

Networking Agricultural Training Institutions through the Cyber Corridor

Dr. V.P. Sharma and the VC team



*Sbri Hukum Narayan Dev Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture in a video conference session with Agripreneurs in Thanjavur
Sbri A.K. Goel, Director General, MANAGE is to bis right. Faculty members of MANAGE are also seen.*

The communication revolution is sweeping across the country in a big way. The area covered by mobile communication has already crossed over 30% of the Indian territory. Its usage in rural communities is however limited as of now, but the penetration is increasing day by day. Internet connectivity on the other hand has gone up to the block level in almost all districts of the country. Its access by the farming community and usage is severely limited by infrastructure constraints (like power and telephone lines) and more importantly the content which is mostly in English. On the other hand, video connectivity has found more acceptability at the farmers level, as it is language neutral and it also provides a two-way face-to-face communication between the two parties (or among more than two).

MANAGE had established a Single Carrier Per Channel (SCPC) based video conferencing on its campus at Hyderabad and used the NIC's network of satellite based video communication across the country. All the NIC studios are primarily situated at major cities (mainly state capitals) in the country and provide the service

to all the government departments on need basis. MANAGE used this communication for over two years for having technical discussions with its trainees/ participants / officers at various locations. The limitation posed by the distance between agricultural training institutions and NIC studios was felt quite severely and then we decided to establish an open video conferencing (VC) network (based on ISDN connectivity) across the agricultural training institutions in the country under the Agriclincs and Agribusiness Centres scheme.

The Agriclincs and Agribusiness centres scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, is being jointly implemented by MANAGE, NABARD and Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), with the help of a network of over 58 training institutions spread over the length and breadth of the country. To provide information and a resource sharing mechanism among the participating training institutions, a video conferencing (VC) network has been established connecting 19 institutions in the first phase. These institutions include – Shere-e-Kashmir Agricultural

University, Jammu, Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur, Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand and Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat among others (the list of training institutions connected on video conferencing is given in the table).

This connectivity was established over a period of two months starting from the second week of December. Within a short span of two months, this multiple site connectivity has helped the participating institutions have face to face dialogue with renowned agricultural scientists and policy makers including Ministers and in some cases Chief Ministers. Shri. Digvijay Singh, Honourable Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri. Tarun Gogoi, Honourable Chief Minister of Assam, Shri. Mangat Ram Sharma, Honourable Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri. Vasanth Rao Adik, Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Maharashtra and Shri. Dev, Minister of Agriculture, Assam are among the list of dignitaries who have participated in VC sessions with MANAGE from their respective states. The Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities were able to discuss technical and policy issues among themselves and

with MANAGE using this facility. Crucial decisions on training infrastructure, training modules, and other administrative issues were discussed and decided in a matter of few hours, without commuting, using this facility. There have been continuous requests from all the participating institutions for sharing MANAGE faculty resource for their training programmes.

The contribution of MANAGE staff, who have travelled to all these places to install this facility, along with organizing all the logistics is worth recording. The whole project was completed within 2 months (with not more than two visits, per site) by MANAGE staff at all these locations. It is expected that this facility will be used to its full potential by all the nodes (institutions) of this network. MANAGE plans to install one VC facility at the forthcoming Krishi Expo 2003 (March 10-16, 2003) at Pragathi Maidan New Delhi. All the connected institutions are welcome to use their respective VCs to interact with officers, visitors, and participants at Pragathi Maidan right from their respective locations during this period.

Sno	Name of the Institute	State
1.	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	Assam
2.	Extension Education Institute, Anand	Gujarat
3.	CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar	Haryana
4.	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology, Jammu	Jammu
5.	Kerala Agricultural University, Trissur	Kerala
6.	Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Pune	Maharashtra
7.	Madhya Pradesh Academy of Administration, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
8.	The Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Limited (APICOL), Bhubaneswar	Orissa
9.	Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering Technology, Ludhiana	Punjab
10.	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur	Rajasthan
11.	Rajasthan Institute of Cooperative Education and Management, Jaipur	Rajasthan
12.	Shanmuga Arts, Science Technology and Research Academy, Thanjavur	Tamilnadu
13.	National Research Centre for Agro-forestry, Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh
14.	CS Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
15.	Allahabad Agricultural Deemed University, Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
16.	GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar	Uttaranchal
17.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani	West Bengal
18.	Extension Education Institute, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
19.	MANAGE, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh

National Workshop : Success stories under ITD component of NATP

A National Workshop was organized on "Success stories" under the Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of NATP during January 27-28, 2003 at MANAGE, Hyderabad. The objectives of the workshop were to share success stories documented by the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) on successful interventions in the project; draw lessons based on successful experiences in relation to the project objectives and to develop an action plan for incorporating the lessons in project management for improving the performance.

The success stories were shared by the PIAs, analysed and lessons drawn. An action plan was prepared for incorporating the lessons into management of the project.



Dr. M.N. Reddy, Director, MANAGE, Dr. S.P.S. Brar, Director, PAMETI, Ludhiana and Dr. N.R. Hayagreeva, State Consultant (NATP), Bihar (l to r)

Operational Modality for Facilitation of People's Participation in the Watershed Programme

It is widely recognized that active participation of people is crucial for sustainability of development under the watershed programme. Hence, greater emphasis is now laid on a participatory approach in all phases of the programme. In this paper, various factors and operational modalities have been identified which are helpful in facilitation of people's participation in the watershed programme. Factors have been grouped under: social factors, technological factors, financial factors, and managerial factors.

The paper concludes that operational modality at the field level may vary in time and space. Hence, it is essential to keep it flexible so that the concerned persons may work it out as per their own situation. It is however desirable to keep on synthesizing the learning so that it could be used as an input during training for different stake holders. (*A Journey through Watersheds, Vol.1, No.4, December 2002*)

Agripreneurship Development

Under the Agriclincs and Agribusiness Centres scheme which has attracted the attention of a large number of unemployed agriculture graduates, over 16,471 graduates have applied representing all the states. A network of 58 reputed training institutions is involved in this massive training exercise where 1956 graduates have completed the training and 1080 are undergoing training. Training is not an end in itself. Under the scheme 339 agripreneurs have started agriclincs or Agribusiness centers in small villages undertaking a variety of agripreneurial activities in different parts of the country. Successful initiatives have been documented and can also be accessed through the website at www.agriclincs.net.

PGPABM @ MANAGE 100% Placements

The PGPABM placement process this year was completed in just five days. MANAGE acknowledges the support provided by the participating companies and hopes that the students would prove to be assets to their companies and achieve high standards of performance. The companies where students have been placed are Advanta, BASF, Commodity India, De-Nocil Crop Protection Ltd., DSCL, EID Parry (India) Ltd., IDFC Ltd., Is Agro (Asia) Pvt. Ltd., ITC-IBD, ITC-ILTD, Mahindra Shubhlabh services, MCFL, Namdhari seeds, Tata chemicals Ltd., VKL Spices and Wockhardt. MANAGE wishes all success to these students.

Participatory Adaptive Research (PAR) Project

The Participatory Adaptive Research Project (PAR) - an IFAD assisted project of Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Department, envisages the involvement of the tribals in fine tuning the existing technology and arriving at the given set of the full package of practices best suited for the local situation. The most important aspect is the full involvement of the tribals-the target group right from the planning phase to the implementation phase of the project. Under the project activities were carried out under crop component research; farm and family system approach and social resource management in the selected four agro-ecological situations in each of the three centres viz., Bhadrachalm (Khammam dist.) Rampachodavaram (East Godavari dist) and Utnoor (Adilabad dist.). The results of adaptive trials have been very encouraging. Besides adaptive research on crop trials, farm and family system research was conducted to intensify and diversify the

cropping pattern and enterprises so as to increase the income of the tribals. Under farming systems approach Horticulture, Poultry, Animal health care, Homestead gardening, Information technology etc., were encouraged on a 50% cost sharing basis. Under social resource management, women were formed into a small thrift and saving group and training was conducted to educate on group dynamics and thrift and saving concepts.

Adaptive research over the last three months has mainly concentrated on dissemination of the results of the previous trials and research conducted by MANAGE. The field staff of all the centers conducted gram sabhas in the neighbouring villages of the selected villages under PAR for disseminating the technology generated under the adaptive trials. Around 51 training programmes were conducted both for the field staff as well as for the farmers.

Just Released !



- **“Gurukuls of Agripreneurship Development; a profile”**
Profiles 26 reputed training organizations across the country, involved in imparting training under the scheme.



- **Vijay Gaatha of Agripreneurs**
Documents yet another 124 success stories of agripreneurs with 40 different types of projects.



- **“A Small Step... A Giant Leap Forward”**
A 10 min. film on CD highlighting viewpoints of stakeholders involved in implementation of the scheme.



- **Operational Modality for Facilitation of People's Participation in the Watershed Programme, A Journey through Watersheds, Vol. 1 No. 4, December 2002**



- **The Indian Food Processing Industry. Spice, January 2003**

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Tel: +91 (040) 24016702 – 706,
Fax: +91 (040) 24015388

www.manage.gov.in

Editor-in-Chief
Shri A.K. Goel

Series Editor
Lakshmi Murthy

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