OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF EXTENSION

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KVK, is an integral part of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), aims at assessment of location specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement and demonstrations. It acts as knowledge and Resource Centre of agricultural technology supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector for improving the agricultural economy of the district. Moreover, these act as linkage between the NARS with extension system and farmers. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is very essential meeting in which house reviews and provides necessary guidance to the KVK for achieving the objectives of action plan. The KVK should conduct one SAC meeting in a year.

The SAC meetings are the brainstorming session and are the central and most essential meeting of the KVKs which act as the platform for the scientific deliberation by scientific community on one side and extension functionaries, farmers, agro-industry etc. on the other side with the theme and focal point being the farmer centric agendas under consideration. SKUAST-Kashmir has ten functional KVKs in the Kashmir Division of J&K UT along with four KVKs in the UT of Ladakh under its administrative control. The minutes of deliberations held during SAC meetings during the year 2023-24 conducted by various KVKs under SKUAST-Kashmir are presented here.

1. KVK Anantnag

10th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting of KVK Anantnag and **26th SAC Meeting of KVK Pulwama** were jointly held in the Auditorium of KVK Pulwama on 24th May, 2023. The meeting was presided over by Additional Chief Secretary (APD) Shri Atal Dulloo and the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai Co-chaired the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K, Director Research Prof. T. H. Masoodi, Director Planning Prof. H. R. Naik and other Officers of SKUAST Kashmir, Heads of Different KVK's, District Officers of the Line Departments, Scientists of KVK's and

progressive farmers/entrepreneurs of the twin Districts. While briefing the participants, Shri Atal Dullo focused on the HADP projects and stressed upon the KVK's for its successful implementation. He impressed on both the Universities and development departments to work in a coordinated manner for the betterment of farming community. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, emphasized that the farmers are the priority of the University and scientists are working effortlessly to ameliorate the socio-economic condition of the farmers. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor thanked the Government of J&K for the Holistic Agriculture Development Project (HADP) which has brought the University & line departments under one umbrella.

Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K, appreciated the efforts of both the KVKs in carrying out their mandated activities religiously and focused on the initiatives of the University which are set to change the scenario of agriculture and allied sectors in the UT. He expressed gratitude to all the officers for their valuable presence. The Scientists and officers of line departments pledged to work in unison to carry forward the technological developments undertaken by the University to fulfill the motive of making Agriculture & allied sectors remunerative.

Dr. Ishtiyaq A. Khan, Head KVK Anantnag presented detailed power point presentations of progress report for the year 2022-23 and proposed action plan for the year 2023-24. He highlighted the potential areas of the concerned district which are being channelized to uplift the farming community of the District. He assured that the KVK will provide a complete technological backup support & carve innovative solutions to revive the niche crops of the concerned district. The programme concluded with interaction cum feedback session in which entrepreneurs of the District expressed desire to work on scientific lines under the guidance of Team KVK.

Following points emerged as the minutes of the meeting:

- KVK interventions to be aligned with HADP programme.
- To continue with the expansion of KG-2, an excellent high altitude Maize composite.
- Impact Analysis of KVK Interventions in adopted cluster Villages.
- Scientific Management of newly emerging and invasive pests and diseases.
- Participation of Line Department officials in all major field interventions of KVK.
- Formation of functional FPOs in niche based crops and commodities.
- To provide technological solutions to the budding entrepreneurs for better commercialization.

2. KVK Bandipora-I

17th Scientific Advisory committee (SAC) meeting of KVK Bandipora was held on 5th August, 2023 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Vice-chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai at MARES Izmarg Gurez. Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Research SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. T.H.Masoodi, Director Finance SKUAST-Kashmir, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad, Dean Faculty of Horticulture SKUAST- Kashmir Prof. Shabir Ahmad Wani, Sub Divisional Magistrate Gurez Dr. Mudasir Ahmad, President SSTA Prof. Javed Ahmad Mugloo, Programme Coordinators of all the Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Kashmir Valley under SKUAST-Kashmir attended the meeting. Besides, sectorial heads of Bandipora including Chief Agriculture Officer Mr. Javed Ahmad Samoon, Chief Horticulture Officer Mr. Farooq Ahmad, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. G.A. Lone, officials from Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture, Floriculture, Manager Lead Bank besides scientists of the Kendra, progressive farmers and persons from press & media also participated in the meeting.

Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora-I, Dr. Tariq Sultan presented a detailed progress report regarding the progress made on various activities during the year 2022-23 through power point presentation which was then followed with discussions on the proposed Action Plan for 2023-24.

The feedback was sought from all sectorial heads regarding the achievements made by the Kendra followed with threadbare discussion to chalk out the future strategies in tune with the developments through inclusion of the same under proposed action plans.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Bandipora: He appreciated the efforts of the Kendra and informed that joint efforts of the Department and KVK has led to the increase in cropping intensity besides increase in productivity per unit area in some field crops of the district. The Chief urged the Kendra to work on high yielding varieties of mustard for further popularization & dissemination by the concern department. He said that cooperation provided by the Kendra in implementing HADP programmes is highly commendable and added that out of 29 training programmes conduct for district level officers under HADP, 27 were conducted at KVK Bandipora Potushai.

Chief Horticulture Officer, Bandipora: Appreciating the efforts of SKUAST-Kashmir, the Chief Horticulture officer informed the house that High Density Apple has resulted not only quality, demand-driven production but has also helped farmers to obtain three times more returns than the traditional orchard system.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Bandipora: Highlighted the different schemes of the concerned department and desired farmers to take full advantage of such schemes. The officer said that district has achieved self-sufficiency in milk production and one milk processing plant has been established by a private entrepreneur at Bandipora.

Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir: Director Extension Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi highlighted the importance for conducting the SAC meetings and informed the house that such meetings were instrumental to access the real field problems and requirements perceived by the development departments and to come up with the future research strategies in this regard.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir: In his remarks the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir appreciated KVK Bandipora-I (Potushai) for receiving the best KVK award conferred to the Kendra recently during Zonal KVK Workshop held on June 26-28, 2023 at Dehradun. He further informed the house that despite all the odds and challenges, KVK Bandipora-I, Potushai had a significant impact through outreach and demonstrations across the district.

The Chairman desired all KVKs to have a benchmark study so as to assess the impact of given activities with significant data over the years. The Chairman also stressed upon the need to formulate authentic data for the district regarding area, production, productivity and farmer related data by consulting all the concerned departments. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor acknowledged and appreciated the officers the development departments for their active participation and desired to have more synergy to achieve the objectives earmarked under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP).

3. KVK Bandipora-II (Gurez)

2nd Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of KVK Bandipora –II (Gurez) was conducted at Mountain Agriculture Research & Extension Station, Gurez on 5th August, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai. The meeting was Co-chaired by Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi. Other dignitaries who participated in the meeting included Director Research SKUAST-K, Prof. Tariq H. Masoodi, Director ICAR-Indian Institute of Seed Sciences MAU (UP) Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director Finance (SKUAST-K) Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Wani, SDM Gurez Dr. Mudasir Ahmad Wani and all the Programme Coordinators of Krishi Vigyan Kendra's of Kashmir division. District Heads of Line departments who participated in the meeting included Chief Agriculture Officer

Mr. Javaid Iqbal Samoon, Chief Horticulture Officer Mr. Farooq Ahmad Tantray, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. G A lone, besides sectoral Officers including BDO Gurez Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat, SDO-Gurez, Dr. Naseer Shabnum, BVO Gurez, Dr. Izhar-ul-Haq, SDAO Gurez, Mr. Gh Hassan Mir, representative from Fisheries, Handicrafts, Forestry, Block Programme Manager NRLM Mr. Rizwan Ahmad Mir. Moreover, the Scientists of KVK Bandipora-I and KVK Bandipora-II and some progressive farmers of Gurez Valley were also present in the meeting.

The detailed action taken report 2022-23 and Action Plan of 2023-24 was presented by Dr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora-II. The feedback received during the meeting is summarized as under:

- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor directed to conduct baseline comprehensive survey for the preparation of resource inventory in consultation with Division of Agriculture Economics. The format of the survey shall be framed by Division of Agriculture Economics for the larger interest of the university.
- Programme Coordinator was directed to ensure availability of seeds/seed storage in advance for timely distribution at sowing time in Gurez valley.
- National released variety of Pea, PB-89 can be taken in front line demonstrations for hilly districts especially in the Gurez Valley.
- Natural farming practices like Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Whapsa etc. needs to be adopted for improving soil health and proper germination in the demonstration blocks and at KVK Farm.
- Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora desired to provide planting material of walnut for one hectare and stone fruits for one hectare through KVK Gurez.
- Chief Animal Husbandry Officer desired to conduct skill development training for Bandipora district youth in cheese making and its value addition in collaboration with LPT Division of FVSc and AH Shuhama.
- Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora has raised his concerns on pre mature harvesting of Maize variety KG-2 in the Gurez Valley and to address it administratively by serving an order from SDM office Gurez stating that either to go for sowing of Maize Variety KG-2 one week before actual date of sowing or its harvesting should be delayed/carried out up to 15th of October.
- For improvement in local millets of Gurez Valley *i.e.,* Proso millet, Foxtail millet, little millet *etc.* Dean Faculty of Agriculture shall take up the improvement programme with concern divisions as directed by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor.

- Awareness programme on Kala Zeera harvesting at full maturity stage need to be conducted for its successful conservation and domestication in Gurez valley.
- Apiculture Scientist Dr Shahnawaz shall devise a programme for improvement of apiculture (local bees) under Gurez conditions.
- At least one Smart tribal villages (Model Villages) in each block shall be adopted to demonstrate the technological interventions of SKUAST-Kashmir.
- Niche Crops of Gurez *i.e* Buckwheat, Kala Zeera, Local potato, Proso Millet, Foxtail Millet, Amaranthus and Little Millet need to be conserved and cultivated for future.
- Potential clusters to be identified for primary processing of wool and pelt units in Tulail block.
- Demonstration on Silage making in different villages needs to be organized.

4. KVK Budgam

10th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Budgam was held on 19th of June, 2023 at KVK Campus. The meeting was Chaired by Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K and was attended by Dr. Akramullah Tak, ADDC Budgam, Prof. Javeed A. Wani, Head Division of Soil Science SKUAST-K along with officers from Line Departments which included Chief Horticulture Officer Budgam, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Budgam, Assistant Director Fisheries Budgam, Lead Bank Manager (J&K Bank Budgam), representatives from various Line Departments, Scientists from DARS Budgam, Board of Directors of FPOs and progressive farmers of District Budgam. Sr. Scientist & Head KVK Budgam, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone, presented Action Taken report 2022, Annual Progress Report 2022-23 and Action plan for the year 2023-24. After presentation of all the reports, Worthy Director Extension SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi appreciates the work carried out by the Kendra in close coordination with the Line Departments. He also appreciated the work with respect to Bio Resource Mapping by the KVK for the District which is a handy information of the District with respect to Agriculture and its allied sectors and then made certain recommendations as follows:

- Director Extension SKUAST-K stressed upon the need for area expansion under maize crop through new released varieties of SKUAST-K.
- Director Extension SKUAST-K emphasized upon increasing the adoption rate of SR-4 variety of paddy among farmers in the District.

- The Kendra was instructed to organize one Kissan Mela for District Budgam.
- SMS Soil Science was directed to enhance the soil testing of district Budgam on fast track basis and to come up with complete booklet on Bio-resource Mapping of District Budgam.
- SMS Plant Protection was instructed to take up Dingri Mushroom cultivation.
- Program Assistant Horticulture was instructed to prepare booklet on Training and Pruning of H.D Apple orchards.

During the meeting the rapid soil testing device (*Bhu-Parikshak*) was formally released for District Budgam. The detailed presentation on calibration and validation of device was made by Dr. Shazia Ramzan (SMS Soil Science), Mr. Rajat Vardhan Founder and Director AGRONEXT presented a brief presentation on use and working of soil testing device.

During the program a High Density Walnut Demonstration cum Mother Block sponsored by DBT, GoI was also inaugurated by Worthy Director Extension SKUAST-K in presence of other dignitaries. Publications of KVK Budgam were also released at the event.

Suggestions from Line Departments

Chief Horticulture Officer Budgam: CHO Budgam appreciated the collaborative working of KVK Budgam with Line Departments and suggested that farmers of District Budgam must be made aware that HD apple orchards should be established before 31st March every year for better/optimum performance/results. CHO Budgam also appreciated Scientific Staff of Kendra and Department of Horticulture Budgam in addressing the issue of Leaf Minor Blotch by regular visits to affected areas and timely issuance of advisory.

Representative of Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam: Suggested data reconciliation of Net Sown Area and Area under cultivation of District Budgam with Department of Agriculture Budgam. Moreover, he suggested that crop diversification program should be framed for district Budgam and steps must be taken for processing and value addition of agriculture produce for better marketing.

Representative of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Budgam.: Suggested facilitation of marketing of Milk through formation of Dairy FPO.

5. KVK Ganderbal

19th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ganderbal was held on 10th May, 2023 in the Conference Hall of KVK Ganderbal, Shuhama under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai to discuss the progress achieved in respect of the mandated activities for the year 2022-2023 and to formulate the Action Plan for the year 2023-24 in light of the feedback received from various stakeholders. The meeting was attended by Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, Dr. M.K. Sharma, Director CITH, Rangreth, Prof. (Dr.) Farooz Ahmad Bhat, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Chief Agriculture/Horticulture Officer, District Officers of Line Departments, Progressive farmers and farm women along with Scientific Staff of KVK.

At the outset, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor inaugurated the newly established units of KVK which include first regular High Density Walnut Orchard of the KVK, Melon Block, Beeflora Unit & Carp Culture Unit at the Kendra. He congratulated Senior Scientist & Head, Dr. Ishfaq Abidi for his leadership skills; transforming huge chunk of unutilized land for various farm activities in this short period and incorporating components of an integrated farming system at KVK farm which has now become a *model* KVK for the farmers. Director Extension and Director CITH also praised the work & efforts of KVK Scientists led by Dr. Abidi.

The formal Session started with welcome address by Dr. Rafiya Munshi, SMS (Home Science) followed by floral presentation to all the dignitaries. On the occasion, publications of KVK Scientists *viz.*, Mushroom Cultivation, Biofloc Technology, Millets and Brucellosis were released by the dignitaries. Dr. Ishfaq Abidi, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Ganderbal presented the Action Taken Report, Annual Progress Report for the year 2022-23 and Annual Action Plan for the year 2023-24. Throughout the course of presentation, Hon'ble Chairman in particular and all participants in general appreciated the work done by KVK and gave their valuable inputs and suggestions.

Summary of proceedings is asunder:

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K (Chairman SAC):

- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor while expressing his satisfaction on large scale land development of KVK farm and conversion of grey into green areas, instructed to devise a plan for value addition of green fodder in to silage through PPP mode for larger benefit of the society and development of livestock sector.

- Since livestock sector is a priority area, the Hon'ble Chairman advised for capacity building programmes on development of UMMBs and development of comprehensive plan for further development of TMR at KVK.
- Extension of Horti-Poultry model across the District and identification & validation of alternate sources of feed for poultry.
- Focus on quality packaging and value addition of fruits/vegetables/cereals in collaboration with relevant departments.
- Registering more farmers on Kissan Sarthi Portal under KVK for wider outreach along with making KVK website and Facebook page more vibrant.
- Impact assessment of OFTs/FLDs and IFS model to be taken note of and concerned Scientists should come up with valuable out puts.
- Identification & promotion of areas for cultivation of millets, organic potatoes, and non-traditional crops like Saffron and Kala Zeera across the District.
- Advanced low cost models for High density Apple and Walnut to be worked out in collaboration with Faculty of Agri-Engineering.
- Steps for conversion of traditional Apple Orchard opposite Apiary Unit into HD Apple Orchard to be worked out keeping in view disease infestation and non-descriptive type of Apple trees.
- He stressed on roping in social media channels like Facebook, *Kisan Sarthi* and twitter for maximizing farmers outreach.
- Competent Authority stressed on environment friendly disposal of wastes at KVK and initiating programmes for converting waste into wealth. The Scientists were asked to prevent any sort of environment deterioration.
- He directed the scientific fraternity to highlight the problems of farmers and motivated them to find novel methods and suggestions to solve them. The Scientists were asked to submit projects for financial support under different areas so that Research, Development & Extension activities can be extended further.
- Chairman advised for mapping of KVK land. Based on the discussions on land availability, he instructed that the land from KVK allocated to other Faculties/Divisions/Stations/Externally funded or *adhoc* projects to be reallocated back to KVK in a phased and time bound manner. Till then the concerned Division/Station/Units/PIs shall deposit at least 15% of the net revenue generated out of land utilized annually (for more than two years) under intimation to respective Directorates/Faculties/Divisions/Units except land utilized under Research/

Extension trials. Senior Scientist & Head was asked to initiate the action through Directorate of Extension for the purpose.

Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir:

- Director Extension SKUAST-K, appreciated the efforts of the KVK in carrying out its mandated activities religiously, particularly for successful completion of HADP trainings and instructed to work out impact of such trainings.
- Deliberations on low cost housing model provided to Sheep Husbandry Department by the University to be popularized across the District for control of foot rot in animals. A comprehensive programme on low cost housing model to be framed with concerned department for replication with collaborative programmes through Faculty of Veterinary Sciences.
- He appraised the house regarding the introduction of drone in KVKs for increasing precision in agriculture sector and described its use as an effective way to prevent occurrence of diseases and help save time & resources.

Director CITH, Rangreth:

- He advised the farmers to maintain regular contact through KVK with CITH for new& improved planting material, exposure visits and skill oriented trainings.
- He suggested that the KVK should also procure graft/bud wood/planting material from CITH for distribution among farmers of the District whenever needed.

Chief Agriculture Officer:

- He appreciated the efforts of the KVK and thanked Team KVK for valuable support & cooperation at block level.
- He expressed gratitude for the HADP programme which brought the University & Line Departments under one umbrella.
- CAO requested for more collaborative programmes especially for water logged areas of the District for fodder/oilseed development.
- More OFTs and FLDs on linseed may be laid.

Sheep Husbandry Officer and Nodal Officer HADP:

- He appreciated the work of KVK especially with regard to its mandated activities and strenuous efforts of the Team in conducting all HADP trainings without fail.
- He requested for area based training in low lying areas for control of foot rot and more programmes regarding animal health & diagnostic visits across the District in collaborative mode.

District Sericulture Officer:

- He thanked KVK Ganderbal for its efforts in demonstrating technologies to the farmers.
- Wished for cooperation of the University in eradicating the menace of viral infestation of cocoons in different breeds. He highlighted the need of research in this regard and requested for more trainings in sericulture through collaborative mode.

Farmers feed-back:

- Mueed Nazki, a young entrepreneur with IT background was highly appreciated by Hon'ble VC for his vision & creativity. The young boy who has opted for dairy farming, appreciated the KVK for technology dissemination and hoped for collaboration with KVK for better returns in his enterprise. KVK was asked to adopt the farmer for technological support.
- Mrs. Zamrooda, Champion farmer of the District appreciated the efforts of KVK for reaching out to nook & corner of the District whenever needed. She emphasized that dairy farming is strenuous but equally profitable venture. She hoped for better liaison between the Department of Agriculture/Horticulture and the KVK for welfare of the farmers.
- Mr. Abdul Rashid, progressive farmer described the attempts of the KVK scientists which helped him utilize all his fallow land and convert it into an Integrated Farming System with Fruit Orchard, Livestock Unit and Apiary. These units have helped him double his income.

6. KVK Kulgam

17th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of KVK Kulgam under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai was conducted on 17th of May, 2023 at MRCFC Khudwani. Shri Atal Dullo, Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner UT of J&K was Chief Guest on the occasion. Director Extension SKUAST - K Shalimar, Prof Dil Mohammed Makhdoomi; Director Research SKUAST K , Prof Tariq H. Masoodi; Dean Faculty of Agriculture FOA Wadoora, Prof. Rehana Kant; Dean Faculty of Horticulture SKUAST-K main campus Shalimar, Prof Shabir Ahmad; Associate Director Research MRCFC Khudwani, Prof. Najeeb ur Rehman Sofi; Senior Scientist & Head KVK Kulgam Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Ganai; Scientists of KVK Kulgam and MRCFC Khudwani; Chief Horticulture officer Kulgam; Chief Agriculture officer Kulgam; Manager Lead Bank Kulgam, Officers

from the line Departments of Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture, Fishery and Floriculture *etc* were also present in the programme.

The participant dignitaries and farmers were welcomed to the programme by worthy Director Extension SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof Dil Mohammed Makhdoomi with special thanks to Shri Atal Dullo for his very keen interest in the transformation of agriculture for sustainable income increase of the farming community. He also highlighted the determined efforts of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai in bringing laurels to the SKUAST Kashmir. Worthy Director Extension also emphasized the need for branding of agricultural produce for its profitable marketing.

Director Research SKUAST Kashmir briefed the research feats of the University and extended his thanks to Shri Atal Dullo for being a Corner Stone to newly launched Holistic Agriculture Development project in the UT.

Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Ganai Senior Scientist and Head KVK Kulgam presented Action Taken Report and Annual Progress Report (2022-23) and Action Plan for the year 2023-24. The work done by the Kendra on decreasing the cost of production in apple, scientific measures for pesticide residue reduction in apple, skill development of rural youth for entrepreneur ship development, mobilization of farmers for FPO formation, drone technology and food processing and exploitation of social groups for efficient spread of the SKUAST-K technology were highlighted. Also, the work done on evaluation of different technologies developed by SKUAST-K and their popularization through front line demonstrations.

Shri Atal Dullo, Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner UT of J&K pinpointed the decreasing factor productivity in agriculture and stressed that investment in agriculture needs to be increased to increase its productivity and profitability. He also laid emphasis on value chain development for development of agriculture and use of IT for dissemination of advisory and also for human resource development of the farming community.

Honorable Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai emphasized on the following objectives to be accomplished in the year 2023-24:

- Modification of the action plan for year 2023 so that the activities listed under holistic agriculture development project are incorporated and carried out efficiently and in time bound manner
- Skill development of the rural youth for entrepreneurship development.

- Mechanization of agriculture for attracting rural youth and for sustainable increase in farm income
- Value addition and branding of agricultural produce to fetch the maximum returns.
- The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, congratulated the KVK Kulgam, for the work they have done in 2022-23.

Mr Showkat Ahmad, ADC District Kulgam, also delivered a lecture on various novel programmes and schemes like Farm ITI and stressed upon the need of development of agricultural in aspirational block mode. Young agri-entrepreneurs, officers from the line departments and civil society members thanked the KVK for their role in guiding the farming community in ensuring sustainable and profitable agriculture production.

7. KVK Kupwara

17th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of KVK Kupwara (SKUAST-K) was held on 20th May 2023 in the meeting Hall of KVK Kupwara under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi Worthy Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir. The meeting was convened by Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Shalimar, the meeting was also attended by, district officers from Agriculture and allied departments of the district Kupwara besides scientific and technical staff from KVK Kupwara and some progressive farmers of the district. Meeting started with the welcome address presented by Dr. Raies Ahmad Bhat SMS(Agronomy). Followed by presentation of Action taken report/Annual progress report for the year 2022-23 and Action Plan for the year 2023-24 by Dr.Kaiser Mohi ud din Malik, Sr. Scientist &Head, KVK, Kupwara. He also highlighted the achievements of the KVK in the district.

Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi Worthy Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir during his address appreciated the work done by the Kendra he also congratulated the farmers who have adopted the technologies provided by SKUAST-K to them from time to time and desired that:

- Progressive farmers with the support of KVK need to horizontally transfer the technologies so that it can reach to every farmer of the district.
- Concentrate on area specific and high value crops to increase farm income.
- Prioritization of quality planting material of walnut under one district one crop.
- Formation of FPO & FPCs.

Chief Agriculture Officer praised the KVK for carrying out all the activities in

collaboration with the line department and expected more cooperation from the KVK and desired that exposure visits, awareness cum training programmes on Alternate agriculture should be organized.

District Sheep Husbandry Officer desired that awareness cum training programmes on wool processing & sheep faming should be organized.

Horticulture Dev. Officer requested for providing bud wood of walnut selections/varieties and assistance of KVK for establishing walnut orchards scientifically in the farmers' field and department farms. He also aspired to facilitate all the training programmes on training & pruning in Apple ecosystem and rejuvenation of old orchards.

District Animal Husbandry Officer hailed the efforts of KVK for reaching out to the farming community and requested to conduct training, exposure visits and awareness programmes on vaccination and dosage. He also suggested that dairy farming as enterprise should be promoted.

Area Marketing officer Kupwara hailed the extension activities carried out by KVK in the district & desired that there should be regular liaison between departments & marketing agencies.

Assistant Director Fisheries stressed on the potential of Fish cultivation in the district & desired that fish cultivation must be encouraged by KVK.

Progressive farmers namely Mr. Ab Ahad Magray, Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Khan, Mr. Mohd Ramzan Ganie and Miss Pakeeza in their feedback hailed the efforts of the KVK in boosting agricultural activities in the district and praised the scientific staff of KVK for their efforts in reaching out to the farming community. They also appreciated the introduction of rice variety SR-4 in the district which has outperformed all other rice varieties in the district and demanded more demonstrations of it in the district .They requested for making available quality seeds of field crops and pulses in time.

8. KVK Pulwama

26th SAC Meeting of KVK Pulwama and 10th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting of KVK Anantnag were jointly held in the Auditorium of KVK Pulwama on 24th May, 2023. The meeting was presided over by Additional Chief Secretary (APD) Shri Atal Dulloo and the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai Co-chaired the meeting. Director Extension SKUAST-K, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Research, Prof. T.H. Masoodi, Director Planning, Prof. H.R. Naik,

other Officers of SKUAST-Kashmir, Heads of Different KVK's, District Officers from different developmental departments of the two districts were also present on the occasion. The meeting was also attended by progressive farmers/entrepreneurs of the twin Districts, students and all the staff members of the Kendra including scientific, ministerial and field staff.

While addressing the participants, Shri Atal Dulloo mentioned that the Govt. has announced a robust plan (HADP) for overhauling the farming sector through Holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors and said that the development of KVKs is the main component of the policy. He focused on the need to aware the farmers about different HADP projects and the benefits they can avail from it. He expressed hope that the officials taking part in this SAC meeting will deliberate and discuss various issues so that solutions for the betterment of farmers emerge from here. During the visit ACS Shri Atal Dulloo and VC SKUAST-K Dr Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai jointly inaugurated many newly developed units including Vermi-culture Unit, Grape block, Duckery Unit, Honey extraction Unit, Smart Class room and Auditorium at KVK Malangpora campus.

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, in his address congratulated KVK Pulwama for massive land development and establishing new demonstration units for integrated farming system at Kendra campus which has become a model KVK for the farmers. He emphasized that the farmers are the priority of the University and scientists are working effortlessly to ameliorate the socio-economic condition of the farmers in the district. Hon'ble VC thanked the Government of J&K for the Holistic Agriculture Development Project which has brought the University & Line departments under one umbrella.

Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K, appreciated the efforts of both the KVKs in carrying out their mandated activities sincerely and focused on the initiatives of the University which are set to change the scenario of agriculture and allied sectors in the UT of J&K. He expressed gratitude to all the officers for their valuable presence. On the occasion, publications of KVK Pulwama scientists including a Compendium on "Medicinal and Aromatic plants", folders on Backyard Poultry Farming and Protected vegetable cultivation were also released.

Prof. Javeed Ahmad Mugloo, Head KVK Pulwama and Dr. Ishtiyaq A. Khan, Head KVK Anantnag presented detailed power point presentations of Action Taken Report on agenda items of 2022-23, followed by progress report for the year 2022-23 and proposed Action Plan for the year 2023-24. Both heads highlighted the potential areas of

their respective districts which have been channelized to uplift the farming community of the respective Districts. They assured that the KVKs will provide a complete technological backup support & carve innovative solutions to revive the niche crops of the concerned districts.

Suggestions from all the stakeholders and directions from Additional Chief Secretary/Financial commissioner, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and Director Extension have been meticulously noted and minutes of meeting thereof are as under:

- Additional Chief Secretary/Financial commissioner desired that there is need for increasing the seed replacement rate to introduce new high yielding varieties to every corner of the district and also instructed that advisory to farmers should be crop specific and location specific.
- Additional Chief Secretary/Financial commissioner stressed upon the KVK's to play an active role in successful implementation of different HADP projects for the upliftment of farming community and impressed on both the university and development departments to work in a coordinated manner for the betterment of farming community.
- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor expressed his desire that KVK Pulwama should become model KVK in technology demonstration and dissemination to the farming community by switching the KVK farm into a smart farm and should focus more on propagation of fruit blocks to generate more revenue.
- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor highlighted the need for making quality planting material available at KVK to meet the needs of progressive farmers
- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor highlighted the importance for promoting skills of farmers, in order to reap better returns by avoiding exploitation at the hands of middlemen.
- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor insisted upon the developmental departments for having frequent meetings with KVK scientists to discuss different issues the farmers are facing in their respective fields so that an ideal solution may be ascertained or otherwise same be forwarded to the concerned divisions as a researchable item.
- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor instructed for inclusion of more components to Integrated Farming System Model at KVK to make it more viable and attractive, further he desired that already existing dairy unit should be developed and extended for strengthening of Livestock section at KVK farm and generating more revenue.

- Hon'ble Vice Chancellor further stressed that an inventory of all progressive farmers of the district should be prepared and should always be available with the KVK for any kind of reference in future.
- Worthy Director Extension focused on the distribution of SR-4 for doubling the farmers' income.
- Worthy Director Extension impressed upon procurement of oil seed (SS2) and its distribution to cover maximum area.
- Chief Agricultural officer desired for seamless and hassle-free transfer of technology and solving problems of farmers in a time bound manner, further he insisted for convergence of KVKs, line departments to disseminate economically viable technologies to farmers.
- Chief Agriculture Officer desired to include capacity building programmes for field staff particularly for field assistants and lower staff in order to enhance the outreach of the department for the benefit of the farming community
- Chief Animal Husbandry officer suggested for collaborative and collective trainings of farmers wherein farmers shall be acquainted with the awareness regarding different subsidy based schemes along with the scientific technical knowhow.
- Chief Horticulture Officer desired to have more number of Capacity building training programmes for farmers especially on Training and pruning.
- District sheep husbandry officer put forth his desire for formation of farmer producer organization (FPO) of sheep breeders in collaboration with KVK so that farmers may be benefited financially as well technically.
- Many progressive farmers of the district requested for more number of diagnostic visits of their orchards for timely diagnosing and treating the disease.
- Some farmers raised the issue of distributing quality seed/seedlings at block level and requested for the same to be made available at every block

9. KVK Shopian

11th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of KVK Shopian was conducted on 15th of June, 2023 at meeting hall of KVK Shopian. Prof Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K was Chairman of the event and Mr. Fazl ul Haseeb DDC Shopian was guest of Honour. Other dignitaries who attended the meeting include Head AARC Pahnoo, Programme Coordinators of KVK Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam,

Srinagar and Ganderbal, District officers from all Line departments viz., Chief Horticulture officer , Chief Agriculture Officer , Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, Sub-Division Agricultural Officers, Agriculture Extension Assistants, President fruit growers association and representatives of FPO and progressive farmers were present on the occasion. Dr. Mir Shabeer Scientist Animal Science formally welcomed the dignitaries and guests. Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Senior Scientist and Head KVK Shopian, presented Action Taken Report (ATR) and progress report (2022-23) and Action Plan for 2023-24.

Chairman of the meeting Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension, SKUAST-K emphasised on following points to be accomplished in the year 2023-24.

- Training on scientific preparation of Vermi-compost to extension officials and progressive farmers of the district.
- Advisories should be send through social media to all the contact farmers of the district.
- Collaborative efforts, cooperation and coordination of Agriculture and Allied sectors for better prospects of district Shopian in general and farming community in particular.
- Emphasis was laid on increasing the number of field days
- Training on fisheries feed technology should be imparted to extension functionaries of the concerned department.
- Training and pruning of apple orchards with special emphasis on high density plantation.
- Strong campaign should be launched on orchard sanitation in the district.
- Special campaign on scientific management of important pests and diseases of apple like: *Sanjose scale, Alternaria, Scab, Leaf Miner* and *Canker*.
- Instead of Soil health day, Soil health week should be celebrated.
- For dissemination of messages to farmer's social network should be exploited.
- Awareness cum training programme on grading, packing and truthful labelling of horticulture crops.
- Awareness cum training programmes to be conducted on foot rot, Mastitis, Brucellosis in sheep and repeat breeding of livestock.

10. KVK Srinagar

19th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of KVK Srinagar was Chaired by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Prof.Nazir Ahmed Ganai and held on 10/05/2023 at KVK Ganderbal. Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-Kashmir was the Guest of Honor on the occasion. Director CITH Srinagar Prof. Verma, Scientists from both the Kendras, officials from Line Departments, progressive farmers of Srinagar and Ganderbal attended the said meeting.

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir in his address congratulated both the KVKs and emphasized for working in tandem with line departments, for ensuring seamless and hassle free transfer technologies to the grass root levels, so that farm revenue and farmer's income is enhanced.

Worthy Director Extension SKUAST-Kashmir acknowledged the role of both the KVKs in promoting the farming activities and reaching out to the farmers. Dr. Sajjad Mohi-ud-din Senior Scientist & Head KVK Srinagar presented Action Taken report on Agenda Items of 2022-23, followed by presentation of Annual Progress Report for the year 2022-23 and the Action Plan 2023-24. The summary of proceedings/recommendations is as under: -

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor desired that:

- Benefit cost ratio of crops grown by some progressive farmers under poly-houses be carried out to verify the claims made by them.
- Soil health status be ascertained pre and post application of chemicals especially herbicides, so as to know the ill effects of chemicals on soil health if any.
- Programmes for tribal women be arranged for preparation of Multigrain Atta and efforts be made for formation of SHG among them.
- Awareness programmes in convergence with Department of Agriculture Srinagar should be arranged to address the issue of land left fallow during winters.
- KVK should frame a list of FAQs so as to address the issues faced by farmers. The responses prepared should be crisp and clear so that the target audience can easily grasp them. The information prepared may be video-graphed for its large scale dissemination through social media platforms.
- Activities carried out by the KVK should be compiled for hosting them on the Kendra website.

- Promotion of scientific way of drying and packaging of vegetables, validation of the Smart kitchen dustbins and start-ups in agriculture and allied branches.
- Director Extension impressed upon all to equip unemployed youth and school drop with entrepreneurial skills.
- Chief Agriculture Officer highlighted the need for organizing programmes on conservation of resources, minimizing chemical use and promotion of organic and natural farming.
- District Sheep Husbandry Officer Srinagar, underscored the need for collaborative programmes from KVK for capacity building of field functionaries. He desired for organizing training/awareness programmes on ration balancing, methods of administration of medicine in animals and fodder conservation for enhancing livestock productivity.
- Chief Horticulture Officer Srinagar desired for collaborative programmes with KVK on popularization and area expansion under high density apple plantation, capacity building of field functionaries.
- Chief Sericulture Officer desired for collaborative programmes on prevention of viral diseases in silkworms

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KVKs of Ladakh UT

11.KVK Kargil-I

19th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kargil-I for reviewing the progress report of 2022 and discussing the action plan of 2023 was held on 13th June 2023 under the Chairmanship of Prof Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-Kashmir. Shri Mohsin Ali, Executive Councilor for Agriculture and Health Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The meeting was attended by scientists from SKUAST Kashmir along with Associate Director HMAARI Leh Dr. Dorji Namgyal, Incharge MAR&ES Kargil Dr. Faizan Ahmed and officers from Line department Mr. Mohd Ali Divisional Forest Officer, Mr Ali Raza Chief Horticulture Officer, Dr. Niyaz Munshi District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Dr Ismail Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Mr. Murtaza Assistant, Director Fisheries, Manager Lead bank representative from agriculture department and Progressive farmers.

The meeting commenced with the welcome address by Dr. Nasreen Fatima, SMS Plant Protection. Thereafter the presentation of annual report 2022 and action plan 2023 of KVK Kargil-I was delivered by Dr. Mohd Mehdi, Chief Scientist and Head KVK Kargil-I. Deliberations on achievement, functioning and target of KVK took place during the meeting.

In response to a query on Karakul sheep population, District Sheep Husbandry Officer said that at present the population is around 643 at their farm and at the same time he felt the lack of experts in both Research and KVKs of Kargil in connection with milk and wool processing.

In response to the promotion of buckwheat in the region, Dr. Mohd Mehdi, said that buckwheat flour at present is the costliest (Rs. 300/kg) among cereals and the farmers are interested in the promotion of buckwheat but the impediment behind the promotion is the lack of thermo insensitive variety. The Chairman said that buckwheat thrives well in the Gurez region and advocated for growing early maturing varieties. Dr. Namgyal added that the buckwheat grown in the Gurez region belongs to different species having poor quality flour. In this regard Dr. Mehdi gave the opinion of facilitating the introduction of thermo-insensitive variety from China or any other country where buckwheat are grown at large scale or assign a plant breeder to evolve variety using wild species which has the ability to thrive well under harsh cold climatic conditions of Ladakh.

Regarding high yielding wheat variety, Dr. Aflaq suggested incorporation of '**Shalimar Wheat-2**' in FLDs or OFTs as it has the potential to thrive well in hilly areas.

In response to the chairman regarding surplus fodder production in Mushkoo and Drass, the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer said that the main challenge in increasing livestock population is the gap between demand and supply of fodder. In order to meet the demand huge quantities of oats hay and alfalfa fodder are being imported from Ganderbal and Leh district respectively as a result the cost of fodder increases to many fold (Rs. 40/kg). In this regard Dr. Mehdi stated that the introduction of high yielding fodder (African Tall) has brought a relief since the per unit production of this variety is almost twice to the traditional (foxtail or proso millet). The chairman said the newly released fodder maize variety **'SMC-1'** of SKUAST-K is better than African Tall and instructed KVKs and Line department for promotion of this very variety. At the same time the chairman agreed to facilitate the availability of seed from the concerned breeder (Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Dar). The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer assured to provide land for the variety to grow. Dr. Mehdi while deliberating on livestock said that there has been

a leap-bound decrease in the population of indigenous breeds in Kargil. The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer in response said that local breed still exists in the Zanskar region.

The Divisional Forest Officer urged research on seed germination and multiplication of Juniper tree which has a religious significance in Ladakh region. In response Dr. Javed Mogulu stated dormancy as the reason behind germination failure and suggested adopting physical and chemical methods to overcome this problem. He further said that one of his students has done research work on this particular tree and agreed to share the results with KVK after completion of the study.

Ms Husniya Banoo a young mushroom grower said that availability of spawn is the major constraint in mushroom cultivation. She wishes for an establishment of a well-equipped mushroom lab to fulfil the demand of the people. The chairman lauded the dedication and keenness of Ms Husniya and agreed to sponsor training in canning and pickle making. Dr. Faizan submitted that she has undergone training at FOA Wadura last year and said that a project has been submitted to the UT administration for the procurement of lab equipment. The chairman advised Dr. Faizan to submit a DPR to the UT administration for infrastructure development of the mushroom unit. Another progressive farmer Mr Ghulam Mohd said that his yield has been increased by applying Jeevamrit and thanked KVK for the technology. The Chairman suggested him to take precaution while preparing Jeevamrit. Mr. Shabir Hussain Fayaz a budding progressive farmer suggested the house for framing a committee in connection with procurement of quality seed based on the recommendation of KVK and Research Station Kargil to eliminate adulterated seed.

The Chief Guest in his remarks appreciated the efforts and results of KVK Kargil despite limited resources. However, he expressed his dismay for debarring KVK Kargil among all the KVKs and Research Stations of Ladakh form the TSP funds. He said the farmer's feedback reflects the dedication and sincerity of the KVK Kargil team. At the end he thanked the organizer for providing him an opportunity to grace the occasion.

Remarks by the Chairman

- He appreciated the efforts of KVK Kargil for serving the farmers despite staff shortage and financial constraints.
- He suggested that Ms. Husniya Banoo should be recognized as mushroom entrepreneur
- He said that ICAR has signed an MOU with Amazon for marketing of fruits and vegetables. Technical guidance in this aspect would be provided by KVKs.

- He said that Ladakh has ample potential in livestock and protected cultivation and every possible effort has to be undertaken to make this efficient and viable.
- He said that the Directorate of Agriculture is the law enforcing agency for quality seed supply. He advised to maintain and supply quality control seeds to the farmers
- He advocated for commercialization of agriculture.
- He advised all the KVKs to attend the Zonal Workshop to be held at Dehradun.
- He thanked the Chief guest, and progressive farmers for their valuable feedback.

12. KVK Kargil-II (Zanskar)

5th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of KVK Kargil-II (Zanskar) was held at KVK Kargil-I under the chairmanship of Worthy Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir Professor (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi on 13th June 2023. Dr. Dorjay Namgiyal Associate Director Research HMAARI, Leh, Dr. Javeed Ahmad Mugloo Professor and Head KVK/ETC, Dr. Aflaq Wani (Pathologist), Scientists from KVK Kargil-II (Zanskar) and KVK Kargil-I, District Forest officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Sheep Husbandry Officer, Chief horticulture officer and other officers from line departments, entrepreneurs and progressive farmers participated in the meeting. A total 33 persons participated in the meeting. The meeting began with the welcome address of Dr. Nasreen Fatima Subject Matter Specialist KVK Kargil-I. Head KVK-II presented the progress report of 2022-23 and action plan of 2023-24.

Chairman of the meeting Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension SKUAST-K emphasized on following points to be accomplished in the year 2023-24;

- KVK should popularize SKUAST-K released region specific high yielding fodder varieties in district Kargil
- FPOs may be formulated for year-round sale of agriculture/livestock/horticulture products with value addition, branding and marketing.
- KVK should ensure farmers/rural youth set up their income generating units after receiving trainings from the University/KVK.
- Chief Agriculture Officer, Kargil requested that awareness cum training programmes on Natural/ Organic Farming should be organized besides other programmers that are being required
- District Animal and Sheep Husbandry Officer, Kargil requested to ensure conduct training and awareness programmes on vaccination and other technology transfer related high yield varieties of fodder crops.

- Progressive farmers in their feedback hailed the efforts of the KVK in boosting agricultural activities in the district. Farmers demanded the timely availability of seeds of season crop
- Hon'ble Executive Councilor, Shri Mohsin Ali appreciated the effort of SKUAST- K in disseminating the technology whenever required.
- The meeting concluded with the release of publication by Hon'ble Executive councilor LAHDC Kargil and worthy Director Extension SKUAST-K.

13.KVK Leh-I

20th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of KVK- Leh-I was held on 10th June, 2023 at HMAARI, Campus Stakna. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. Udham Singh Gautam, Dy. Director General (Extension) ICAR. Dr. Parvender Sheoron, Director ATARI, Zone-I was the Guest of honour on this occasion. The meeting was also attended by Director Extension, SKUAST-K Prof. (Dr.) Dil Muhammad Makhdoomi, Head KVK Pulwama, SKUAST-K, scientists of HMAARI SKUAST-K Leh, officers from the line departments of UT Ladakh and progressive farmers. Dr. D. Namgyal Associate Director (R&E) HMAARI, Leh welcomed the guests and other dignitaries. Dr. Feroz Din Sheikh, Professor and Head KVK Leh presented the Action Taken Report of 19th SAC, Annual Progress Report (2022-23) and Action Plan (2023-24) of KVK Leh. He gave a detailed presentation on all the activities of last year including the Action Taken Report. In his presentation, he presented the important achievements of KVK-Leh and the thrust areas where the Kendra is focusing. About 70 officials/farmers participated in the meeting. The important points came up during the discussion were as under.

Dr. Udham Singh Gautam, Dy. Director General (Extension) ICAR address:

- Appraised the work done by KVK Leh, especially in promoting Integrated Farming System, Livestock Production, Protected Cultivation and value addition of various locally produced agriculture crops for the benefits of tribal farmers of Ladakh region.
- Instructed the KVK to confinement their activities as per their mandate and transfer all the research related issues to research institutes.
- KVK should provide only backstopping and technical support in terms of capacity building for the members of FPOs.
- KVK needs to document all the activities to show the impact of the intervention of KVK

Dr. Parvender Sheoron, Director ATARI, Zone-I address:

- KVKs to focus on Market or profit oriented extension rather production oriented extension.
- Instructed KVKs to confine their activities as per the mandates of KVKs.
- Stressed on active participation of line departments in in-service training programmes and other activities where KVKs will work as resource Centre's and ask them to provide capsule or certified courses to the extension personnel.
- Assured KVK Leh to provide all infrastructure developmental help by providing vehicle to KVK Leh.
- Directed the KVKs to work on drudgery reduction of farm females by farm mechanization programme.
- Develop a custom hiring Centre for Ladakh farmers for which funding will be incurred by ATARI.
- Focus on Licensing and greeting FSSAI No for value addition products.
- Procure small farm implements for drudgery reduction among the farmwomen.
- Encourage the farmers in producing organic products and link them with companies like Amazon, thus resolving the marketing issues and removal of middle men.
- Indicators like adoption level, % increase in income etc. should be incorporated in the presentation.
- Stress on providing quality planting materials to the farmers.
- Adopt technological model on water conservation from VPKAS Almora or National Institute for Soil and Water Conservation Dehradun and extend those technologies to the farmers for which funding will be provided by ICAR.

Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension:

- Inform the gathering the salient activities related to dissipation and validation of technology and formation of entrepreneurs by KVK Leh.
- University has conducted Ladakh's 1st Agri-Tech *Mela* at Leh at Kargil by the KVKs of the district. The mela in Kargil was first of its kind to be organized after thirty-four years.
- Instructed all the line departments and KVKs to at least have a meeting (online or offline) once in a month to sort out the issues related to agriculture.

- Stressed the research institutes, KVKs, Line Departments and farmers to take full utilization of Solar energy for which Ladakh is known for.
- Exploring the potential of livestock rearing in Leh and branding and packaging of value added products.

Chief Agriculture Officer, LAHDC Leh

- Research on organic farming
- Formulate a crop sequence for Ladakh greenhouse.
- Popularization of IFS model.

Chief Horticulture Officer, LAHDC Leh

- Advised KVK Leh to establish a model of orchard at KVK.
- More works should be carried out to decrease the aphid infestation in apricot.
- Difficulties in getting the planting materials.
- Ask KVK Leh to support the department in forming FPOs

Representatives from Fisheries Department.

- Difficulties in getting seedlings and feed for the fish.

Representatives from Animal Husbandry Department LAHDC Leh

- Involvement of line departments in Animal Health camps organized by KVK Leh
- Knowledge sharing with line departments.

Progressive farmers and Farm Women:

- Appreciated the role of KVK-Leh in technology dissemination at the grassroots level, providing inputs, necessary advice, diagnostic services, developing progressive farmers and all other relevant information as required by them from time to time.
- Requested the DDG, Extension ICAR and other dignitaries to organize an exposure tour of farmers to other institute of the county.
- Non availability of market. Need to think about it.
- Water scarcity problem.
- Hon'ble DDG Extension ICAR has agreed in sending one progressive farmer from AYEE for a capacity building programme in cow and goat rearing in ICAR Institute.

  SAC members/progressive farmers of different areas of Leh district welcomed the suggestions given by various dignitaries during the occasion and also applauded KVK for their contribution towards the upliftment of farming community of the district.

14.KVK Leh-II (Nyoma)

10th Scientific Advisory Committee meeting of KVK Leh-II (Nyoma) was held on 11th June 2023 at KVK Leh-II (Nyoma). Dr. U.S. Gautum. Deputy Director General (Agri. Extension ICAR Delhi) was the Chief Guest of the event, Dr. Parvender Sheoran (Director ATARI Zone -1 Ludhiana), Hon'ble Sh. Ishey Spalzang Councillor, LAHDC and Prof. (Dr.) Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Director Extension were the guests of honour during the event. Besides Prof. Dorjay Namgyal (ADR&E, HMAARI, Leh) scientific and supporting staff of KVK Nyoma and progressive farmers of Changthang region were also present. The annual progress report of 2022-23 and action plan of 2023-24 of KVK Nyoma was presented by Dr. Jigmet Yangchan, Programme Coordinator of the Kendra.

Chairman, Co-chairman and farmers of the meeting emphasized on following points to be accomplished in the year 2023-24

Deputy Director General (DDG, Agri. Extension) emphasized on:

- Capacity building of staff should be improved and updated.
- Demonstration unit should be the purposed
- DDG raised issues of staff position and ensure to fill the vacant post of KVK Nyoma as early as possible
- DDG instruct to Director ATARI for exposure tour of Changthang farmers in other plan areas like Delhi, Ludhiana *etc.*
- DDG ensure tractor and farm implement for demonstration purpose for Changthang region.
- DDG released pamphlet on preparation of *Jeevamrit* under natural farming.
- DDG suggested for establish museum of technology based on Changthang region.
- Boost the progressive farmers for their excellent work under harsh climatic condition
- Farmers interaction
- DDG instruct Director ATARI to release budget for farmer's hostel on farmers' demand.

Director ATARI Ludhiana emphasized on:

- Director ATARI ensure exposure visit and encourage the farmers.
- Staff appointment ensure shortly.
- Budget of hostel will keep in next financial year.

DEE SKUAST- K emphasized on:

- Livestock potential in Changthang region
- Protected cultivation should be increased
- Pasture and fodder development is must for this region

Councilor Nyoma emphasized on

- KVK Nyoma played significant role in Development of Agriculture Sector in Changthang region.
- Raised lack of staff issues in KVK Nyoma.
- Requirement of farmer hostel in KVK Nyoma is must.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks given by ADR&E HMAARI SKUAST-K Leh

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