



Roof top garden and Edible Greening a way forward for Food and Nutritional Security



Dr Satyagopal, Director General MANAGE planting the first seeds

The rate of urbanization is alarming and its implication is multidimensional in terms of demand for large scale employment, income generation, food and nutritional security, safe disposal of urban waste apart from environmental impact in the urban areas. On the contrary, urban areas have a tremendous potential to address the above issues and act as centers for sponsoring growth through Urban Agriculture.

Urban Agriculture is a dynamic concept and it takes different forms in different cities; it may be in backyards or open spots in the city, on rooftops and balconies, on land areas located along the road, railways, vacant spots in institutions like temples, schools, colleges, etc.

The Center for Women and Household Food and Nutritional Security, Urban Agriculture & Edible Greening at MANAGE has initiated a few interventions in urban agriculture. The faculty conducted a quick study of Roof top gardens in Hyderabad to know the status of Urban Agriculture and conducted a national workshop on urban agriculture involving various stakeholders for sharing/exchanging experiences.

MANAGE has also established a roof top garden on the roof of the Institute's building as a demonstration unit for extension functionaries of agriculture and allied sectors who are participating in training programs of MANAGE from across the country. The roof top garden was established with various containers. Pseudomonas and trichoderma were added in the potting mixture along with neemcake and cocopeat to grow vegetables organically. Low cost drip irrigation was installed to save water. About 35 types of plants consisting of greens, tubers, climbers, fruit bearing vegetables and flowers etc. were

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planted in an area of about 1000 sq.ft to meet the household needs of vegetables. Staking is provided to support the climbers.

MANAGE is also promoting the concept of Edible Greening, ie, growing multipurpose plants especially fruit bearing instead of only avenue plants, to supplement the efforts of food and nutritional security and also to promote bio-diversity.

As part of this, various types of perennial fruit bearing saplings were planted in MANAGE campus.



A vermi-compost unit is also established to prepare organic manure from the degradable waste generated in the campus. MANAGE is also recycling the waste water and treated water is being used for irrigating the lawns of the campus.

Extension functionaries participating in training programs at MANAGE are sensitized about the importance of Urban agriculture and are shown the demonstration units of roof top garden, vermi compost and edible greening.

The concept has been appreciated by the extension functionaries who are realizing the need to promote the same in their respective workplace to supplement the food and nutritional requirement of the growing urban population, reduce the burden on the fragile agro-eco system and also to address emerging problems in the urban areas.



Action Research on “Incorporating Marketing Component in SREP”

This is an ongoing two-year action research for incorporating marketing component in the Strategic Research and Extension Plan (SREP), prepared at Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) level.

The SREP, as a perspective plan, included research and extension strategies required for enhancing production and productivity of agriculture and allied commodities based on identified gaps. However, the marketing component did not get due importance in SREP. This may partly be due to the marketing agencies not being a part of the mainstream administration, and partly due to these agencies being governed under a separate Act altogether, with a network of autonomous APMCs. Against this backdrop, there was a need to incorporate the marketing component in the SREPs by bringing the production and marketing agencies on a single platform.

MANAGE took up action research to expand the focus of the SREP by incorporating the marketing perspective. The study covers Warangal district of Telangana.

The objectives of the action research were: to understand the broad marketing scenario of the district in terms of marketing channels, storage, grading, packaging, transportation, system of wholesaling, retailing, financing, contract farming, group marketing etc.; develop standardized formats to assess the gaps in marketing practices, system and infrastructure; evolve strategies to bridge the identified gaps for ensuring Good Marketing Practices (GMPs) in the district; develop methodology for preparing annual action plan on marketing as a component of SREP for the district and to evolve a strategy and mechanism for better convergence between Marketing and Agriculture and allied departments.

A detailed survey of the existing agricultural marketing scenario was carried out in consultation with line departments for identifying the gaps on the agri-marketing front. Workshops involving different stakeholders and line departments were conducted in the district. Thereafter, the marketing component of the SREP was developed based on the data from different line departments, the marketing setup and also the data covering different formats of marketing prevailing in the district. The SREP indicates the strategies to be adopted for bridging the gaps in the existing marketing system of the district.

Professional Skills for Trainers of Extension Institutes of Agriculture and allied Departments

Line managers based in training institutions have the responsibility for training and developing the extension functionaries in agriculture and allied departments. Trainers need to have subject matter knowledge as well as better understanding of different aspects of training. The challenge lies in redefining their roles as professional trainers and acquiring relevant skills.

Keeping this need in view, three programs were planned with the aim of providing an opportunity to acquire and practice skills in facilitating/conducting training programs and enhance their abilities in using experiential learning methodologies.

The objectives were to enable the participants to gain an understanding of the principles of learning and role of a trainer, orient participants to various aspects of systematic approach to training, orient them to skills of designing training modules, get acquainted with various training methods, orient to application of training methods for Extension management. One program was organized during 22-27 June 2015 covering 16 participants.

Training-cum-workshop on National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

The Planning Commission Working Group for Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Rainfed Farming recommended a special focus on evolving a policy and program framework for revitalizing Rainfed agriculture (RRA) by integrating NRM, Production systems and livelihoods as the core strategy of Rainfed areas development during 12th Five Year Plan. The Working Group specially recommended a Block-Based decentralized rainfed agriculture program with active involvement of reformed Agriculture Extension Systems and in partnership with other institutions. The Ministry of Agriculture has included these recommendations within the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) program in the 12th Five year plan. With this background, training cum workshops on NMSA were taken up in collaboration with the national RRA Network partners.

The main objectives of the training program were to orient participants on the overall evolution, strategy, approach and expectations of the NMSA Program; critical convergent interventions to be made under major themes ; evolve institutional arrangements for convergence at Block level and to evolve a convergent strategic plan and annual action plan at the Block level. The program was organized during 8th to 13th June 2015 covering 30 officers.

MANAGE - RRA Network Partnership for Evolving Strategies for Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture (RRA)



MANAGE has taken up a study for evolving strategies for revitalization of rainfed agriculture in collaboration with RRA Network. The objectives of the study include, analysing the institutional mechanisms for development of NRM integrated production systems in rainfed areas; developing and identifying appropriate approaches for convergence-based development by involving ATMA, development departments and farmers' organizations; and evolving operational strategies for integrating developmental initiatives into Block level planning.



MANAGE has taken the initiative of developing a program architecture for the Climate Change Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling and Networking (CCSAMMN) component to realise the vision of NMSA and the 12th Five-Year Plan under Revitalisation of Rainfed Agriculture. Draft Operational guidelines for CCSAMMN component of NMSA have been developed. The draft guidelines have evolved from extensive consultations and in-depth field-level experiences and submitted to DAC, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

MANAGE Bulletin is published by
Dr. K. Satyagopal, I.A.S., Director General
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India
Rajendranagar Hyderabad-500030, India.
Tel:+91 (0) 40 24016702-706 Fax:+91 (0) 40 24015388

Chief Editor: Dr. K. Satyagopal, I.A.S.
Executive Editor : Dr. K. Anand Reddy
Editors: Dr. Lakshmi Murthy & Dr. AS Charyulu

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