

Plasticulture - Extension Activity – KISAAN RAJA



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The natural extension of KISAAN RAJA activity, after showcasing higher yield through Natural Resource Management techniques (drip irrigation) was to make the technology easily available with farmer beneficiaries at Jalna, where the pilot activity was conducted. This entailed two important players who would be corroborative with Plastindia Plasticulture. Towards this objective PPC had an supporter in NABARD who were to deploy their product UPNRM - (Umbrella Programme on Natural Resources Management) for Effective Natural Resource Management designed for Sustainable development. And, through a credible mechanism the NGO Savitribai Phule Mahila Ekatma Samaj Mandal, Aurangabad SPMESM has come on board and as channel partners of NABARD for UPNRM implementation at the project district at Jalna.

This extension activity was envisaged for 900 farmers which was pruned down to 600 farmers as advised by NABARD. This was because, SPMESM had not worked for NABARD in the past and it was imperative that the first program they undertake is successful. There is always scope for extending these numbers. At the onset of Rabi 2012, the plan was to facilitate the identified farmer beneficiaries from 10 villages in 2 clusters. The plan was as follows:

FIRST PHASE UPNRM		
Taluka / Cluster	Villages	Farmers
Badanapur	6	360
Ambad	4	240
TOTAL		600

10	Donwada	50
Total	Villages	600

The villages to be covered during the first phase were as under :

FIRST PHASE VILLAGES		
Sr. No.	Village	Farmers
1	Shelgaon	100
2	Najik Pangari	60
3	Mhatrewadi	60
4	Dhopateshwar	50
5	Pagirwadi	100
6	Dahigavhan	50
7	Khamkheda	40
8	Anjandoh	40
9	Morhira	50

While formalities were underway, acute shortage in monsoons for the year 2012 was observed and an extended monsoon was expected. In the district of Jalna and in the project region, Marathwada region, extended monsoons did not happen. This led to further scrutiny of the farmer beneficiary base and Phase I of the deployment program was deferred at 8 villages. In 2 villages it was taken up for implementation as these villages showed better ground water levels. However, due to further limitations in water, installations could be delayed further at Dahigavhan. This village will see the program implemented in the next couple of months. The other 8 villages the program will be implemented before the onset of Kharif 2013. The villages where Joint Liability Groups have been formed as a pre-requisite to the program and covered for the loan through NABARD are as under:

PHASE 1 PROGRAM	
Village	Farmers
Pagirwadi	100
Dahigavhan	50
Total	150

Village	Farmer beneficiaries	Joint liability groups	Average land holdings land (acres)	Average land irrigated (acres)	Average land for drip deployment (acres)
Pagirwadi	100	20	7	5	1.8
Dahigavan	50	10	5	3	

Besides drip intervention, there will be programs that will run concurrently in allied farm & nonfarm activities like cropping patterns & cropping Intensity, adoption of improved cultivation practices. These include; interactions leading to increase in irrigated area, improvement in area under cultivation, empowerment of local people with confidence building amongst villagers, etc.

The first phase at Jalna is important as some NGOs' who had attended the all NGO meet at Aurangabad have indicated that they would like to undertake the developmental work. Such an extension activity was new to them and they will be studying the first phase implantation to replicate the same.

The inauguration of the extension activity was conducted on 3rd November 2012 at Pagirwadi village by the partner NGO SPMESM. President, Plastindia Foundation, Mr. Bipin Shah was the Chief Guest at this function. Mr Khose, District Development Manager – NABARD, Jalna District also graced the occasion. Key functionaries and dignitaries from SPMESM were also graced at the function which was attended by over 100 farmers from the village.

A modest beginning has been made to complete the pilot of KISAAN RAJA. This has been possible because of some dedicated work in the project and the initiative. This has been mainly possible because of the like mindedness of organisations and the people therein and the cause the initiative addressed. The path ahead as envisaged is now being planned. A lot more needs to be taken up as the causes are a plenty in the agricultural landscape of India.

And, as always, Plastindia Pasticulture looks forward to the support and well wishes of the industry.



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