

## **Proceedings of “National Workshop on Effective Implementation and Monitoring of DAESI”, held from 26-27<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at MANAGE, Hyderabad**

Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) is a national scheme supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Government of India to train the agri-input dealers and prepare them to serve as para-extension workers to deliver sound technical knowledge to farmers. Focusing on monitoring and implementation of DAESI program, the **National Online Workshop on Effective Implementation and Monitoring of DAESI** program was organized from **26-27<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**. A total of 500 participants attended the workshop.

Sh. Samuel Praveen Kumar, Joint Secretary (Extension), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare inaugurated the national workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022. In his inaugural address, he underlined the need to innovate and modernize the DAESI Programme so as to cater to capacity development, create potential employment generation avenues and sustainable development of the nation. He emphasized that the programme should be instrumental in addressing national priorities and act as catalyst for convergence of agriculture and other sectors.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE delivered the key note address. In his keynote address, DG MANAGE recollected the origin and progress of DAESI program during the last 19 years. So far, 56,000 input dealers were trained and 21,000 input dealers are being trained at present. He also highlighted major initiatives undertaken in the past year to make the DAESI program relevant in the light of national priorities and need for farmers’ prosperity. The officials from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Directors and Nodal officers of SAMETI, heads of NTIs, trained input dealers, etc. attended the inaugural.

Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Principal Coordinator (DAESI) presented the overall progress, initiatives taken by MANAGE and way forward for DAESI program during 2022-23. The SAMETI Directors presented the status and achievements of DAESI in their respective states. The presentations emphasized on Innovative Ideas followed by SAMETIs for monitoring and Implementation of DAESI program, good practices followed by the NTIs in implementation of DAESI program, contributions/achievements made by the input dealers as para extension workers, initiatives taken by SAMETI to popularise the DAESI program and innovations by SAMETI to monitor DAESI in the states. Sh. Sanjay Khalikar, Joint Director (Extension), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in his address lauded all the presenters for their good work and initiatives to strengthen DAESI.

Orientation of DAESI facilitators on updating of MIS database was taken by Consultants (MANAGE) so as to keep track of all the records and any wrong entry of data like spelling errors, mentioning inappropriate relationships and uploading wrong photographs etc. which may lead to mistakes in the database of DAESI and also in certificates of candidates followed by session on “Finance & AUC submission of DAESI” by Consultant (Finance). National facilitators from Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu shared their experiences and suggestions for improvement in DAESI program. They have appreciated the design rationale and the utility of the program.

Input dealers from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka expressed their gratitude for the wonderful learning opportunity under DAESI program in

order to serve the farmers along with the expansion of their business. The directors from SAMETI (North)- Karnataka, SAMETI- West Bengal, PAMETI- Punjab, BAMETI- Bihar, SAMETI- Kerala and IMAGE-Odisha representing six different regions of the country presented strategies adopted by SAMETIs/NTIs to convert DAESI trained dealers into para extension workers

In the session on action plan for 2022-23 and way forward, Dr. Prashant Armorikar, Additional Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Principal Coordinator of DAESI, MANAGE steered the discussion and addressed the concerns and suggestions offered by participants. In the valedictory session, major discussion points and recommendations arising from the workshop were presented by the Principal Coordinator, DAESI. Dr. Prashant Armorikar assured to pursue the issues raised during the workshop.

Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, Director General, MANAGE lauded the fruitful discussions conducted during the workshop and urged all stakeholders to make use of the DAESI program for the Agriculture development. Director General also assured of all necessary support from MANAGE to the implementing partners of DAESI.

In view of the discussions and deliberations of the national Workshop, the major proceedings and actions to be taken for the better implementation of DAESI program are listed below.

#### **NTIs/Facilitators**

1. All the NTIs/ facilitators were informed to implement the DAESI programme strictly as per the guidelines issued by ministry and circulars sent by MANAGE from time to time.
2. Facilitators are directed to send the weekly reports on the same day of class along with 2-4 good quality action photographs through email to the consultant of their respective states.
3. Continuous encouragement of input dealers to set up the extension corner in their shops by facilitators.
4. NTIs and facilitators should make use of the provision of two batches by a single facilitator in an NTI and combining licence holders and non-licence holders in a single batch.
5. The facilitators who are not implementing the DAESI properly should not be engaged again. The facilitators should be properly screened about their skills to arrange resource persons, handle sessions and maintain MIS properly.
6. Conducting Inauguration of current batch and Valedictory of previous batch on same date including various activities such as role play, street play, skits on "Importance of education and How DAESI trained dealers can guide farmers in better way". It will act as an ice-breaker between both the batches, and also motivate the new candidates and can help in clearing various points at their own level.
7. Input dealers should be encouraged by the facilitators to prepare Herbarium file, samples on Disease-Insect-pest infestation and micro-nutrient deficiencies must be properly maintained which will have to be carefully examined by the national facilitators/Consultants at the time of final DAESI examination.
8. Informing absentee candidates about mandatory attendance and warning about getting the shortage of attendance

9. Initiate steps to prepare online study materials for DAESI participants. Regularly visit DAESI page on MANAGE website for updates on DAESI program.
10. Submission of attendance immediately after 30 minutes of completion of session through WhatsApp to SAMETIs and MANAGE.
11. The monthly remuneration of facilitators must be disbursed regularly by the NTI's after satisfactory work completion of every month. Last one month or two month salary of facilitators may be released only after submitting final results to SAMETIs.
12. Input dealers should be trained and educated about advanced agricultural technologies such as natural farming concept, nutri-sensitive agriculture, climate smart interventions, supply chain and value addition and government schemes etc. in order to sensitize the farmers to use these technologies at their fields.
13. All the facilitators should send the final DAESI exam results and the Audited Utilisation Certificate (AUC) to SAMETIs within a week so that SAMETI can send it to MANAGE for issuing the certificates timely.
14. Regular communication should be maintained with MANAGE consultants for monitoring of batches and while scheduling of final exams and issue of certificates to all batches.
15. All the NTIs are requested to collect questions from each session and compile them and send to SAMETI for taking steps to create a pool of question bank.
16. Every NTI organising DAESI has to send a success story to MANAGE every month focussing on innovations adopted by the input dealers, process of achievement and impact of input dealer's interventions to the farming community so as to encourage other stakeholders.

### **SAMETIs**

1. Make effective use of Social Media (WhatsApp, YouTube, Facebook page, Telegram channels), Digital (Google Meet, Zoom app, Community Radio, SAUs websites) and Print Media (Leaflets, brochures, newspapers), Extension activities (Kisan Gosthi, Kisan Mela, Street play, exhibitions) etc. for publicity, monitoring and effective coordination of DAESI program.
2. Directors and State Nodal Officers can take necessary steps to organize frequent workshops, seminars and publicity events at different levels to popularise the DAESI program by involving State department officials and office bearers of Input Dealers Associations.
3. All the SAMETIs were informed to give an online registration link on their website for enrolment of interested candidates in DAESI for respective states (with district option in drop-down menu). The link can be shared with MANAGE for putting on DAESI portal.
4. Every SAMET should have DAESI Information and Coordination Cell to address the needs of input dealers, NTIs and facilitators and for regular monitoring of all batches under their jurisdiction.
5. All SAMETIs to prepare the study material translated in their native language and circulate among all the input dealers.
6. Surprise visits, regular review meetings and random telephonic call to NTI's on the day of class by SAMETI personnel.
7. Facilitate linking 'Fertilizer/Pesticides licensing Officers' and Grassroots- level 'Agriculture officers (Assistant Director of Agriculture) in the flow addressing important issues w.r.t. laws and licensing procedures.

8. Timely release of funds to the NTIs by SAMETIs to smooth conduct of DAESI programme.
9. Submission of AUCs by SAMETIs for the financial years 2015-16 to 2018-19: Out of 19 SAMETIs, 11 SAMETIs (Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka – North, Karnataka – South, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand & West Bengal) had completely submitted AUCs, whereas 8 SAMETIs (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha & Rajasthan) had partially / not submitted AUCs for the said financial years. Thus out of the total releases made during above financial years i.e Rs.19.37 Crores, received AUC for Rs.10.08 Crores and Rs.9.29 Crores is yet to be received.
10. Submission of AUC / Split AUC by SAMETIs for Financial Year 2019-20: As the training programs of FY 2019-20 are still ongoing in most of the SAMETIs, received AUC from 7 SAMETIs (Karnataka – South, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttarakhand, West Bengal & Tamil Nadu) for Rs.2.58 Crores as against Rs.7.56 Crores funds released.
11. Remittance of Unspent amount to MANAGE: Out of Rs.123.68 lakhs unspent amount lying with SAMETIs as per the AUCs, SAMETIs remitted Rs.87.94 Lakhs so far. All SAMETIs are requested to remit the unspent money from previous financial years.
12. All the SAMETIs to submit the information on self-finance batches along with AUCs for the FYs 2015-16 to 2019-20 at the earliest for updating of MIS at MANAGE w.r.t Self finance. The SAMETIs were reminded about the recent communications made from MANAGE in this regard.
13. There should be no delay in sending approvals of new batches to MANAGE by SAMETIs, and, similarly, there should be no delay in communicating approvals to NTIs by SAMETIs.
14. Timely recruitment of eligible facilitators so as to avoid the delay in commencement of the DAESI batch. If Director or Nodal Officer are busy, they can nominate a representative from SAMETI to complete the facilitator recruitment immediately.
15. All the SAMETIs are requested to initiate steps for creating question bank and setting up centralized final exam paper by compiling the questions received from each NTIs.

#### **MANAGE**

1. Training and orientation to facilitators about good practices to be followed in DAESI implementation and MIS database management.
2. SAMETIs have requested to give access to MIS portal for monitoring of DAESI batches to see the progress of DAESI batches of the state on regular basis.
3. Timely release of funds to SAMETIs by MANAGE.
4. Regular review meetings of all the DAESI stakeholders.

All the concerned are directed to take necessary action at every level in view of the proceedings and recommendations of the national workshop.



**(P. Chandra Shekara)**  
**Director General**