Krishi Vigyan Kendra (K.V.K.) is a noble concept developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) which was rest upon a solid base of transfer of technology from laboratory to farmer's field with respect to Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Flouriculture, Bee keeping, Mushroom Cultivation, Broiler Farming and allied subjects. As per the recommendations of Mohan Singh Mehta Committee during 1974, K.V.K.s were established in different states. Gradually working guidelines are prepared to make the K.V.K. as the light house for the rural people.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research emphasized on the research on agriculture and allied subject during 1960's to generate new technology for increasing crop production in different agroclimatic zones of the country. A lot of technologies were generated through constant effort of the scientists to boost up the production. But the technologies so generated in the research field were not transferred through extension agencies of different state Government. It is observed that a lot of technologies could not reach the farmer due to high cost of adoption, lack of the interest of the extension agencies. Hence the transfer of the technology was not complete and effective.

Later on K.V.K.s were established for easy and active participation of farmers through Front Line Demonstration and Farm Testing.

As per the mandate of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, K.V.K. will operate under the administrative control of State Agricultural University (SAU) or Central Institute situated in a particular area. Different scientists from different disciplines as per the specific requirement of that particular area are posted in the Krishi Vigyan Kendra as Training Associate. Generally there are six categories of scientists posted in the K.V.K. i.e. (i) Training Associate (Crop Production) to look after the experiment on field crops as well as provide training and advice on different field crops. (ii) Training Association (Horticulture) looks after the training and demonstration on horticultural crops such as vegetables, fruits and flowers. (iii) Training Associate (Plant Protection) provides training and demonstration on control of different pests and diseases in different crops. He also imparts training and advice on different types of pesticides and insecticides, their methods and time of application. (iv) Training Association (Animal Science) looks after over all growth and management of animal resource of that particular area. He also imparts training and advice on broiler farming, dog rearing as well
as rabbit rearing etc. (v) Training Associate (Agricultural Engineering) looks after the use of different agricultural implements in the field for different agricultural operations through training, demonstrations and on farm testing. (vi) Training Associate (Home Science) involved in the improvement of skill and attitude of the farmers and farm women as well as provides advices and training on kitchen gardening preparation of nutritional food and different handicrafts. She also imparts training regarding the preservation and storage of fruits and vegetables for rural youths of the adopted village.

Training Organiser, head of the K.V.K. family coordinates the work of all scientists for smooth functioning of the K.V.K. as well as for the benefit of the rural people of that particular area. He is also liaising with other line departments for coordination and effective implementation of different programs of the K.V.K. in the adopted village. Every K.V.K. has adopted 4 to 6 economically, culturally and technologically backward villages situated within 10-20 Kms radius of the K.V.K. These villages are not too small or too large. Before adoption a detailed survey of the village was conducted to study the socio-economic and cultural status of that village. Now-a-days Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tool was used to conduct the survey in which the village people are actively participated in the process. The village map was drawn by the help of different colour by the villagers themselves and different prominent structures of the village such as school, temple, river, club etc. were depicted in that map. These structures will help the scientists to conduct the survey easily and smoothly. Basing upon the survey the field crop maps, animal resource map and other ancillary maps were prepared for future use. After the survey work detailed plan of work was chalked out and depending upon the requirement different activities were undertaken in different areas by K.V.K. scientists.

The objectives of all the activities undertaken by K.V.K. are:

(a) To demonstrate the new improved technology to the farmers as well as to the extension agencies directly in the farmers field with their active participation.
(b) To identify the important problems of that area as per the need of the farmers and prioritization of the identified problems as per their importance.
(c) To collect feedback from the farmers and extension agencies and to communicate these massage to research scientists for modification of technology.
(d) To impart training on different topics to different group of the villagers.
(e) To provide new and important information to the extension agencies and NGOs for wider circulation in that locality to improve their economic condition.
(f) To prepare different extension models and verify these models in the farmers field with their participation to create confidence among them.

To achieve the above mentioned objectives K.V.K. undertake following types of activities in the adopted villages:

(1) Farm Advisory Service  (2) Training programme for different categories of people.
(3) Training programme for the extension functionaries. (4) Front Line Demonstration (FLD) (5) On Farm Testing (OFT).
Farm Advisory Services:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra otherwise known as Farm Science Center. It provides solution to any problems related to agriculture and allied subjects as and when faced by farmers of that particular locality. Interested farmers /persons can get proper advices regarding the establishment of new entrepreneurship on non traditional sector. The main function of advisory service center is to provide continuous and constructive advice along with sound theory and practical knowledge to the contact villagers regarding agriculture and its allied subjects for their cultural and economical improvement. The objectives of the Farm Advisory Center are as follows:

(a) To study the socio economic status of the villagers.

(b) To keep close relationship between K.V.K. and villagers.

(c) To prepare individual farm model for uplift of rural people.

(d) To provide training and advice to the rural people so as to enable them to take part in the agricultural planning of the village, blocks as well as district.

(e) Formation of farm club farm center or village committee for easy transfer of new information related to agriculture to the villagers in short time.

Training programme for different categories of people:

Training is one of the most important activities of Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Training is planned and systematic effort to increase the knowledge, improves the skill and change the attitude of a person towards a particular subject. Training need assessment is the first and foremost factor to be considered before conducting any training programme. Depending upon the need and categories of trainees, K.V.K. imparts mainly following three types of training:

(a) Training to the practising farmers and farm women:

Training on different subjects were conducted by the scientists of the K.V.K. as per the need of the local farmers of a particular area as well as the types of trainees and different audio visual aids are used to increase the efficiency of the training. As the trainees are practising farmers and farmwomen, more emphasis was given on the practical than theory to improve their skill to change their attitude and increase their knowledge for that particular topic.

(b) Training to the Rural Youth:

This type of training was imparted to the rural youth (Both male and female) mostly those are left their education in midway i.e. school dropouts. The main objective of this training is to provide sufficient knowledge and skill regarding a new entrepreneurship so that they can start their own business singly or collectively and generate some income for their livelihood. The main thrust areas of this type of training are mushroom cultivation, bee keeping, preservation of fruits and vegetables, broiler farming, goat rearing, tailoring, wool knitting, hand crafts and exotic vegetable cultivation etc. for more profit. In this training more emphasis was given on the practical aspects and trainees were do the practical themselves to get more confidence. The scientists of the K.V.K. provide knowledge regarding the availability of the raw materials as well as the marketing of different products
in that particular locality for the interested participants.

(c) Training programme for the extension functionaries:

In this group mostly government employees of agriculture along with extension functionaries of line department and members of different NGOs operated in that locality are trained in different aspects. The main objective of this type of training is to refresh the memory and upgrade the knowledge and skill of the extension functionaries by providing recent and new information regarding new techniques as well as new approach of solving different problems faced by farmers of that locality. As the extension functionaries of different departments act like a bridge between the scientists and villagers, the refinement of the knowledge is highly essential and quite helpful for effective and efficient transfer of the technology.

**Front Line demonstration:**

Front Line Demonstration (FLD) is the field demonstration conducted under the close supervision of the scientists because the technologies are demonstrated for the first time by the scientist themselves before being fed into the main extension system of the state department of Agriculture in that particular area. In this method newly released crop production and protection technologies and its management practices are adopted in a block of two to four hectares in the farmers field. Only critical inputs and training for this demonstration are provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendra. In FLD both farmers and extension functionaries are target audience. From the FLD, it is possible to generate some data related to factors contributing to higher yield and also constraints of production under various farming situations. Front Line Demonstration is conducted in a particular area after thorough discussion and consultation with the farmers of that locality. Depending upon the requirement of that area highly efficient new proven technology with higher potentialities is selected for this programme. Generally a field day is observed in the demonstration field when the crop is at maturity stage and interaction between the scientists, farmers and extension functionaries takes place in the field. The crop is harvested in the presence of the interested group of farmers so that they can visualize the importance of new technology easily and effectively.

**On Farm Testing (OFT):**

Testing of any improved technology along with the farmers practice in the farmers field with active participation of both the scientists and farmers is known as OFT. In this method two to three improved varieties or two to three improved technologies are tested in the same field so as to compare the results of these treatments. As per the suggestions of the farmers as well as local soil and climatic conditions the improved technology may slightly be modified by the scientists of K.V.K. to get maximum return.

All these activities of the K.V.K. are undertaken as per the suggestion and approval of the Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee consists of representative from the Vice-chancellor of State Agricultural University or Director of the Institute, representative from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, representative of the District Collector, representatives from Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandary, Sericulture, progressive male and female farmers, male and female
social workers of that area and Training Organizer of the concern K.V.K. The Scientific Advisory Committee held once in a year to review the work of K.V.K. and provide suggestions for future plan of work. The future technical programme of the K.V.K. is prepared as per the suggestion of the farmers of that particular area.

Besides these activities each K.V.K. has got different demonstration units such as Mushroom unit, Biofertiliser unit, Vermicompost unit, Broiler farming unit, Bee keeping unit, Fruit preservation unit etc. for the lagers. When a person will visit K.V.K., he will be able to see all the enterprise in the demonstration unit and he can interact with the scientists regarding the establishment of his own enterprise. These units will help the villager to increase his confidence on a particular enterprise.

From these discussion it can be concluded that the scientists of K.V.K. provide required knowledge, impart training to improve the skill and attitude of the people towards a particular subject, provide proper guidance to solve any problem faced by the people related to agriculture and allied topics. Krishi Vigyan Kendra provides inspiration, constructive and constant advice to the people of that area to start new entrepreneurship for their livelihood and show them proper way when need actual help as the light house help the sailor in the sea. So we can rightly say that Krishi Vigyan Kendra is the light house for the rural people.

Dr. Ashish Kumar Dash and Dr. Monoranjan Mishra are working in the K.V.K., G.Udayagiri in the district of Kandhamal.

---

*Dr. Damodar Rout, Minister, Culture and Panchayati Raj releasing a poster on PARAB-2004 at 3rd floor Conference Hall of Secretariat on 5.10.04 in the presence of Shri Balabhadra Majhi, Minister, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development (Scheduled Tribes Development).*