

plants.

- Development of KVK campus as model watershed
- Visualization of NPM practices as a training tool (Mandale)

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra had completed 11 Micro Watersheds in three mandals viz., Zaheerabad, Jharasangham and Nyalkal with the financial support from DWMA, Medak District. Strict and meticulous documentation of the entire experience was the hallmark of the watershed development programme. Incidentally, the programmes served as a training ground for the farmers who came for short-term training programmes.

On-Farm Testing

Technology assessment and refinement has been organized in technologies like introduction of Giriraja birds, Smokeless chullahs, Janata filter, Solar cooker, Chaff cutter, Goats and suitability of new seed varieties such as Redgram, Greengram and Groundnut. It is engaged in developing a low-cost, nutritive food for the weaning children. KVK graciously accepts farmers decisions whenever they reject any of these technologies and organises debates around them.

Front Line Demonstrations

Front Line Demonstrations (FLD) are organized on the promising varieties of the major crops of the district viz. sorghum, sesame, niger, groundnut, safflower, redgram, greengram and chickpea etc. The demonstrations highlight the low-cost, eco-friendly technologies that ensure sustainable agriculture.

DDS KVK periodically organizes training programmes on themes such as:

- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Preparation of organic inputs
- Awareness programmes on climate change
- Ecological Pest Management practices
- Capacity sharing programmes with farmers
- Home based eco income generating activities
- Enhancement and awareness on health and nutrition of traditional food system

DDS-KVK also conducts participatory research on local crops, food and nutrition, ethno-veterinary practices, mango germplasm pool up and in-situ conservation aspects.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

- Mana Pantalu Mana Vantalu [Our Crops, Our Cuisine]
- Our Food Culture
- Compost Methods
- Vermicompost
- Uncultivated Greens major source of food for poor in Zaheerabad region of Deccan India
- Edulapally Watershed a case study
- Manual on Dryland Horticulture
- Ethno Veterinary Practices of Medak District
- Traditional Food Systems of Dalits in Zaheerabad Region in Medak District of Andhra Pradesh, India [in collaboration with FAO]

LEAFLETS:

- Devuni Aavu [God' Cow]
- Osmanabadi Goat
- Mana Aaharam Oka Aalochana [Our Food A Perspective]
- Iodine in Diet
- Bhoosara pariksha [Soil Fertility Testing]

ELECTRONIC MEDIA:

- Bio-Fertilizers
- NPM Practices
- Watershed development programme a case study
- Uncultivated Foods

KVK also publishes a half yearly magazine "Krishi" for reaching out to the farming community in the State.

LINKAGES

KVK has effective linkages with various government departments viz., Agriculture, Animal Husbandary, DWMA, FTC, Women and Child Welfare, Manjira Gramina Bank (District level), NABARD. It also frequently interacts with international and national agricultural research organizations such as ICRISAT, CRIDA, ANGRAU, RARS, and NIN for technical guidance. DDS KVK is probably the only KVK in India which has close links with a number of



DDS-KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA

Didigi village, Po Box 214, Zahirabad-502220, Medak DT
Tele no.+91-8451 282809, telefax : +91-8451 282809
E-mail : ddskvk@gmail.com



DDS - KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA

INTRODUCTION

DDS – KVK strongly recognises that sustainability is the key to agriculture in India, a vast agrarian country which is seriously engaged in ensuring food and nutrition security for its billion and odd population. Therefore in all its programmes the DDS – KVK keeps sustainable ecological farming as its sharp focus. Functioning since 1994 in the Zaheerabad region of the Medak District in Andhra Pradesh, the DDS – KVK is managed by Deccan Development Society [DDS], known internationally for its dynamic initiatives in community food and nutritional sovereignty, ecological agriculture, community seed and grain banks. DDS has been functioning in the Zaheerabad region since 1984 with over 5000 women from small and marginal farming families spread over 70+ villages. DDS also works at the state, national and South Asia level as the founder-convenor of half a dozen networks dealing with the issues of food, ecology and culture.



In total DDS work touches the agriculture of over two million farmers in South Asia. DDS takes a unique approach to agriculture that is ecological and oriented towards small and marginal farmer women and dalits with a heavy emphasis on least resource use. It is to strengthen this approach that the DDS negotiated with ICAR in 1994 for a KVK and got one sanctioned. Since then it has been

managing this KVK in a distinct fashion, close to the people, learning from farmers and women, articulating farmers' issues in a scientific language. The KVK is located close to Didigi village, 6 Km. away from Zaheerabad town and on a bypass road to Bidar town.

THE MANDATE OF KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA

- Conducting “on farm testing” for identifying agricultural technologies for location specific sustainable land use systems.
- Organize training to update the extension personnel with the advances in agricultural technology on regular basis.
- Organize vocational training courses in agriculture and allied vocations for the farmers with emphasis on “learning by doing”
- Organize front line demonstrations to generate production data and feed back information.

The vision of DDS-KVK has been developed in consonance with the organizational ethos and philosophy of the host institution. This vision blends the ideals of DDS with the mandates of ICAR to create a farmer-centered participatory approach

GREEN IDEOLOGY

The DDS-KVK constantly strives to explore the alternatives to the green revolution models by way of collaborating with the institutions who think along similar lines,



process to enable mutual transfer of skills to recognise, acknowledge and reward the role of women both on and off farm and as home makers..

TRADITIONAL LOCAL TECHNOLOGY (LOCAL)

The DDS-KVK feels privileged to be a part of the new exploration of traditions, and has given foremost priority to the collection, documentation, adaption, demonstration and propagation of the vibrant traditional technologies in its research, demonstration and trainings.

ADDRESSING THE POOR AND DISPRIVILEGED

The DDS-KVK strongly believes that to be able to make a dent in rural well being, it should address all its programmes to the resource poor, marginalised and socially disadvantaged groups.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The DDS-KVK has a major role to play in transferring the reliable and adaptable technology to increase the productivity of the soils as well as the crops with utmost care to the issue of soil health and fertility. It is also working to protect and safeguard the local food security by improving the productivity of the fallow lands and by encouraging the cultivation of local eco system adopted major and minor millets along with pulses and oilseeds.

INCOME GENERATION

Various farm-based and non-farm based vocations would be a supplementary/substantial source of income. The skills and information about these are transferred to the farm women and rural youth so that they can take up such activities and improves their income level.

RURAL YOUTH

Appropriate counseling, motivation, training and encouragement are provided to the rural youth to help them grow up as confident and productive citizens of their communities.

PRODUCTION

The DDS-KVK aims to evaluate methods that optimize the productive value of the available resources by attempting to combine the restoration of the time-tested local agricultural practices and the native ecological knowledge of the farmers

PROFILE STRUCTURE

The organizational structure of DDS-KVK, as sanctioned by the Council, consists of a Programme Coordinator; a multidisciplinary team of young

discovering and disseminating the treasure of indigenous agricultural knowledge of this region.

GENDER

The main groups that the DDS KVK works are farm women. All the programmes that the KVK conducts with these women adopt a participatory process to enable mutual transfer of skills to recognise, acknowledge and reward the role of women both on and off farm and as home makers..



scientists designated as Subject Matter Specialists who represent the disciplines of Agronomy, Horticulture, Home Science, Plant Protection and Agricultural Extension; three Programme Assistants; and a six-member secretarial and auxiliary staff. Thus KVK has a team of 16 persons in all.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The building of Krishi Vigyan Kendra of DDS was constructed on a 15-acre plot of farm land near Didigi village, located 6 km. away from Zaheerabad town. The campus has been organized on the design principles of permaculture. Locally available materials such as laterite stone blocks have been used to build the main block which contains offices for administration, hostels for the trainees, class rooms and a hall which serves multiple functions as a dining room as well as a place for larger gatherings.

Soil testing lab has been established in the KVK for the benefit of the farming community. The lab analyses the quantum of PH, Ec, organic carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous and potash in the soil sample and recommendations are provided to the farmers for farming organically for the promotion of sustainable agriculture.

DEMONSTRATION UNITS

The DDS-KVK has established the demonstration units for different purposes.

1. Vermiculture
2. NADEP and aerobic composting
3. Permaculture
4. Dairy unit
5. Goat unit
6. Kitchen garden
7. Azolla unit
8. Nursery Raising

KVK-FARM

The Institute owns a 35 acre farm at Raikode in addition to the 15 acres where the KVK office is located. The farm is situated at a distance of 30 kms. from the Institute. The topographical features of the farm represent a typical sloppy watershed land found commonly in this region. An area of 20 acres is earmarked for crop productions while the remaining 15 acres for dryland horticulture. The soil type ranges from gravelly and rocky soils to medium black soils with rocky sub soil. The entire horticultural plantation is taken up on the slopes.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Restoration of traditional seed varieties of pulses, oilseeds and millets
- Supporting the strength of dry land agriculture.
- Conservation and cultivation of mango germplasm pool
- Development of KVK campus as Bio-reserve including rare medicinal