

Reply to the Q. No.h of Annex-A, RTI sought by Gopal Ch. Saha

What is the function of Extension Reform in the Department of Agriculture?

Reply:

Background:

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms” is an ongoing scheme being implemented since 2005-06. On the basis of experience gained during the implementation of the Extension Reforms Scheme from 2005- 2009, the GOI has revised the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms” by modifying and strengthening the earlier scheme since April’2010 (ATMA 2010).

During 11th plan, Agricultural technology including the adoption/ promotion of critical inputs, improved agronomic practices were being disseminated under 17 different schemes of the DAC. In the year 2014, the cabinet committee on Economic Affairs has approved the implementation of the NMAET (National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology) during the 12th Plan period through the amalgamation of these schemes. The NMAET consist of 4 sub Mission:

- (i) Sub Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE)
- (ii) Sub-Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)
- (iii) Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)
- (iv) Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPP)

Sub Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE):

The objective of this Sub-Mission is to appropriately strengthen, expand and upscale existing Extension & Information Technology (IT) Schemes. The ongoing Extension Schemes include the **Central Sector** and **Centrally Sponsored Schemes** being implemented by the Extension Division/Directorate of Extension. The 11th Plan Schemes included the following:-

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms
2. National e-Governance Plan – Agriculture

The key reforms being promoted under the Centrally sponsored scheme “**Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA Scheme)**” are:

- Providing innovative, restructured and autonomous institutions at the state/district/ block level.
- Encouraging multi-agency extension strategies involving Public/ Private Extension Service Providers.

- Ensuring an integrated, broad-based extension delivery mechanism consistent with farming system approach.
- Adopting group approach to extension in line with the identified needs and requirements of the farmers in the form of CIGs & FIGs;
- Facilitating convergence of programmes in planning, execution and implementation.
- Addressing gender concerns by mobilizing farm women into groups and providing training to them.
- Moving towards sustainability of extension services through beneficiary contribution.

The above key reforms are being implemented through the Institutional mechanism as detailed below:

State Level:

(i) The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) set up under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is the apex body to approve State Extension Work Plan (SEWP) which will form a part of the State Agriculture Plan (SAP).

(ii) The SLSC will be supported by the Inter Departmental Working Group (IDWG). IDWG is responsible for day-to-day coordination and management of the Scheme activities within the State.

(iii) The State Nodal Cell (SNC) consisting of the **State Nodal Officer** (Director of Agriculture) and the State Coordinator (along with supporting staff) will ensure timely receipt of District Agriculture Action Plans (DAAPs), formulation of State Extension Work Plan (SEWP) duly incorporating Farmers' feedback obtained through State Farmer Advisory Committee and its approval by the SLSC. The SNC will then convey the approval and monitor implementation of these work plans by SAMETIs and ATMAs. The SAMETIs will draw-up and execute an Annual Training Calendar for capacity building of the Extension functionaries in the State. While doing so, the SAMETI will check duplication and overlapping of training content, training schedule as well as trainees.

District Level:

ATMA is an autonomous institution set up at district level to ensure delivery of extension services to farmers. ATMA Governing Board is the apex body of ATMA which provides overall policy direction. ATMA GB will be assisted by the District ATMA Cell comprising PD ATMA, Dy. PDs and Staff in the discharge of its functions. **ATMA Management Committee** is the executive body looking after implementation of the scheme. District Farmers Advisory Committee is a body to provide farmer's feedback for district level planning and implementation. With dedicated staff provided for the ATMA, it will continue to be the district level nodal agency responsible for overall management of agriculture extension system within the district, including preparation of **Strategic Research and Extension Plan (SREP)**.

Block Level:

At the Block level, two bodies viz. **Block Technology Team (BTT)** (a team comprising officers of agriculture and all line departments within the block) and **Block Farmers Advisory Committee (BFAC)** (a group exclusively consisting of farmers of the block) shall continue to function jointly (with the latter providing farmers' feedback and input). BFACs shall represent Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) / FOs existing within the block on rotation basis to advise the BTT.

Village Level:

(i) **The Farmer Friend (FF) will serve as a vital link between extension system and farmers at village level (one for every two villages).** The FF will be available in the village to advise on agriculture and allied activities. The FF will mobilize farmers' groups and facilitate dissemination of information to such groups, individual farmers and farm women directly through one to one interaction individually or in groups and also by accessing information / services on behalf of farmers as per need through Common Service Centres (CSC) / Kisan Call Centres (KCC).

(ii) Wherever available under their respective Schemes, Agri-entrepreneurs will supplement the efforts of extension functionaries by making quality inputs available to the farmers and by providing them critical technical advice.

(iii) Farm Schools will serve as a mechanism for farmer-farmer extension at 3 to 5 focal points in every Block.

Q.h. Who is the officer involved in Extension reforms in Department of Agriculture-kindly provide the said information with photocopy and supporting document?

Reply:

Under the Extension reforms several organizational structure/ committee at various levels are set up and have different role and functions.

State Level:

- Inter Departmental Working Group (IDWG)- Secretary, Agriculture is the Chairman and Secretaries of concerned line Departments are members.
- State Nodal Cell (SNC)-SNC is consisting of State Nodal Officer, State Coordinator and State Gender coordinator. Director of Agriculture is the State Nodal officer (SNO) of State Nodal Cell.
- Tripura State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (T-SAMETI), a registered society mandated with capacity building of the Extension functionaries in the State is established at Lembucherra headed by Director T-SAMETI. T-SAMETI is guided by Executive Council of T-SAMETI.
- State Farmers Advisory Committee (SFAC)- yet to constitute.

District Level:

- Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)- is an autonomous institution mandated with ensuring delivery of extension services to farmers. The Deputy Director of Agriculture is the Project Director (PD) of concerned ATMA.
- ATMA Governing Board (GB)- Apex body of ATMA which provide overall policy direction. The District Magistrate & Collector (DM) is the chairman. Farmer's representative and district level line department officers are the members of GB.
- ATMA Management Committee (AMC)-Executive body of concerned ATMA looking after the implementation of the Scheme. Project Director (PD) of concerned ATMA is the Chairman and Farmers representative and district level line department officers are the members of AMC.

Block Level:

- Block Technology Team (BTT)- Provide necessary extension support within the Block . The Supdt. of Agriculture is the BTT Convener of concerned block and Block level officers of line Departments are the members of the BTT.
- Block Farmers' Advisory Committee (BFAC)- Progressive farmers representatives of the block area constitute BFAC.