

Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT) Program

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1. MANAGE Welcomes Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE

MANAGE family extends hearty welcome to **Dr. P. Chandra Shekara** as Director General, MANAGE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara assumed the charge of Director General, MANAGE on 13th November, 2020.

Prior to this assignment, Dr. P. Chandra Shekara worked as Director General of CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur and Director (Agricultural Extension) in



National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. He is a globally well-known agricultural extension professional with several publications and organizer of important schemes and programs at MANAGE. Dr. P. Chandra Shekara organized the training for officers from Kenya, Liberia and Malawi under

the triangular cooperation adopting technological advances and innovative solutions to address food security challenges in Africa. Dr. Chandra Shekara was the head of the Centre for Agricultural Extension, Policy, PPP and International Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Extension at MANAGE and the **Program Director of US-India collaborative program “Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT)” Program.**

Program Management Unit (PMU), MANAGE wish Dr. Chandra Shekara all the success in his new responsibility as Director General, MANAGE.

2. Farewell to Smt. G. Jayalakshmi, IAS

MANAGE family gratefully thank **Mrs. G. Jayalakshmi, IAS** for her leadership and continuous support in successfully completing the FTF ITT Programs organized by MANAGE and USAID India.

Under her leadership, MANAGE organized 7 FTF ITT programs (38 - 44th) benefitting 178 officers from 20 countries from African and Asia. During the post Covid-19 pandemic, her guidance helped to organize three relevant International Webinars for stakeholders and alumni of FTF ITT and a fitting formal valedictory ceremony of FTF ITT on virtual platform.



Program Management Unit (PMU), MANAGE wish Mrs. G. Jayalakshmi, IAS a great success in all her future roles and responsibilities.

3. Success Stories from Back at Work Plans implementing by trained executives of FTF ITT Program

(i) Enhancement of effective seed system and disease control mechanism for Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) of cassava crop in Mzimba North in Malawi

Cassava is a staple food crop for almost 30 - 40% of the population in Malawi contributing about 7% of total calorie intake. Cassava is the second most important food crop after maize and ranks as third important cash crop in Malawi region. The area of cultivation of cassava has almost tripled in the last ten years and its production has increased by 4.6 per cent over the period between 1997 and 2007, despite the fact that production of cassava has taken place on poor and marginal soils without the addition of chemical inputs. Cassava supports the food security and contributes to the income generation for majority of the population in African region due to its high resilience and adaptability to a wide range of ecological conditions. Mono-cropping and extensive cultivation of wider areas for industrial purposes throughout the year led to higher occurrence of pests and diseases, in which Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD) is the major factor that affects the production and productivity. Hence, concerted efforts should be made for sustainable cassava production.

Mr. Phatiswayo Thole an Agricultural Officer from Malawai region was trianed under FTF ITT training programme on “Integrated Technology for Production, Processing and Value Addition in Tuber Crops” at ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research institute (CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India during 16th - 30th September, 2019. Knowledge acquired during the CTCRI training program in Kerala, India enabled him to establish a system for controlling disease infestation. Mr. Phatiswayo Thole to achieve his objective of Back At Work Plan (BAWP), riaised with members of staff within the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development. He also interacted with the farmers about the enhancement of effective seed system and disease control mechanism for CMD of Cassava crop in Mzimba North in Malawi.

The CTCRI training program helped him to realize that good planting material and integrated disease management system are important for the prevention of CMD infestation, for optimizing the area and productivity of Cassava in the Malawi region. His main motive was to increase the area under cassava production throguh enhancing effectiveness of seed system and CMD disease control mechanism has a potential of assuring steady increase in area and production of cassava in Mzimba North in Malawi both on short term and long-term situations.

Sweet Cassava variety which was highly ssuceptible to CMD disease was widely preferred by farmers of Mzimba North in Malawi region, on the contrary, a high population of farmers in lakeshore areas in Malawi have a general preference of bitter cassava varieties (for instance Sagonja) that are highly resistant to CMD. Mr. Phatiswayo Thole had taken the support of the members of staff working in the agriculture sector for enabling effective seed system and disease control mechanism for Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD).

The effective seed system plays a major role in traceability and multiplication of good planting material and it also plays a major role in ensuring constant supply of planting materials in peak period of consumption and insdustrail use. Capacity building and awareness programmes were conducted to both agricultural officers and farmers to have amd effective seed management system. Activities were carried to facilitate the farmers to acquire the needed skills and knowledge of harmonizing disease control mechanisms within the seed system based on his new learnings form his traning under FTF ITT at CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram.



Pictures showing some of the Cassava gardens

Outcome:

- Promotion of activities involving farmers to produce disease free planting material
- 12 members of staff were trained on cassava seed production systems.
- 724 farmers (254 males, 470 female) were carrying out activities under the program to pass on information to subsequent beneficiaries on approximately 18 Ha of land in Mpherembe and Zombwe Extension Planning Areas.

Mr. Thole Phatiswayo

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(ii) Enhancing the productivity of vegetable in Surkhet district of Nepal

Mr. Navaraj Acharya, Cluster Business Manager from Surkhet district of Nepal attended FTF ITT training on "Agribusiness- Startup to Scale up" from 10th - 24th July, 2019 at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. He identified low productivity as a major problem in the production of vegetables in Surkhet district of Nepal. He observed that, the productivity of vegetables here was lower than the national average productivity. The reasons attributed for low productivity was due to lack of knowledge among agricultural officials and farmers and also due to non-availability of technology at farmers level. The insights and knowledge gained through training programme on "Agribusiness- Startup to Scale up" led him to take up the project to improve the productivity of vegetable in Surkhet district of Nepal.

To achieve this objective of improving the productivity of vegetables in Surkhet district of Nepal, he collaborated with private organizations, cooperatives and extension officials, where he trained all of them to disseminate the technologies to the farmers to improve the productivity. Motivated by the opportunity to attend the training under FTF ITT at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, he started several activities based on his learnings in India.

Activities Undertaken

- Regular meetings with field extension workers to update their knowledge and skill regarding vegetable production
- Provided technical trainings to the extension workers with the help of KISSAN II regional office during 1st week of September 2019
- Meetings with the stakeholders in Surkhet district of Nepal
- Organized 10 trainings on nursery management in vegetables, 4 trainings on post-harvest management and 5 trainings on market management.
- A total of 200 farmers were trained in which 90% of the trainees were females



**Nursery Management Training, Field Practice
at Gurvakot-2, Farmers Group, Nepal**



Demo on Net House for Tomato Production



Ms. Sunita, a Group Leader cultivating tomato with new technology after training undertaken

Outcome/ Impact

- The training programmes on improved vegetable cultivation helped the farmers to update their knowledge on soil health management, seed management, sowing methods, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management and post-harvest management
- More than half of the farmers those who attended the training programme had adopted the technologies disseminated by extension workers
- The productivity of vegetables has increased by more than 30% from 18 MT to 24 MT per ha.
- Post-harvest management of Tomato farmers helped them to realize better market price i.e. average NRs 50000 per MT.
- Local government officials were impressed with the results of the project undertaken and plan to implement the programme at wider level.

Mr. Navaraj Acharya

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4. Sneak peek into the upcoming issue of the e-bulletin

- ❖ Back at Work Plan Success stories of executives

FTF ITT Training Program Overview

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

Number of executives trained: **1144**

Male: Female: **700: 444**

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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