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International webinar – Technology Backstopping for Agricultural Extension - Kudumbashree State Mission, Kerala and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad

Tenth international webinar on “Technology Backstopping for Agri Extension – Indian Experiences” was conducted by MANAGE in collaboration with Kudumbashree, Kerala on 31.01.2022 as part of MANAGE’s international webinar series. The session was chaired by Dr. P Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE and moderated by Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Dy. Director (Agricultural Extension).

Mr. Sajith Sukumaran, a development professional and chief operating officer, State Kudumbashree Mission, Thiruvananthapuram delivered a lecture on Kudumbashree Programme, its implementation and salient achievements. The highlights of the webinar are given below

“Through Kudumbashree rural women can generate and establish an enterprise and enhance their livelihoods”

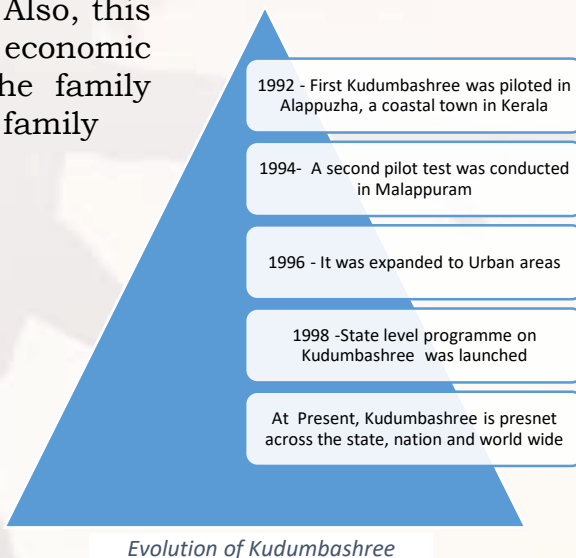
- Mr Sajith Sukumaran

What is Kudumbashree ?

Kudumbashree is the poverty eradication and women empowerment programme implemented by the State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM) of the Government of Kerala. The name Kudumbashree in Malayalam language means 'prosperity of the family'. What is commonly referred to as 'Kudumbashree' could mean either the Kudumbashree Community Network, or the Kudumbashree Mission, or both. More about kudumbashree can be found from kudumbashree.org

The Self Help Group movement was started in the 1980s, the momentum was gained during 1990s with the focus of the SHGs was on thrift and saving. However, the Kudumbashree is different from SHGs and is a community based network organized and wholly-owned by women. Also, this programme aims to develop women with economic empowerment, income generator for the family and improves the livelihood of the entire family

Kudumbashree consists of three tier structure with Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) Area Development Societies (ADSs) at the ward level of local governments, Community Development Societies (CDSs) at the local government level. The CDSs are registered societies while the NHGs and ADSs are federated bodies formed informally for effective coordination with CDSs, NHGs and ADSs.



More about Kudumbashree

About 4.5 million women are federated into Kudumbashree which is about 55% of the total families in Kerala. The total thrift is estimated at 5398 crore, the amount of internal loans dispensed was 21,441 crore. A total of 73,499 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) were formed. Around, 3,36,207 members cultivating crops and maintaining enterprises on 30,946 ha of land. There are 45,187 micro enterprises run by women from the Kudumbashree network across the state

Economic Development Initiatives of Kudumbashree in Kerala

S.No	Initiatives	Issues solved	Impact
1	Amrutham Food Supplement (Nutrimix)	Nutritional issue of children with nutritional supplements to children through ICDS	So far, 241 units were established with 1680 women and generated 120 crore annual turn over
2	Café Kudumbashree	Branding the value of local cuisine	Many restaurants and hotels are served with more than 1060 branded units and 8000 women were benefited
3	Kudumbashree Travels	Women can travel in taxi at any time as Taxi services are operated by women	
4	Kudumbashree Women Construction Teams	Skilled manpower shortage is addressed through trained women construction workers	It is presently piloted
5	Santhwanam	An enterprise for providing basic diagnostic and health monitoring services; women reach homes to provide service (424 units)	There are around 424 units across the states
6	Kudumbashree Accounts and Audit Service Society (KAASS)	Improving the financial literacy of women	Kudumbashree Accounts and Audit Service Society engaged in account keeping in the community network.

In addition to the economic support initiatives for women, Kudumbashree is involved in addressing the poorest of the poor, or destitute families and mothers of mentally challenged children. The following social programmes were initiated to support them.



Café Kudumbashree



Kudumbashree Travels

Social Development Initiatives of Kudumbashree in Kerala

S. No	Initiatives	Issues solved	Impact
1	Asraya	Destitutes are identified and rehabilitated.	Implemented in 1042 local governments covering 1.57 lakh destitute families rehabilitated as well as it has channelled more than Rs 2000 crore of funds
2	BUDS	It is supporting children with disabilities and their mothers	It has formed 177 BUDs schools, with 5126 children (2940; F 2186). Rs 2000 crore has been generated.
3	BRC	To take care of the mentally challenged above the age of 18 years	It has established more than 165 centres covering 4419 mentally challenged people (M 2436; F 1983)
4	Balsabhas	It promotes children network	At present, the initiative has helped in covering 23,387 Balasabhas , covering 3,95,401 children
5	Gender Self Learning Programme	Increasing the women literacy	-
6	Snehitha	Solves the mental distress through trained professionals	A total of 15 Gender Help Desks were developed for distressed women and children; 357 counsellors were trained to professionally help the distressed women through 707 Gender Resource Centres
7	Rangasree	Community theatre	The importance of community theatre is restored
8	Anti Human Trafficking:	Trafficking is addressed effectively	So far, a total of 1007 High risk people (Vulnerable to trafficking) were identified through the AHT intervention was made to rescue them.

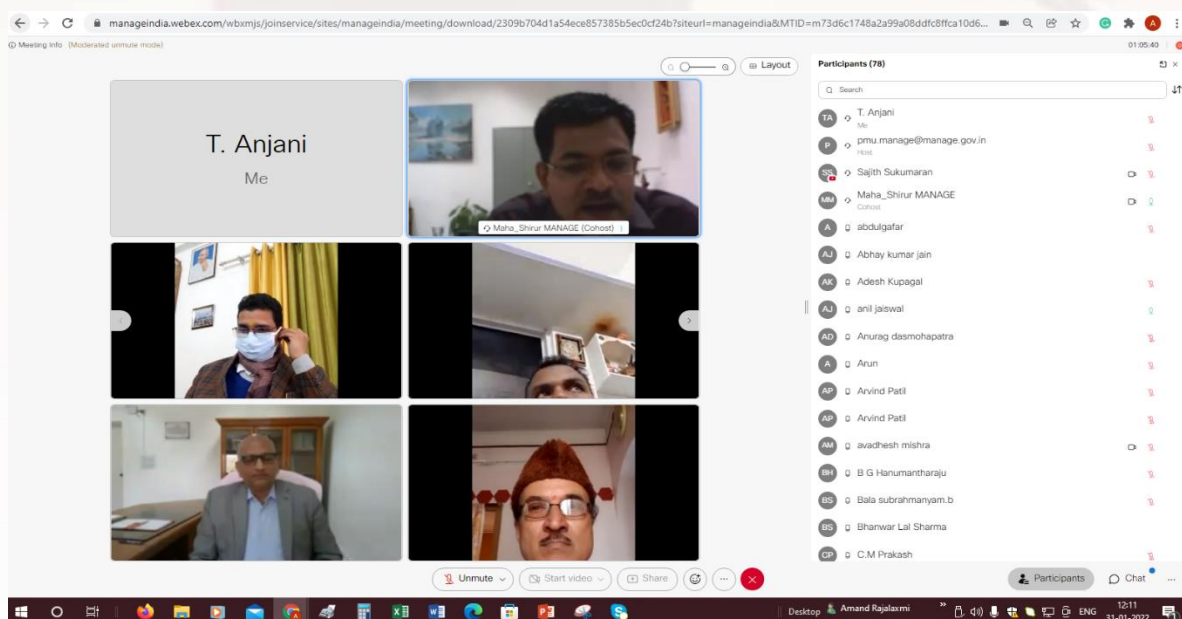


Orientation to Kudumbashree members on Social Development Initiatives

Impact

The Kudumbashree is now being adopted by all the state governments as one of the poverty eradication programme and also it is taken by the government of Uganda and Azerbaijan. Experienced women from Kudumbashree is recruited and go to other states and the professionals will train them national institutes more than 200 members were trained.

At the end of the presentation by Dr. Sajith, Dr. Mahantesh Shirur informed how the FTF ITT trained trainees trained by Kudumbashree have taken up entrepreneurship activities and their initiatives in promoting groups in their local societies. He recalled the efforts of Ms. Jagala Julian's effort in Uganda to support the young school going children to take up selling products of micro enterprises. Mr. Gumisiriza Dominic Joram in Uganda has promoted 13 SHGs supporting various agripreneurship activities. Other notable success stories of Kudumbashree highlighted by Dr. Mahantesh were of Ms. Bindu Poudel Bhattarai (Waste management in Nepal), Leah Wanja (Running Cafes in Kenya), Prakhyat Jung Thapa (Kisan II project of Nepal) and Ms. Sunita (Women entrepreneur from Nepal)



After the presentation, the question and answer session was conducted in which all questions of the participants related to kudumbashree was addressed. Participants from Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Nepal, Cambodia and India took part in the Webinar. Dr. Mahantesh Shirur thanked the resource person and the participants from all countries.

International webinar – Technology Backstopping for Agricultural Extension – University of Agricultural Sciences, (UAS) Bangalore

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. On 28-February-2022, the activities of “University of Agricultural Sciences-Bangalore (UAS-B)” will be presented for audience.

The University of Agricultural Sciences-Bangalore (UAS-B) was established in 1963 through an act of the Legislature of the then Mysore State. The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore offers courses in the discipline of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Agricultural Marketing & Co-operation, Forestry, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Biotechnology and Food Science. Emphasis is given to improve skills of learning and all round personality development. The students of this University have excelled in academics, sports, literary and cultural activities. In recognition of these achievements the University is accredited by ICAR and ranked first in South India and 6th at National level.

The Directorate of Extension (DoE) of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has a statutory role to carry out extension activities. Also, seven Krishi Vigyan Kendras, two Extension Education Units and other eight Extension Units are working under DoE to disseminate the farm information.

UAS-Bangalore has established International centre that would promote, facilitate and coordinate academic interactions of the university with other universities outside India to establish a global research network in the area of agriculture and allied sciences. It also tracks faculty collaborations, international visitors and academic events.

Registration link: <https://rb.gy/iowchy>



MANAGE International Webinar Series on
Technology Backstopping for Agri-Extension: Indian Experiences
Presenting Technologies and Innovations of
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka
Monday, 28 February, 2022
12.00 - 13.15 Hrs. IST (GMT + 5:30 hrs.)
Meeting link: <https://rb.gy/5fewxj> (Open for all)

Back at work plans from participants of 44th FTF ITT

“Production to Post Harvest Management”

Almost two years ago (9-23rd March, 2020) the 44th Feed the Future India Triangular Training Program on “Production to Post-Harvest Management in Horticultural crops” was organized at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru. University of Horticultural Sciences Bagalkot was also a collaborating institute in completing this programme. .

The major objective of the program was to sensitize field level extension functionaries from developing countries of Africa and Asian on Production and Post-harvest aspects of various horticulture crops. Around 23 international participants representing seven countries namely, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Uganda, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Afghanistan have attended the programme. The results of pre and post-test before and after the training programme showed that the trainees’ knowledge on production and post-harvest technologies of horticulture was increased significantly (24.91%). The programme helped extension functionaries to enhance their technical competency and to pass on the learnings to farmers.

Many of the delegates of the training program have disseminated the post-harvest technologies to the farmers in their countries after the training.

For example, Ms. Ale Shanti Pathak, Area Coordinator, Centre for Environment and Agricultural Policy Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) from Nepal has created awareness among farmers about the use of right ripening agent.



Ms. Ale Shanti Pathak
Area Coordinator, CEAPRED,
Nepal

Similarly, Ms. Stallow Dorothy Masiga, Junior Research Fellow, Kenya has worked on federating dairy farmers into farmer interest group to reduce the intermediaries’ interventions in dairy value chain. This interventions is ideal for dairy farmers to get fair price from the sale of milk.



Ms. Stallow Dorothy Masiga
JRF, University of Kabianga,
Kenya

Mr. Ahmed Selim Uddin Technical Manager – agriculture Livelihoods CARE, Bangladesh has been organizing orientation training programmes to front line project staff on dryland horticulture and organic farming. This in turn is helping the frontline project staff to demonstrate the importance of adopting vermicompost and practising organic farming among farmers. Mr. Ram Kumar Yadav, Horticulture Development Officer, Nepal organizing training programmes on management of post-harvest loss in Mango and litchi, thereby helping farmers to improve the quality of mango and litchi fetch remunerative price. The field level officers trained under the 44th FTF ITT training program have made good use of knowledge gained during the training in their professional activities to help farmers in their countries



Trainees of 44th FTF ITT during the Field Visit to progressive farmers' field and CFTRI, Mysore

Sneak peek into the upcoming issues of the e-bulletin

1. Report on International Webinar Technology backstopping for Agricultural extension Organized by University of Agricultural Sciences, (UAS) Bangalore
2. Upcoming International Webinar Series on Technology Backstopping for Agricultural Extension organized by ICAR- Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad.
3. More success stories from Back at Work Plans

International Training Programs an Overview of MANAGE

- Number of training programs completed under FTT ITT: 44/44
- Number of executives trained: 1144
- Male: Female: 709: 435
- Number of Countries covered: 20
- 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
- Number of training programs completed under ITEC-2
- Number of executives trained: 45
- International Webinars conducted : 3
- Monthly International webinars – Technology backstopping for Agricultural extension conducted: 10

Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara
Director General MANAGE

Editor:

Dr. Mahantesh Shirur
Dy. Director (Agricultural
Extension) MANAGE

Associate Editors:

T. Anjani and B. Sreenu
Consultants, 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

