

Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT) Program

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1. Valedictory Ceremony of the 40th FTF ITT program at MANAGE, Hyderabad

The 40th Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT) International Training Program on **“Integrated Management Strategies for Major Crop Pests & Diseases in Developing Countries (With special focus on Fall Army Worm)”** was organized at MANAGE, Hyderabad. Training program mainly focused to orient the participants about the present status of major pest and diseases of important crops and the challenges in crop production in India, to orient the participants about pest management strategies in major cereal crops in developing countries, to make participants aware about “Maize Fall Army Worm” and its effective management and Experiential learning about IPM practices for Maize and other major cereal crops. National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) and ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Winter Nursery Centre (WNC) are the partner institutes in organizing this program.

The valedictory ceremony of the 40th FTF ITT program on “Integrated Management Strategies for Major Crop Pests & Diseases in Developing Countries (With special focus on Fall Army Worm)” was organized on 3.12.2019 in Norman Borlaug Hall, MANAGE. The program commenced with the welcoming of the Chief Guest, Smt. G. Jayalakshmi, Director General, MANAGE. Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Program Director, greeted the Chief Guest with a floral bouquet and presented a brief account about the 40th FTF ITT program organised jointly by MANAGE, National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) and Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR). The valedictory was attended by about 45 participants including 26 international trainees, Dr. P.L. Soujanya, Scientist, WNC, ICAR-IIMR and senior faculty and staff from MANAGE were among the gathering.

Dr. Shirur briefly summarized the activities of the program mentioning the supportive collaboration with the partner organizations and USAID/India and expressed the practicality of the program by visits to institutes like CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), Corteva Agri Sciences and the Nutri Cereals Conclave at Hyderabad that added value to the overall impact of the program. The participants visit to laboratories at NIPHM and IIMR were also highlighted.

Smt. G. Jayalakshmi, IAS, Director General, MANAGE addressed the international participants about the importance of the training especially in the context of Fall Army Worm and its pro-active control measures in the Asian and African countries. During her speech, she emphasised on the implementation of the Back At Work Plans (BAWPs) by the participants which will be regularly monitored by MANAGE and published in the monthly e-bulletin of the FTF ITT program and she also referred to previous FTF participants and lauded those who



have reported successful implementation of their BAWPs committed during the FTF trainings so as to motivate the trainees to complete their committed BAWPs. The Director General discussed about the participants' experience during the program and take away lessons from the training.

The international trainees gave their feedback and expressed their constructive and encouraging impressions about the training program as suitably organised with combination of theory and hands-on experience sessions with veteran resource persons and theme based visits to organizations of practical importance in the field of crop pest and disease management.

The Director General greeted and thanked the resource persons from the partner institutions and USAID/India for their cooperation in successful completion of the program. The Director General expressed that the overall rating of the training program for the sessions as well as the faculty as rated by the participants was quite encouraging with most of the ratings between 8 to 10. She was happy to share that the training could meet most of the demands of the participants. The Director General also said that for Biological pest and Disease control, the bio-rational mother culture from NIPHM if requested by the participants for testing in their respective countries can be sent on sample basis through postal services. In the end, the Director General thanked all the participants for their cooperation and congratulated the PMU team for their efforts in successful completion of the program.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificate by the chief guest to the participants followed by group photograph of the trainees with the Chief Guest and the MANAGE team.



Valedictory Ceremony of the 40th FTF ITT Program at MANAGE

2. Success stories from Back At Work Plan (BAWPs)

1. Seed Production Foundation Seeds to Registered Seeds – Ms. Kyi Kyi Oo, Myanmar

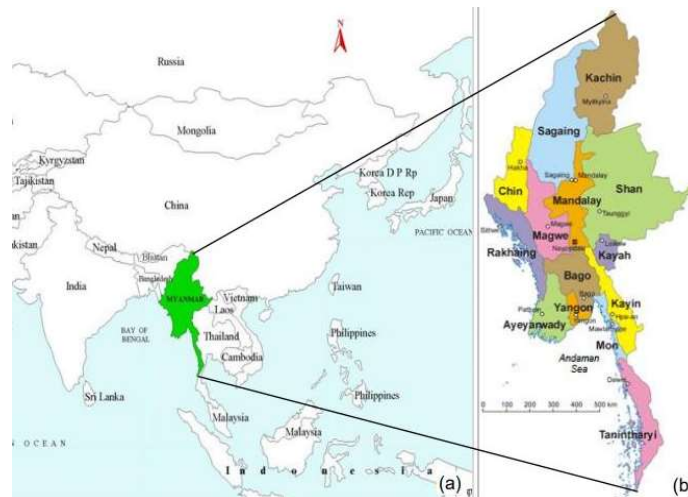
Ms. Kyi Kyi Oo, from Myanmar working at Seed Production and Rice Research, Thayaung Chaung Seed Farm, Seed Division has attended FTF ITT program on “Seed Production, Processing and Commercialization” during 12-26 Feb, 2019 at National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.



Ms. Kyi has implemented her Back at Work Plan on Rice Seed Production (Foundation Seeds to Registered Seeds) at Thayaung Chaung Seed Farm. The lessons learnt during the training on Seed Production were implemented at her field. The problem identified by Ms. Kyi is that the seed farm is located at Patheingyi City, Ayeyarwaddy Division at Lower region in Myanmar (see map). Ayeyarwaddy Division area happens to be a heavy rainfall zone and annually there was water flooding in Thayaung Chaung Seed Farm resulting in lodging and crop loss.

To address this concern Ms. Kyi has decided to go for Quality Seed Production in 1 acre field in Thayaung Chaung Seed Farm.

The Pawsan Yin variety was selected for Seed Production based on its characteristics such as rich aroma, slightly light photosensitive and high potential for export in Myanmar. Pawsan Yin variety is 145-150 days duration and cultivated in the Sagaing Division in Upper Region of Myanmar and Ayeyarwaddy Division and Mon Race in Lower Regions of Myanmar (see map).



(Map only for representation and not to scale)

Map: Sagaing Division in Upper Region, Ayeyarwaddy Division and Mon Race in Lower Regions of Myanmar

The pre-sowing land preparation was done in the field on 13 June, 2019 as fig. 1.



Ploughing



Harrowing

Land preparation: Ploughing and Harrowing

The field was harrowed one to two times in second week of July 2019. Subsequently other agronomic practices such as weed removal, removing the after year rice straw, repairing of bunds and careful leveling of the land was done according to the standard package of practices.

Clean Seed Production

Firstly, the Pawsan Yin seed was cleaned with water as shown in Fig. 2 and soaked in water for 24 hrs. by mixing 1 gallon water: 1cc spoon Manda 31 liquid. They were placed on seed bed and incubated for 36 hrs. under regular monitoring of water and fungicide (to prevent the soil and seed bone diseases) for 24 hrs. Ms. Kyi has followed the wet bed method of seed bed preparation and the germinated seed was broadcasted uniformly on the wet bed. Urea (N) 12.5kg/acre and Potash (K₂O) 6.25kg/acre were applied at 14 days seedling stage. The rice seedlings (30days) were transplanted @ 2-3 plants per hill in the field on 18th July, 2019. The spacing followed was 20 x 20 cm between plant and row. By following this method Ms. Kyi has reported to have very uniform and good growth of the seedlings in the nursery stage. The training on seed production has helped her to have a clean seed with good package of practices for higher crop yield.



Fig. 2. Stages of Seed production

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3. Demonstration of Plantix App for Crop Pest and Disease Management - Mr. Nzamuhiki Justus, Uganda

Mr. Nzamuhiki Justus has attended the 40th FTF ITT program on “Integrated Management Strategies



for Major Crop Pests & Diseases in Developing Countries (With special focus on Fall Army Worm)” during 19th November – 3rd December, 2019 at MANAGE, Hyderabad, India. Mr. Justus is an Agricultural Officer in the Production and Marketing Department of Rubanda district of Uganda. During his training he has learnt about the Plantix app, an android based mobile app for diagnosis of crop pests and diseases at ICRISAT. After his return to his country, Mr. Justus has organized a stakeholders’ meet on the sensitization of Plantix app among the sorghum/barley farmers and suppliers who supply the produce to breweries for beer making.



Plantix is a mobile crop advisory app for farmers, extension workers and gardeners. Plantix was developed by PEAT, a Berlin-based Artificial Intelligence (AI) startup. It can diagnose pest damage, plant disease and nutrient deficiencies affecting crops and can offer corresponding treatment measures. Users can participate in the online community where they can find scientists, farmers and plant experts to discuss plant health issues and access their local weather reports.

During the meeting, demonstration of the functioning of the Plantix app was done by Mr. Justus and the stakeholders belonging to financial institutions like Stanbic Bank that supports farmers with agricultural development loans and SASAKAWA, an African based NGO that supports cereal farming in sub-Saharan Africa along with other Government officials and farmers have shown keen interest to understand the working and usefulness of the Plantix app for improved crop pest and disease management, fertilizer use efficiency and other best agronomic practices for their crops. Further progress on the extent of utilization of this app by the farmers and other active stakeholders is under review.

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4. Information on Upcoming FTF ITT programs

- 42nd FTF ITT program on “Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Agriculture in Developing Countries” is scheduled during 11th -25th February, 2020 at the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, India.
- 43rd FTF ITT program on “Food processing and Value Addition Technologies for Agripreneurship”, is scheduled during 4th March – 18th March, 2020 at Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, Karnataka, India.
- 44th FTF ITT on “Production to Post Harvest Management in Horticultural Crops” is scheduled during 9th – 23rd March, 2020 at University of Horticultural Sciences (UHS), Bagalkot, Karnataka and University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

6. Sneak Peak into the upcoming issue

- Inaugural and program brief of the 41st FTF ITT program on “Agriculture Policy Formulation, Review and Analysis” during 21st January – 4th February, 2020 at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, India.
- Success stories from Back at Work Plans
- Sneak Peak into the upcoming issue

FTF ITT Training Program Overview

Total Number of Training Programs Completed: **40**

Number of executives trained till now: **1047**

Male: Female: **635: 412**

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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