

Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT) Program

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1. Brief report of Collaborative Online Training Program on “Value Chain Oriented Extension Approaches for Maximizing Profitability of Tuber Crops”

Training Program on “Value Chain Oriented Extension Approaches for Maximizing Profitability of Tuber Crops” was organized during 22nd - 26th February, 2021 with the collaborative effort of MANAGE and ICAR-Central Tuber Crop Research Institute (CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. The main objectives of the program were to deal with concepts in value chain extension; analytical tools applied in value chain; enabling environment and supporting agencies; market trends and competitiveness; value chain governance; constraints and opportunities of each stage of value chain, Success stories of innovative extension approaches; participatory/Group approaches, ICT tools and applications in value chain interventions; Policy framework for value chain interventions, Interaction with successful farmers and other stakeholders through field visits/video conferencing etc. Total 20 sessions were covered during the program. Total 106 candidates registered for the program. Nearly 50 candidates attended the complete training program. Many participants from African countries attended the program.

A session on success stories of FTF ITT trained participants by ICAR-CTCRI was delivered by Dr. Mahantesh Shirur during the program. During this presentation, the use of mini set technology, orange fleshed tuber crops, nutritional and processed products from tuber crops etc., implemented by different FTF ITT trainees in Uganda, Kenya, DR Congo, Liberia etc., were discussed.

2. Success stories from Back at Work Plans

Promotion of low-cost storage technology in onion for increased storage duration and avail better market price by smallholder farmers

Bandevi Agriculture Cooperative based in Kailali District of Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal has focused program for scaling up onion crop among the farmer groups. The area has high potential



Low cost storage promoted by KISAN-II project through mobilizing of cooperative extension staffs in Onion producing farmers

for onion due to favorable soil type and markets availability and access. For this, the extension workers of Bandevi agriculture cooperative promoted onion production and marketing technology amongst 400 Farmers of 20 groups in the spring (November to mid-May month) last year. Due to these efforts, 400 farmers cultivated onion in 20 Ha of land (Area/HH is 1.5 Kattha) with total yield of 300 Mt. in an

average production of 0.5 Mt. per 333.33 meter square (i.e. 1 Kattha)

Opportunity, scope and implementation:

After attending the FTF ITT International Training Program on “Good Agriculture Practices for Sustainable Agriculture” during 11th to 25th February, 2020 at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, India, Mr. Janank Narayan Acharya decided to promote the farmers groups to take up onion cultivation. Mr. Janak Acharya works under the KISAN II Project in Nepal. One of the foremost things he learnt during this training in India is low cost onion storage in Indian context delivered by Dr. Nair Ramakrishna. While reducing the storage losses, this storage techniques can store onion for five months and even more.

If the small holder farmers store onion in low cost storage for more than 5 months, it will help them avoid distress sale and they can avail almost the double market price during harvesting time. Returning back to their station after training under Mr. Janak Acharya, the farmers developed the plan for the promotion of aforesaid technology to reduce post-harvest losses of onion among the farmers.

For this, 12 extension staff explained and oriented about the principles of functioning, and design and construction of low cost storage. They further trained 84 farmers (35 Male, 56 Female) about the benefits, dimensions to be maintained, storage capacity, materials required for storage, duration it can store the onion, and possible increased price in off season. Along with the training, they established 8 similar storage structures among farmer's group.



Onion field



Onion storage



Awareness program to women farmers'



inspection of Onion field

Marketing situation:

While farmers could get the wholesale price of NPR 20 to 25 a Kg in Dhangadi and Attariya based market during the normal season, the stored onion in low cost storages could get the price of about NPR 40-45/kg during July, August, and September months. A low cost storage was designed with dimension of 1 by 3 (1*3 Meter) to store about 1 MT. Farmers could store onions from May to August. Farmers are extremely happy with the outcome of the storage for increase storage and price and will replicate it in the successive season.

Mr. Janak Narayan Acharya

Cluster Business Manager (CBM),
CEAPRED, Nepal (USAID/KISAN II Project)
Sanepa-2, P.O. Box. 8975,
Lalitpur, Nepal
Mob: +977 9847276184, Tel: 977-091-521057,
Email: janak2043@gmail.com, janak.acharya@ceapred.org.np



Sensitization of Kenyan farmers on Smart Foods

In Kenya, the food system is broken in that people depend on staples such as maize, rice, and wheat to fulfill their day to day dietary needs. However, it is sad to note that they eat these foods as some rely on fast foods such as fries and burgers without considering what is good for their bodies, the environment as well as the farmer. Having a crop that covers all these aspects is very important.

However, the adoption of these crops, especially millet and sorghum, which have a wide range of benefits both for the person, plant, and farmer, is shallow. There is a lack of awareness of the merits of these crops, and there is a perception where these crops are regarded as orphan crops. Most individuals perceive these smart foods as old-fashioned foods or food for the poor and those who have health problems such as diabetes. Adoption of these smart foods will help Kenya tackle challenges such as malnutrition, diet-related health issues, rural poverty, which make 80% of the land surface, and climate change.

Ms. Winnie from Kenya was trained during the 42nd FTF ITT Program on “Good Agriculture Practices for Sustainable Agriculture in Developing Countries” conducted during 11th - 25th February, 2020 at International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Ms. Winnie, who was hailed as Kenyan “Smart Food Ambassador” by her co trainees in ICRISAT, Hyderabad interacted with farmers in Machakos County on 9th March, 2020. She revealed that the rural



Ms. Winnie on meeting with County Retail Managers

communities have little or no information regarding the advantages of smart foods. The communities are also not aware on how to diversify their diets with smart foods so that eating the foods doesn't become a boring factor. About 1% of those who were found planting millet complained about birds consuming the produce in the farm that leaves them with little or no harvest at all. Besides, they have also adopted western diet which do not have enough dietary benefits and could be bad for health. Ms. Winnie visited supermarkets within Nairobi County and compared prices of millet and sorghum versus wheat and maize flour. The prices of millet and sorghum were approximately double the price of maize and wheat flour.

At the local market, the price of maize flour was Kshs. 80 while that of sorghum and millet was



Kshs. 300 for 2 kgs, respectively. However, since coronavirus pandemic affected the country, the prices of foodstuffs in the country have risen, and Kenya is risking a looming food crisis.

The price range of 2 kgs:

Wheat flour was Kshs. 109- Kshs.120

Maize flour was Kshs. 112- Kshs. 154

Millet & Sorghum was Kshs. 200 & Kshs. 388 respectively

Ms. Winnie however decided to educate people on smart foods through blogging as well as utilizing social media platforms during the lockdown imposed due to Covid-19. She has planned to promote the planting of smart foods among farmers to ensure availability to people from all walks of life. Because of the people's interest in the diversification of these foods, they have a Kenyan recipe document by smart food global, which they plan to share with the trainees after every training/interaction. This will make it interesting in incorporating the smart foods in their diets.



Mr. Winnie sensitizing people on Smart Foods

The video on the impact of the corona virus pandemic in Kenya on Agriculture, food security and general lifestyle at large was done by Ms. Winnie.

The video is uploaded on: <https://www.smartfood.org/activities/kenya/>



Ms. Mwanzygha Winnie Mashaghala

Natural Resource & Irrigation Manager

Emerald Environment Limited

P.O.Box.24464-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

Mob: +254 722104045, +254 727873653

Email: mwanzyghawinnie@gmail.com

3. Sneak peek into the upcoming issues of the e-bulletin

1. Success stories from Back at Work Plans
2. Technological backstopping to FTF ITT Partner Countries from Experts of Indian Research Institutes.
3. Release of short video documentary on FTF ITT

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

Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara

Director General

MANAGE

Editor:

Dr. Mahantesh Shirur

Dy. Director (Agricultural Extension)

MANAGE

Associate Editor:

Dr. Naveen Kumar Gattupalli

Consultant, PMU, MANAGE

Layout designing & Dissemination Support:

Mr. B. Chinna Rao

Junior Program Executive, PMU, MANAGE

For any queries relating to the program, please Contact following address:

Program Management Unit (PMU),

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad - 500030, Telangana, India.

Phone number: Office: +91(40) 24016702 - 06, Ext.: 538

Email: pmu.manage@manage.gov.in

Website: www.manage.gov.in

www.facebook.com/ftfittmanage.ind

https://twitter.com/FTFITT_MANAGE

