

Enterprises and Technologies for Rural Development

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PREFACE

Many problems that confront mankind today—war, poverty, hunger, pollution, race-reactions, natural calamities, are so inter-related that, it is really difficult to single out one as being more important and significant than others. However, some people opine that hunger is greatest of all problems.

To eradicate poverty and reduce hunger throughout the world, enormous initiatives and various substantive measures have been taken over the years by all national governments and international donors but till today that problem exists though with a lesser magnitude. Definitely, the agriculture productivity of India and other parts of the world has been tremendously increased over the last 5 decades or so, but one thing is to be believed today that "the world has a problem of hunger, but not the problem of food". In fact it is proved in many ways and many times that increase in food does not mean decrease in hunger. Therefore, to eradicate poverty and hunger among the millions of the people, living in rural areas, and solely depending on agriculture for their survival, the people should be educated, trained to live with built-in capacity and confidence to earn more through their concerned occupations, drawing the benefits of fascinating scientific and technological development already taken place in the global arena for the purpose.

After Independence Government of India started many programmes for the development of agriculture as well as for strengthening socio-economic conditions of the neglected sections of the rural community. One important aspect of the agricultural development during this period has been that it has not been gradual and even. It has also been very erratic in different parts of the country and among different class of farmers. A detailed analysis of the new technology on growth has shown that, apart from the fact that the overall rate of growth has been modest, it has not been uniform overtime, among different crops, or in different regions. It is also fact that inter-regional disparities can never be eliminated. In the sense of that the natural endowments of different areas can never be made equal. Existing disparities could be reduced, however, if an area specific technology could be evolved.

The failure of the percolation theory leads us to the stage where transfer of appropriate technology for the resource poor farmers becomes extremely important. Farm research over the years has yielded many new technologies but the same are not reaching to the majority of the farmers in a rapid pace. Most of the resource poor farmers are still remaining in the outside orbit of the new technology.

In the rapid changing World perspectives in social, economic, political and agricultural spheres, agricultural extension has taken a central place in formulating and disseminating knowledge, and in training farmers to be competent decision makers. Extension, today, also plays a significant role in most agricultural development projects. Hence, there is an urgent need to study, analyse and explore the possibilities of providing new, meaningful and appropriate extension management systems to help accomplishing extension objectives and meeting farmers' expectations. The present compilation is a bold step towards that direction.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are the only district-level institutions with a proven potentiality to build farmers' capacity on their multi-dimensional requirements in a scientific and systematic approach. Hence, there is a demanding need for these huge masses of rural people, including farmers and peasants to be effectively and meaningfully trained to make farming and its allied occupations productive and remunerative, so as to enable them to live better for all purposes. The present volume is expected to be of much help to the scholars, trainers and scientists in the fields of agricultural extension and allied sectors in general and agricultural development administrators, policy planners and technology transfer personnel in particular throughout the globe.

Contents of this book would guide planners, policy makers and implementing agencies and organisations to have a deeper understanding of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras and to design strategies to work with the KVKs towards creating a vital, productive and efficient force of farming community.

Editors
YVR Reddy
LL Somani
YS Ramakrishana

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Editors

Y.V.R. Reddy

L.L. Somani

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About the Book

Even after more than fifty years of development planning, Indian economy continues to be agriculture-based. The dependence of people on agriculture did not decline in a scale comparable to the reduction in the contribution of agriculture to the national gross domestic product. Despite the significant progress in the overall development of the economy, the rural – urban disparities continue to be glaring. Still, a very large majority of rural population dependent on agriculture and agricultural development is synonymous to rural development.

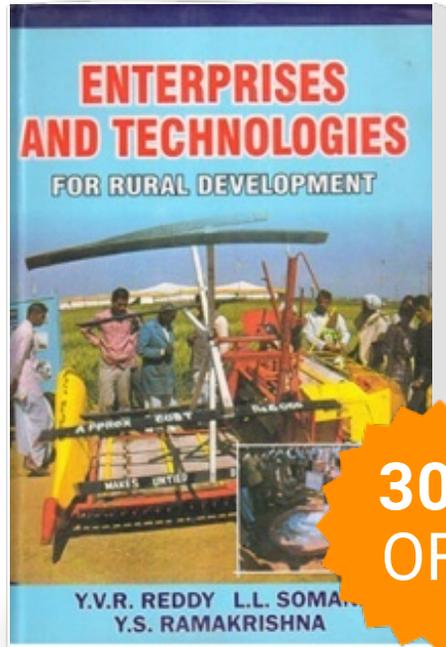
Establishing Krishi Vigyana Kendras, KVK (Farm Science Centres) is one of the key institutional innovations that sought to facilitate agricultural and rural development. Making the knowledge and other enabling resources in a relevant and readily useable form available to the rural population is the key mandate of KVK. Since the operational domain of KVK is the district where it is located, it is in a better position to appreciate the local conditions. There are 580 KVKs in India to look after the rural development in their respective jurisdiction of the districts of each KVK.

The KVK at CRIDA has the responsibility of contributing to the agricultural and rural development in Rangareddy district of Andhra Pradesh, and is carrying out the works in collaboration with other research organizations in Hyderabad and all line departments of State Government. This publication is an endeavour to put together information on the relevant technologies that are helpful to farm and household development.

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