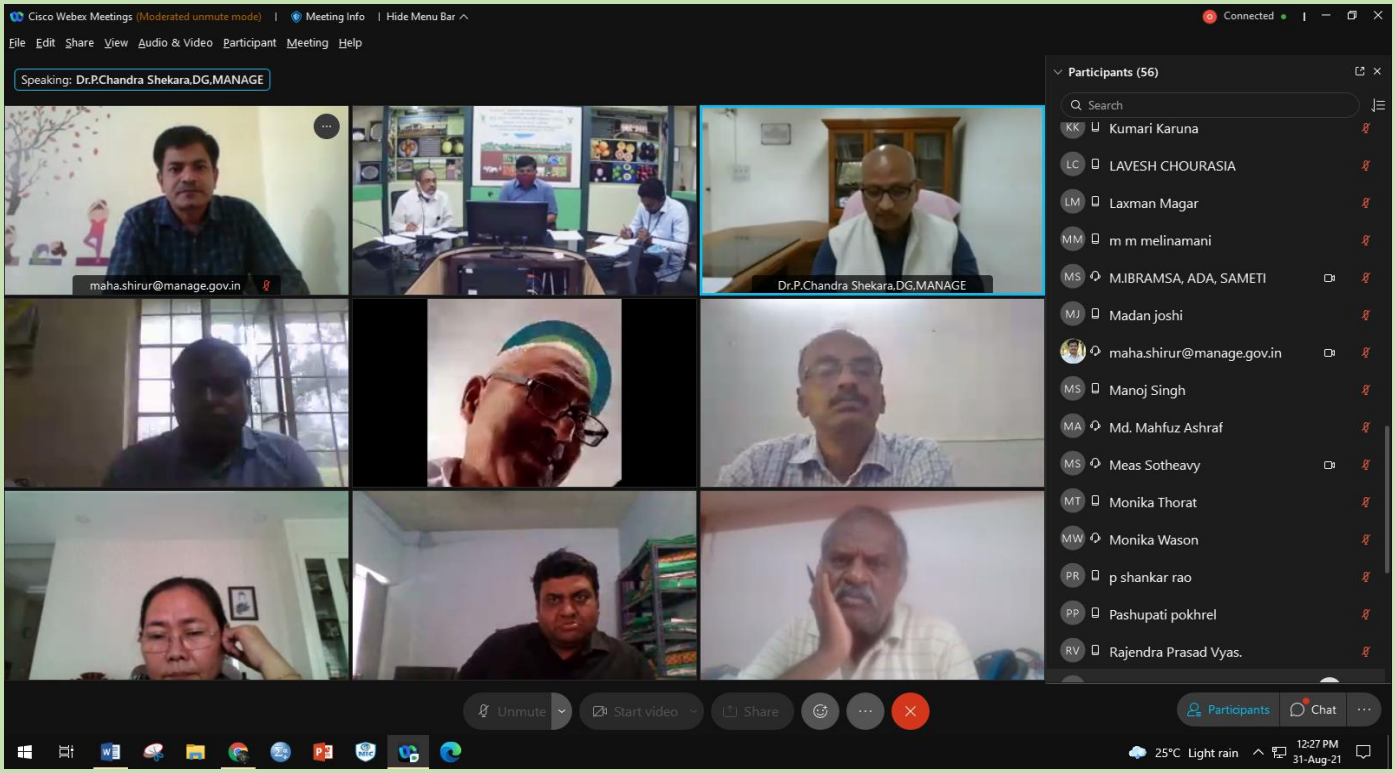
1. Report on International Webinar on Technology Backstopping for Agri-Extension: Experiences and activities of ICAR- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)

Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) is a premier institute involved in basic, strategic, and applied research on various aspects of fruits, vegetable, ornamental and medicinal crops and mushrooms. The institute was the first among horticultural research institutes to be established on 5 September 1967 by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi. The institute was shifted to Hessaraghatta, Bangalore in Karnataka on February 1, 1968.



To nurture the linkages between the partner institutes of MANAGE and the partner countries, MANAGE announced the monthly International webinar series. In this monthly webinar series, the webinar in August was organized by - Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore in collaboration with MANAGE on 31.08.2021. Totally 57 participants representing. India, Malawi, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Afghanistan, Uganda and Bangladesh attended this webinar.

The webinar started with a brief self-introduction by the participants. Welcome address was given by Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Deputy Director (Agril. Extension), MANAGE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE gave a brief introduction about the concept and idea behind monthly webinar series and importance of horticulture sector in his key note address.

Dr. B.N. Srinivasa Murthy, Director (IIHR) introduced IIHR to the international audience. Later, Dr. Venkatta Kumar R and Dr. Atheequlla G A. gave a detailed presentation on the vision, mission, mandate, activities and technologies developed by IIHR. The presentation also highlighted the success stories of the farmers and entrepreneurs who were guided and trained by Scientists of IIHR, Bangalore.

Salient achievements of IIHR

- 10 International patents on Bio agents
- Developed and released 60 high yielding open pollinated varieties in fruits crops.
- 15 F1 hybrids in 24 vegetable crops resistant to pests and diseases for commercial cultivation. The varieties and hybrids developed by IIHR are prefixed with the name “Arka” as mark of distinction.
- Arka Manik (Watermelon)- triple resistant to pest and disease
- Arka Anamika (okra) resistant to Yellow Vein Mosaic Virus
- Arka Komal (French-bean) resistant to rust is popular across india.
- Integrated disease management protocols and diagnostic kits viruses have also been developed.
- In the area of ornamental crops, the Institute has evolved improved varieties in gladiolus, chrysanthemum, bougainvillea, hibiscus, tube rose, rose, China aster, carnation, gerbera and crossandra. China aster varieties Poornima, Kamini, Vilet cushion and Shashank, tube rose cultivars, Shringar, Suvasini, Prajwal and Vibahv and crossandra variety Arka Ambara have become very popular among the farmers.
- In the field of mushrooms, a sporeless mutant of oyster mushroom, milky mushroom, Jews-ear mushroom and a medicinal mushroom with export potentials have been developed.
- IIHR has standardized technology to extend the storage life at various temperatures, standardized the protocol for MOP and shrink wrapping technology,

The presentation was followed by discussion and question and answer session. The Experts from IIHR, Dr. Venkatta Kumar, R, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension) and Dr. Atheequlla G A, Scientist (Sr. Grade) answered participants' queries. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE gave concluding remarks and urged the international participants to make use of the expertise available with ICAR-IIHR by approaching through Indian embassies in their respective countries. The webinar conducted with the vote of thanks by Dr. Mahantesh Shirur.

1. International Webinar Series on Technology Backstopping for Agri-Extension-Indian Experiences- ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE)

To continue the contacts established through Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT), MANAGE has started monthly International Webinar Series on Technology Backstopping for Agri-Extension: Indian Experiences from April, 2021. In this monthly webinar series reputed research institutes in the field of agriculture will be invited to share about their institution activities, so that the officers from the partner countries of Africa and Asia can explore the options of collaborative linkages on research, extension and joint publications. On 30-September-2021, the activities of **"ICAR - Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE)"**will be presented for audience.

ICAR - Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) a premier institute for Agricultural Engineering R&D, was established in 1976 to cater to the need of agricultural engineering in the country. The vision of the ICAR-encompasses modernizing Indian agriculture by improvement in crop productivity through agricultural mechanization, harnessing energy from renewable sources, efficient management of irrigation water, reduction in post-harvest losses and promote agri-business with a view to enhance income and generate employment in rural sector

The institute is mandated to undertake basic, adaptive and applied research on farm mechanization, post-harvest food processing & value addition, irrigation & drainage engineering and energy management in agriculture. It is also mandated to undertake human resource development and capacity building through outreach and training programs, commercialization and utilization of agricultural engineering technologies. CIAE is also gearing up to tackle agriculture which will be dominated by precision and cloud data and supported by advanced infrastructure like smart tractors, unmanned aerial vehicles, wireless technology and unmanned autonomous guided vehicle for multi-purpose field works.

The link to registration for the International webinar by CIAE is given below. Please register yourself and also share the information of MANAGE monthly International Webinar Series on Technology Backstopping for Agri-Extension: Indian Experiences among your colleagues.

Registration link: https://rb.gy/2mb2tq.

3. Popularization of good management practices in spices in Malawi.

The farm and resource centre manager Mr. Steve Ronald Namonde from Malawi working in Zomba District Agricultural Office, Ministry of Agriculture, was excited to witness the diversity and quality of spices when he visited Calicut, India as part of a batch of trainees from Africa during May 2018. He was nominated by the Government of Malawi to attend the 27th Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT) organized by MANAGE in Collaboration with ICAR-Indian Institute of Spice Research, Calicut. The FTF ITT program was funded and supported by the USAID India and Government of India to improve the capacity of extension officials from developing countries.

The 15-days training program covered the advances in crop management practices in spices. The training gave the opportunity to participants to see the expansive plantation and spice gardens in Kerala and learn the innovations adopted by farmers. The trainees were also able to learn the marketing linkages for profitable marketing of spices.

After having learnt about improved crop management practices and business opportunities in spices from the Indian experts, Mr. Steve Namonde took the responsibility on himself to popularize the good agronomic and plantation management techniques including the climate smart technologies in Malawi. In his back at work plan presentation during the training, he committed on the introduction of spice production demonstration gardening with an interest in ginger and Turmeric agronomic practices and primary processing. His other objectives were to strengthen the linkage between research and extension services and to facilitate the development of agribusiness opportunities.

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Laying out the demonstration plots for growing Ginger and turmeric in Zomba Agriculture Office by Mr. Steve Namonde

The sale of fresh ginger and processed spices by Mr. Steve

After returning to Malawi on completion of the training program, he managed to raise a number of Ginger and turmeric demonstration fields in Zomba agriculture office, Malawi. The seeds of the crops were sourced by Mr. Steve from Mkondezi research Station in Malawi. Mr. Steve could successfully demonstrate through his experimental plots to test and refine the technologies he learnt in Indian Institute of Spice Research, Calicut. His demonstration units were visited by experts and interns from agriculture schools for practical learning sessions on good management practices in spices.

Two other important initiatives done by Mr. Steve Namonde is to take up the market analysis for spice business in his area and promotion of spice business through social media. Apart from developing an electronic Media forum to promote Spice business development, he initiated the introduction of a high value spice market in the district. For a long time, his was the only exclusive spice shop in the region. Through this sale outlet, he introduced several processed spices for popularization among the public in low cost packages. He is regularly advertising his products through a Facebook page to augment his business. Mr. Steve feels, he needs to explore export markets for larger profits to farmers in his region. MANAGE wish him success in his endeavors to popularize spices in Malawi.

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FTF ITT Training Program Overview

Total number of training programs completed: **44/44**

Number of executives trained: **1144**

Male: Female: **709: 435**

Number of Countries covered: **20**

Name of the countries:

Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal,Sri Lanka and Vietnam

Africa: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda

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