



Training Institutions for Upgrading Skills of Farmers and Agriculture Professionals in India

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Abstract

Training is a function of knowledge, attitude and skill. There is a need to upgrade the knowledge and skills of extension professionals as the time progresses. Training helps in improving the performance of the staff. The training curriculum is developed based on the needs of trainees. Knowledge, attitude and skills are inculcated in the staff through training. In India, many institutes at central and state levels are responsible for providing training to extension professionals and farmers. The major institutions include: National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Extension Education Institute (EEI), State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

Introduction

Training is the process by which the desire, knowledge, attitude, skill and ideas are inculcated, fostered and reinforced in an organism (Lynton & Pareek). It is learner-oriented, job-oriented and need-oriented. The gap between the actual and desired performance of an employee is their training need. Most of the training programmes are designed based on the training needs of employees. Keeping employees updated with new knowledge and skills is very important. This is possible with periodical training given to employees. At national level, Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and cooperation is involved in planning training courses in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, Central institutes, etc. The below mentioned institutions are responsible for providing training to senior & middle level extension functionaries and farmers.

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)

Mandate

1. Developing linkages between prominent state, regional, national and international institutions concerned with agricultural extension management
2. Gaining insight into agricultural extension management systems and policies
3. Forging collaborative linkages with national and international institutions for sharing faculty resource
4. Developing and promoting application of modern management tools for improving the effectiveness of agricultural extension organizations
5. Organizing need based training for senior and middle level agricultural extension functionaries
6. Conducting problem oriented studies on agricultural extension management

7. Serving as an international documentation center for collecting, storing, processing and disseminating information on subjects related to agricultural management

Extension Education Institute (EEI)

Mandate

1. To improve the skills and professional competency of extension functionaries of Development Departments, State Agricultural Universities, Private firms and Voluntary organizations.
2. To demonstrate most effective training techniques useful for the personnel working in Development Departments
3. To conduct action research and publish information on extension systems
4. To provide consultancy to development agencies

State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETI)

1. To function as agricultural management and training institute at State level
2. To provide consultancy in areas like project planning, appraisal and in agricultural management and extension training
3. To develop and promote the application of management tools for effective agricultural extension services
4. To organize need-based training programmes for middle level and grass-root level agricultural extension functionaries
5. To conduct problem oriented studies in agricultural management, communication, participatory methodologies, post harvest technology and marketing
6. To take up HRD/ training activities including preparation of SREP for ATMAs

Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)

Salient features

1. Creating farmer advisory committee to improve feedback
2. Using NGOs to organize farmers
3. Encouraging private sector involvement in technology transfer
4. Validation and refining technologies through research units in the district
5. Bottom up planning procedure
6. Increased use of Information Technology
7. In-service training to increase staff competence
8. Developing new public-private partnerships
9. Formation and strengthening of farmer's interest group

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

Mandate

1. On-farm testing to assess the location specificity of agricultural technologies under various farming systems
2. Frontline demonstrations to establish production potential of technologies on the farmers
3. Capacity development of farmers and extension personnel to update their knowledge and skills on modern agricultural technologies
4. To work as knowledge and resource centre of agricultural technologies for supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector in improving the agricultural economy of the district
5. Provide farm advisories using ICT and other media means on varied subjects of interest to farmers

Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC)

Objectives

1. Agricultural Technology Information Centre is functioning in single window delivery system
2. To provide agricultural technologies and farm advisory services to the farmers
3. To find out the farmers problems in field conditions and provide appropriate solution

Conclusion

Apart from the mentioned institutions, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Advanced Centres of Training (ACTs) and Gramsevak Training Centres/ Extension Training Centres are also involved in training extension professionals and farmers. State Agricultural Universities are responsible for training extension personnel from state department of agriculture. Advanced Centres of Training are responsible for training to senior and middle level of extension personnel. Gramsevak Training Centres/ Extension Training Centres provide induction of in-service training to grass root level village functionaries i.e. Village Extension Worker (VEW)

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