

Feed The Future India Triangular Training (FTF ITT) Program

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1. A brief report on the 38th FTF ITT Program on Integrated Technology for Production, Processing and Value Addition in Tuber Crops"

I. The Inaugural Ceremony

The 38th FTF ITT Program on "Integrated Technology for Production, Processing and Value Addition in Tuber Crops" was inaugurated on 17th September 2019 ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. A total of 29 participants (12 female and 17 male executives), from eleven Asian and African countries namely Afghanistan, Botswana, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Liberia and Uganda, joined to participate in this program.

The program was inaugurated by Dr. Archana Mukherjee, Director of ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. The event began with the watering the plant. Dr. V. Ravi, Principal Scientist, Head Division of Crop Production & Program Coordinator of FTF-ITT, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India ; Dr. Sheela Immanuel, Dr. Goldi Tewari, Program Manager, PMU, MANAGE, Hyderabad and the FTF ITT

participants, faculty from ICAR-CTCRI were present during the event. The participants after being welcomed introduced themselves to the dignitaries and the audience.



38th FTF ITT Training Program on " Integrated Technology for Production, Processing and Value Addition in Tuber Crops " inaugurated by Dr. Archana Mukherjee, Director of ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India



Dr. Archana Mukherjee, Director, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Dr. Archana Mukherjee, Director of ICAR-CTCRI delivered Presidential and Inauguration Address. She emphasized the importance of tropical root and tuber crops for food and nutrition security of the economically weaker section in the global context. She stressed the need for cross-country collaboration in agriculture and allied activities.

Dr.V.Ravi, Principal Scientist, Head Division of Crop Production & Program Coordinator of FTF-ITT at ICAR-CTCRI delivered the Welcome Address. He stressed that feeding the burgeoning global population in the midst of climate change, dwindling natural resources such as water and



Dr.V.Ravi, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

energy, limitations in land expansion for cultivation, increasing pest and diseases, plateauing of yields of major crops such as wheat, rice, maize is a great challenge to farmers, Scientists, policy makers and Governments. To cope with the global food demand, we have to equip agriculture with Artificial Intelligence through digital revolution involving geographical information system (GIS), geographical positioning system (GPS), remote sensing, Information Communication Technologies. The production system should be linked to value addition and marketing chain. The increase in food production should happen in a sustainable manner with little or no impact on environment. This was followed by inauguration by watering the Elephant foot yam plant.

Dr. Goldi Tewari, Program Manager, MANAGE, Hyderabad presented an overview of FTF-ITT program.



Group photograph of 38th FTF ITT program during Inaugural Ceremony

II. Brief Summary of the Program

The training program is designed with the following objectives.

1. To introduce production system-specific technological advances of tropical tuber crops
2. To build capacities of participants on cultivating tuber crops in a profitable and sustainable way using improved technologies

3. To sensitize the participants on diversified applications of tropical tuber crops to improve economic security of farmers
4. To equip participants to identify and use potential value added tuber crops technologies to develop sustainable business

The training program was participatory in nature, which included lectures, group discussions, case studies and field visits. Major focus was given to practical aspects along with theory in all the subjects. The subjects dealt were agro-ecosystem specific tuber crops technologies, management of genetic resources of tuber crops, Best agronomic practices for tropical tuber crops, Recent advances in soil fertility and plant nutrient management of tropical tuber crops, site-specific nutrient management (SSNM) for tropical tuber crops, Precision farming in tuber crops, Integrated farming system of tropical tuber crops and Post-harvest physiological deterioration and storage techniques in tuber crops etc. was dealt.

During the training program executives visited M/S, Tierra Foods, KINFRA Park, Elamanoor , Adoor, Sangamaithri; Pallichal - A Farmers Producer Organization, College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram ; Kovalam ; Model Tuber Crops farm - Farmer's interaction and group discussion - Chandavizha, Kataikonam and places of cultural and historical importance in Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari.

III. Valedictory Ceremony

The 38th FTF ITT Program culminated on 30th September, 2019 in the presence of Honorable Chief Guest, Mr. Keith E. Simmons, Mission Director, USAID India and Mrs. V. Usha Rani, IAS, Director General, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE). Along with them, the dignitaries Dr. Archana Mukherjee, Director, CTCRI, Mr. Mustapha EL Hamzaoui, Director, Food Security Office, USAID, India, Dr.V.Ravi, Principal Scientist, Head Division of Crop Production & Program Coordinator of FTF-ITT, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India and Mr. Vamshidhar Reddy T.S, Development Assistance Specialist (Agriculture) USAID/India graced the dais. Faculty from ICAR-CTCRI were also present during the event.



Group photograph of 38th FTF ITT program during valedictory Ceremony

Dr. Archana Mukherjee welcomed the dignitaries, the participants and the staff and faculty of ICAR-CTCRI for the valedictory ceremony. In her presidential address, she emphasized the importance of root and tuber crops in addressing the issues of climate change and malnutrition by popularizing and growing climate resilient and bio-fortified varieties of root and tuber crops. She also highlighted the importance of value addition of root and tuber crops.

Mrs. Usha Rani, IAS, Director General , MANAGE delivered the special address. In her address, she briefed the programme and its journey during the past three years. She highlighted that, MANAGE, Hyderabad successfully completed 38 trainings with nearly 1000 participants from Africa and Asia on various topics of interest for the international participants. She also shared the Back at Work Plan (BAWP) success stories of the various participants from Africa and Asia.

Mr. Keith E. Simmons, Mission Director, USAID India, the Chief Guest delivered the keynote address. In his address, he emphasized the role of training programs to ensure the food and nutrition security in the African and Asian countries.

Later on there was certificate distribution to the trainees upon their successful completion of the training. It is worthy to mention that a few trainees also received special appreciation certificates for their meritorious performance.

2. A brief report on International ITEC Training Programme on "Agricultural Extension Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture Development"

I. The Inaugural Ceremony

The International Training Program on "Agricultural Extension Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture Development" under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program was inaugurated on 18th of September, 2019 at MANAGE, Hyderabad. Twenty one delegates representing Ministry of Agriculture and Allied Departments and Agricultural Universities from Afghanistan, Bhutan Democratic republic of Congo, Egypt, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mexico, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe participated in the training program at MANAGE.

The program is inaugurated by **Smt. K. Sunitha, IAS**, Executive Director, Tobacco Board, Guntur and **Smt. V. Usha Rani, IAS**, Director General, MANAGE. The event began with the lighting of ceremonial lamp. Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Dy. Director (Agril.Extn.), MANAGE and the ITEC participants, faculty from MANAGE and the members of Program Management Unit (PMU) were present during the event. The participants after being welcomed, introduced themselves to the dignitaries and the audience.



Smt. V. Usha Rani, IAS
Director General, MANAGE

Smt V.Usha Rani, IAS, Director General, MANAGE welcomed the chief guest and International Trainees to the program. She appreciated the different background and experience of trainees, which constitutes extensionists, policy makers and researchers from 18 countries. She mentioned that, learning is two ways process and this kind of diversity in work experience is going to enrich the

knowledge of each participant. She highlighted the past and present scenario of India agriculture, the role of green revolution in India.

Smt. K. Sunitha, IAS, Executive Director, Tobacco Board, Guntur in her inaugural address urged the participants to encourage the sustainable agricultural practices. She expressed her concerns about soil degradation and water table depletion. She emphasized the importance of farming practices like mulching and biodiversity. She also briefed about the activities of the Tobacco Board, Guntur.



Smt. K. Sunitha, IAS,
Executive Director, Tobacco Board, Guntur

II. Brief Summary of the Program

The participants of the training program have been selected by the Ministry of External Affairs of the India through a multistage selection procedure by the Indian Mission in various ITEC partners' countries.

Sustainable agriculture has assumed more prominence in the wake of effects of climate change on agriculture. The success of Indian agriculture would not have been possible without the strong support of agricultural extension support system. There can be an opportunity to learn the successful extension strategies to achieve sustainable agriculture through learning them at MANAGE. This training programme covered approaches like farmers to farmers, private public partnership, cyber extension and ICT application in agriculture, farmers producers companies, mobile based extension, market led extension, gender empowerment and main streaming.

The methodology of the training program is participatory in Nature. Training schedule involves both theory and practical session. Participants were engaged into various training method: classroom sessions, case studies, group discussion, games, hands on experience, power point designing, Farmers Call Centre, various apps related to agro advisory services. A special interactive sessions with honorable Director General, MANAGE was organized to discuss on policy issues related to agriculture and extension. Various study visits were conducted to compliment the classroom and laboratory based learning: International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT),

Hyderabad, Farmers Call Center, International Crop Research Institute for the semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) village etc.

The program also provided the opportunity for following up with the participants to determine how they are going to apply the learning after going back to their home country. The participants presented a Back At Work Plan (BAWP) based on one of their key learning during the course of training program. Besides, the academic and scholarly related to the training programme, study tours to various historically and culturally important places were organized. The participants visited historically and culturally important places were organized. The participants visited iconic Charminar, the Salarjung museum, Shilparamam and the Golconda fort. The trainees enjoyed the start experience visit to the Ramoji Film City.



The ITEC sponsored training are an important means to establish strong linkages to attain mutual cooperation with other ITEC countries and participants in terms of cross learning and good will. The program is sure to show the results that are futuristic.

III. Valedictory Ceremony

The ITEC Program culminated on 30th September, 2019 in the presence of Honorable Chief Guest, Dr.T.V. Nagendra Prasad, Joint Secretary (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Govt. of India and Dr. K. Anand Reddy, Director (HRD) & Principal Coordinator (PGDABM), MANAGE Along with them Program Director Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Dy. Director (AE), MANAGE graced the dais.



Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad
Joint Secretary (Gulf)
Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI

Dr. Nagendra Prasad, JS (Gulf) Indian Foreign Services official from Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi. In his address showed his delight to see diverse audience from various continents. He briefed about the ITEC programs. He emphasized on “vasudhaika kutumbam” which means “the world is one family”. He said that, through ITEC we wanted share our treasure. North South cooperation has been there always, but this particular program in India in a South- South cooperation. He agreed upon

the fact that conditions are similar in our countries. He shared his experiences from his visits to various countries. He emphasized that, it is always better to study and share the similar experience of similar circumstances. He said that, all the participants will become ITEC ambassadors in your country. The end of this ITEC program is the beginning of relationship with your country. He congratulated all the participants for successfully completing the training program.

Dr. Anand Reddy welcomed the chief guest and participants and MANAGE faculty. In his welcome speech referring to participants he mentioned that, “I am sure that we have learnt as much as you learnt from us”. He shared his experience of visit to Michigan state university. He elicited on the kind



Dr. K. Anand Reddy,
Director (HRD) & Principal Coordinator (PGDABM),
MANAGE



of mechanization specially the private extension system. Managing their extension system is with the advanced techniques is easy. What we observed from developed country might not suit to the developing countries like us. He mentioned also that, but the countries similar to India where the problems are similar, it is easy to find the solutions through mutual

learning and sharing past experiences.

The Program Director, Dr. Mahantesh Shirur briefed about the training and thanked the dignitaries, faculty and participants for attending the valedictory program.

3. Back at Work Plan Story : Mr. Mashwani Sadiqullah : Combating codling moth with IPM

Mr. Mashwani Sadiqullah is Senior Integrated Pest Management Specialist from Kabul, Afghanistan. He attended 31st FTF ITT program on "Plant Health Management, Bio-security and Quarantine" held during 27th November - 11th December, 2018 at National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad, India.

Mr. Mashwani Sadiqullah is creating mass awareness among farmers in his province Kat-



e-Sakhi of Afghanistan regarding biological control and mechanical control of codling moth in Apple orchards. He is using television and radio as communication channel.

Farmers in Afghanistan generally use massive dose of chemicals for managing codling moth which is not a sustainable practice. The awareness campaign of Mr. Mashwani Sadiqullah also includes conducting demonstrations at farmers' filed during both winter and summer

seasons right before the onset of this pest. The main activities under this initiative are to promote the usage of pheromone traps, bagging of the fruit, trapping, and maintaining sanitation in the orchard.

Apple is one of the most potential crops in Afghanistan which majorly contributes in overall income from Horticulture sector in country. Afghanistan has a very potential of producing Apples which can be competitive in international markets.

As per Mr. Mashwani Sadiqullah, "we have a remarkable apple production in our country

Dr. Mahantesh Shirur,
Dy. Director (AE), MANAGE

but codling moth infestation is the major challenge faced by the apple growers nowadays. Therefore, we

have come up with an integrated plan to manage this pest”. To achieve this objective, we have selected around 400 demonstration farms of apple across the country. These all farms are under constant observations and trials. Following interventions are being practiced in these farms each season:

1. Urea is sprayed only after 60 -80 percent of leaf falls in the beginning of winter
2. Usage of winter oil in the month of January
3. Usage of Bordeaux mixture in the month of March



Mr. Mashwani Sadiqullah mentions that “These methods of managing codling moth are coming up to as very effective and are preparing the orchards to avoid the infestation in advance”. Both winter and summer pest management of codling moth is

ensuring that there is no infestation at all hence farmers in these areas are readily adopting this technique. Farmers in this area understand that the conventionally used insecticides are toxic in nature and negatively affect others’ and their own health as well. Owing to this initiative of Mr. Mashwani Sadiqullah, farmers in this area are also experimenting with different biological and cultural methods, planting configurations of pest management and optimizing their farm production.

Mr. Mashwani Sadiqullah

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4. Sneak peek into the upcoming issue of our bulletin

1. Brief report on 39th FTF ITT program on "Agroforestry - Policy, Practice and Impact".
2. Some more stories from Back at Work Plan

FTF ITT Training Program Overview

Total Number of Training Programs Completed: **38**

Number of executives trained till now: **995**

Male: Female: **604:391**

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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