



FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)
(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

AARDO-MANAGE International Roundtable on Millets for Global Food Security



MANAGE hosted an International Meeting on “**Millets for Global Food Security**” with collaboration of AARDO (African-Asian Rural Development Organization) on December 12 to 14, 2023.

Padma Shri awardees Dr. Khader Vali - known as Millet Man of India, Shri Shubhash Palekar, Agricultural Scientist, Author, and Farmer, Shri Manoj Nardeosingh, Secretary AARDO, New Delhi, Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE, Dr. Tara Sathyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, and Dr. Glory Swarupa, Director General National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad were the chief guest for the Program.

A total of 21 representatives from 13 AARDO Member Countries, 3 prospective Member Countries, 14 members from 6 Countries of FAO and members from Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and APEDA also attended the roundtable.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General of MANAGE, emphasized India's significant role in millet production and export. He said, despite challenges in household usage, knowledge dissemination, and research gaps, it is necessary to do coordinated efforts to enhance millet production for food security. Secretary AARDO, Manoj Nardeosingh, highlighted the importance of global collaboration in advancing millet-related innovations to address food security challenges.

Promoting Millets Beyond 2023



MANAGE joined hands with AARDO (African-Asian Rural Development Organization) - an inter-governmental organization to lay a roadmap for promoting millets across nations. Both MANAGE and AARDO jointly organized a high-level roundtable meeting with champions who have been popularizing millets and natural farming in the country; millet scientists, millet extension experts, millet-based agripreneurs and agri startups; and policy advocates from India and AARDO member countries. The heads of organizations like MANAGE, ICRISAT, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) ICAR-IIMR, ni-msme and APEDA brainstormed challenges and issues related to climate change, nutritional security, food security and bio-diversity that affect millets in the years to come.

The roundtable unanimously agreed that millets need to be fully integrated into the Food Systems, as it would support equitable and sustainable agricultural growth, thus contributing to global food and nutritional security, while achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Further, the roundtable recommends through its Declaration to extend the International Millet Year beyond 2023 through the establishment of Millet Advancement Alliance (MAA) Programme for Global Food and Nutritional Security. It requires galvanization of various National and International organizations such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Health Organization (WHO) and other Stakeholders including Policy planners, Administrators, Academia, Scientists, Farmers and Consumers. MANAGE is glad to join the forces that take forward the Millets Mission beyond 2023.



Dr. P. Chandra Shekara
Director General , MANAGE

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AARDO-MANAGE International Roundtable on Millets for Global Food Security



Dr. Tara Sathyavathi, Director ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, underscored the institution's active support for millet startups and ongoing activities. She welcomed partners to collaborations in millet production, research, and value addition. Renowned agricultural scientist and Shri Subhash Palekar, emphasized the incompatibility of combining millets with chemical farming, asserting that millets, being alkaline and fiber-rich, thrive in organic cultivation. He advocated for changes in millet processing and marketing practices while urging against pressuring farmers to use pesticides.

Dr. Glory Swarupa, Director General of NI-MSM, highlighted the organization's millet clusters in Mayurbhanj, Orissa, and Bapatala, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. In video messages, Dr. Sudhanshu, Secretary APEDA, and Basanta Kumar Kar, Nutrition Man of India, extended wishes for the success of the program, underscoring the importance of millets in sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Khader Vali, renowned as the Millet Man of India,



addressed the need to address issues in millet production and study the corporatization of the food system. Emphasizing the health benefits of millets, he advocated for creating diverse food products. By enhancing production, improving processing techniques, and adding value. Inaugural program ended with unveiling of the "African-Asian Journal of Rural Development" and the official opening of the millet



exhibition at the MANAGE campus. Meeting concluded with 21 representatives, 3 AARDO Member Countries, stakeholders, and global organizations. The valedictory ceremony unveiled a Draft Declaration, acknowledging the UN's Millet Year 2023, proposing an extension of the International Millet Year for the Millet Advancement Alliance (MAA) Program which aims to engage global entities in addressing climate change, food security, nutrition, and biodiversity.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, DG-MANAGE and Shri Dr. Manoj N., Secretary General, AARDO expressed gratitude to participants for their invaluable contributions.

SHGs and FPOs for Value Chain in Agriculture



MANAGE organized a program on **“Convergence of SHGs and FPOs by leveraging value chain in Agriculture”** on December 19-21, 2023. On the inaugural session, Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General MANAGE said, the efficacy of the agricultural value chain is contingent upon the specific commodities, which vary across different regions. In agriculture, challenges such as labor-intensive tasks, the availability of quality inputs, and reliable planting material persist throughout all stages from production and harvesting to post-harvest processing. Mechanization is proposed as a solution, but the high

costs of machinery pose a challenge for small farmers. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can play a crucial role by providing affordable quality inputs, facilities and machineries directly to farmers, by eliminating the intermediaries. Moreover, these groups can venture into processing activities. Further he added however, the success of SHGs and FPOs hinges on maintaining market discipline and financial prudence. Dr. M. Srikanth, Director (Agri Business Management) MANAGE served as the Director for this program.

Climate Smart Digital Agriculture



MANAGE organized a training program on **“Climate Smart Digital Agriculture”** for Assistant and Associate professors of VNMKV, Parbani, Maharashtra on December 26-30, 2023. Fifteen professors actively participated in the program.

The program focused on a comprehensive understanding of climate change and its ramifications on agriculture, water resources, livestock, and livelihoods. It places particular emphasis on climate-resilient practices for horticulture crops, livestock management, and adaptation strategies. Through site visits to ICAR-IIMR, ICAR-CRIDA, and engagements with institutions like MANAGE, the program aims to equip participants with insights into cutting-edge technologies, integrated farming systems, and digital applications to address the challenges posed by climate change in the agricultural landscape. Dr. K. Krishna Reddy, Director (ICT) MANAGE coordinated the program.

Drones for Agricultural Development



To create awareness and technological dissemination of drones, MANAGE completed the Training program on “Drones for Agricultural Development” for the agricultural officials of Odisha on December 18-22, 2023, sponsored by Gov. of Odisha. Twenty-four individuals engaged in this training program.

The primary focus was on the applications of drones in modern agriculture, covering SOPs, regulatory

compliance, and technology issues. Participants will explore various drone types, delve into mobile app development process, and learn from startups experiences, with specific applications such as precision farming, agricultural survey, crop inspection, and data analytics.

Dr. G. Bhaskar, SG, Assistant director (IT), MANAGE, Directed the program

Agripreneurship Development



MANAGE concluded training Program on “Agripreneurship Development” for 25 Senior Officials of Department of Agriculture, Odisha on December 26-30, 2023. The program is designed to address key aspects of agri-preneurship development, encompassing market surveys, detailed project report (DPR) preparation, and exploration of opportunities within the millet, horticulture, aquaculture, and livestock sectors. The initiative also focuses on linking farmers to markets,

tackling challenges in allied sectors, and delves into government initiatives for agri-preneurship development. The program aims to equip participants with the skills and insights needed for advancing agri-startups and fostering entrepreneurship in agriculture through site visits like ICAR-IIMR, successful agripreneurs’ experiences, and innovative extension approaches. Dr. Shahaji Phand, Deputy Director (Allied Extension) directed the program.

MANAGE celebrates National Farmers' Day



MANAGE celebrated the Farmers Day also known as 'Rashtriya Kisan Diwas' on 122nd birth anniversary of Hon'ble Chaudhary Charan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India, on Dec. 23, 2023. The event graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General MANAGE, Dr. Neela Rani, Principal Scientist, AICRP, CAFT, PJTSAU, Dr. Veenita Kumari, Deputy Director, MANAGE and six nominated farmers from DDS Zaheerabad, KVK Gaddipally, and AICRP.

On this auspicious occasion Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General MANAGE, shared his valuable insights stemmed from real-life experiences. He advocated the necessity of tailoring distinct solutions for varied challenges. In tackling issues such as labour shortages, market inefficiencies, and storage challenges, a strategic approach involves embracing precision farming, fostering the establishment of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), supporting Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Dr. Neela Rani, Principal Scientist, PJTSAU, highlighted the intrinsic significance of commemorating Farmer's Day, underscoring the pivotal role farmer's play in the nation's agricultural landscape.

The event reverberated with the voices of six nominated farmers from Deccan Development Society (DDS) Zaheerabad, KVK Gaddipally, and AICRP Adopted villages of Telangana State.

These farmers shared compelling narratives, delving into their experiences and unveiling innovative farming methodologies that they have successfully implemented in their fields. In recognition of their dedication and ingenuity, these farmers were felicitated amidst the celebration. This momentous gathering is a big 'Thank you' to our farmers, the true heroes who make our country grow and prosper. Their tireless efforts and dedication feed our nation and sustain us all.



Additional Secretary Visits MANAGE



Shri. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India visited MANAGE on December 28, 2023 and reviewed the on-going activities of MANAGE.

During the visit, Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE made a presentation on MANAGE activities highlighting the opportunities for improvement and Ministry's support. He

interacted with DG-MANAGE, faculty members and gave suggestions to improve the effectiveness and increase the coverage of AC&ABC, DAESI schemes, CFA/ CLA, Jai Jawan Kisan programs and training of CEOs of FPOs by MANAGE. Shri. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has also toured MANAGE facilities - training halls, hostel facilities, solar hybrid system, library and MOOCs Lab.

Induction Training for Officials of MA&FW, Govt. of India



Dr. Jyoti Pawar, Shri Rudrappa Ellai, and Shri Manish Shukla, Officers of the Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MA&FW), Govt. of India completed a 15-day Induction Training on 'Agricultural Extension Management' during 13-27 December, 2023 successfully and received certificates.

As part of the Induction Program, interaction with MANAGE faculty and field visits to Agri. University, Mulkanoor Cooperative Society, WASSAN, Agri Startups and immersion in the on-going training programs on

important themes like climate change, natural farming, FPOs, agri startups, digital agriculture etc., were organized.

On the concluding day, the officers presented key learning from the program and shared their filed experiences on extension models, MANAGE activities and schemes of Govt. of India. Dr. Balsubramani, Director (SA&CCA), MANAGE coordinated the program.

MANAGE Natural Farming Team visits field of Padma Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi



MANAGE has been designated as a knowledge partner for capacity building and development of knowledge repository on Natural Farming. As part of that initiative, the natural farming team at MANAGE underwent a three-day orientation training in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, from December 01 to 03, 2023. The primary emphasis of

the training is to gain insights into Shri Tyagiji's natural farming practices. During the visit, Shri Tyagiji expressed his ideas on shifting from a linear economy to a circular economy, with a specific focus on establishing clusters centered around villages for the promotion of natural farming.

The team had an in-depth discussion about the fundamental principles of Complementarity, Diversity, Plant Density, and Ecology, which are the foundation of knowledge for natural farming. Dr. N. Balasubramani, Director (SA&CCA) MANAGE, led the team.

NEW APPOINTMENT



Dr. Anil Kumar Reddy joined MANAGE as Academic Associate on December 29, 2023. He holds a Ph.D. in Agriculture Extension from ICAR-NDRI, Karnal, and received research fellowships from ICAR-NDRI and UGC. His Ph.D. work was part of a project aimed at improving the adaptive capacity of farm women in Haryana against climate change. Dr. Anil Kumar Reddy has authored 8 research papers, 7 book chapters, and 6 popular articles and various other extension literature to his credit.

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