

Technological backstopping of farmers producers organization through KVK, Garikapadu

Dr. I. Venkata Reddy, Dr. M. Ravi Kishore², Dr. P. N. Siva Prasad³, Dr. R. Prabhavathi⁴, Dr. N. Rajasekhar⁵, Dr. K. Lakshmi Kala⁶ and T. Jeswanth Reddy⁷

Dr.K.I.Rao Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Garikapadu, NTR District, Andhra Pradesh, India

[DOI:10.5281/trendsinaagriculture.17465908](https://doi.org/10.5281/trendsinaagriculture.17465908)

Abstract

This paper outlines the crucial role of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Garikapadu, in providing technical backstopping to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in NTR District of Andhra Pradesh. KVKs, as frontline agricultural extension centers, are vital in strengthening farmer collectives, self-help groups and other farmer groups. This paper details the specific strategies and activities implemented by KVK Garikapadu, focusing on their multi-pronged approach encompassing technical guidance, hands-on training, and facilitating market linkages. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to empower FPOs, enhancing their capacity to improve agricultural productivity, achieve better market access, and secure a higher income for their member farmers. The article concludes that this backstopping model is essential for fostering sustainable rural development and achieving agricultural prosperity.

Key words: - Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Technical Backstopping, Farmer Collectives, Market Linkages, Agricultural Productivity,

Introduction

The Indian agricultural sector is characterized by a high number of small and marginal farmers, which often leads to fragmented production, limited access to technology, and weak bargaining power in the market. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) have emerged as a significant solution to these challenges by collectivizing farmers and enabling them to leverage economies of scale. However, the success of an FPO is highly dependent on its ability to access and utilize modern agricultural technology and management practices. This is where Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) play a pivotal role empowering and strengthening of FPOs. Established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), KVKs are mandated to assess and demonstrate location-specific technologies, provide capacity development, and act as a knowledge and resource center for the agricultural community. KVK Garikapadu, located in the NTR district of Andhra Pradesh, has been actively engaged in providing a comprehensive technical backstopping

framework to FPOs in its operational area of NTR District. The following sections detail the specific activities undertaken and their impact.

Different activities under taken for Backstopping Farmers Producers Organizations by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Garikapadu

The KVK's support for FPOs is based on a holistic framework that addresses various aspects of agricultural production and post-harvest management. The core activities can be categorized into technical guidance, training, and output-oriented support.

Technical Guidance

KVK Garikapadu provides personalized and in-depth technical guidance to FPOs through field visits, expert consultations, and group discussions. This guidance focuses on several critical areas:

1. **Supply of quality seed:** The KVK assists FPOs in identifying and sourcing high-quality, high-yielding seeds that are well-suited to the local agro-climatic conditions.
2. **Entrepreneurship guidance:** FPO members are guided on developing business plans, exploring value-added products, and identifying potential revenue streams beyond traditional farming.
3. **Marketing linkages:** The KVK acts as a facilitator, connecting FPOs with buyers, processing units, and other market players to ensure better prices for their produce.
4. **Field visits:** Scientists and subject matter specialists from the KVK regularly visit FPO members' fields to diagnose problems, provide on-the-spot solutions, and demonstrate best practices.



Providing entrepreneurship guidance



Marketing linkages



Field visits



Supply of quality seed

Training

Recognizing the need for continuous skill development, the KVK organizes various training like, Farmer trainings, Rural youth, Vocational and extension personnel training programs to enhance the capacity of FPO members. These programs are designed to be practical and hands-on, covering a range of topics:

1. **Leadership and skill development:** Trainings are provided to FPO leaders and board members on governance, financial management, and effective decision-making.
2. **Exposure visits:** The KVK arranges visits to successful farms, research stations, and agribusinesses, allowing FPO members to witness new technologies and models in action and learn from other's experiences.
3. **Skill training programs:** These programs focus on specific technical skills, such as modern irrigation techniques, crop management, and the use of agricultural machinery.
4. **Training on IPM practices:** A key focus is on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), where farmers learn eco-friendly and sustainable methods to control pests and diseases, reducing reliance on chemical pesticides.



Exposure visits

**Skill training programmes****Training programmes on IPM practice**

Output and Impact

The ultimate measure of the KVK's backstopping is the tangible **output** and positive impact on the FPOs and their members. The combined efforts of guidance and training lead to:

1. **Improved productivity:** By adopting modern techniques and quality inputs, FPO members experience an increase in crop yields.
2. **Enhanced income:** better yields, reduced costs through collectivization, and improved market linkages lead to higher profits for farmers.
3. **Empowered farmers:** Through a range of activities, farmers are empowered with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed decisions and take control of their agricultural enterprises. This includes access to information, resources, and a supportive community.

Strategy to empower the FPOs through KVKs

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (K.V.Ks) empower Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by acting as a single-window service provider for technology, knowledge, and market linkages. They serve as a crucial bridge, connecting farmers to the latest agricultural research and government schemes.

Core Strategies for Empowerment

1. **Technology Backstopping:** KVKs provide FPOs with location-specific agricultural technologies, including high-yielding seed varieties, modern machinery, and improved farming practices. They conduct on-farm trials (OFTs) and frontline demonstrations (FLDs) to showcase the effectiveness of these technologies, helping FPO members make informed decisions.
2. **Capacity Building:** KVKs serve as a knowledge hub, offering a range of training and skill development programs. They train FPO leaders and members in business

management, financial literacy, value addition, and branding. This turns a group of farmers into a professional, self-sustaining business entity.

3. **Institutional Linkages:** KVKs facilitate FPOs' access to government schemes, credit from financial institutions, and support from other organizations like NABARD, NAARM, MANAGE, ANGRAU Poshan Incubator, SFAC and other agencies. They help FPOs navigate the formal process of registration and governance, ensuring they operate legally and transparently.
4. **Market Facilitation:** By providing market intelligence and connecting FPOs directly with buyers and processors, KVKs help FPOs achieve better prices for their produce. They also support post-harvest management, including grading, sorting, and packaging, which adds value and reduces post-harvest losses.

Conclusion

The KVK Garikapadu's model of technical backstopping for FPOs is a successful example of how frontline extension centers can be a driving force for agricultural transformation. By providing a comprehensive support system that includes technical guidance, practical training, and market facilitation, the KVK empowers FPOs to overcome the traditional challenges of small-scale farming. This collaborative approach not only boosts the economic viability of individual farmers but also contributes significantly to the broader goals of sustainable agricultural development and rural prosperity. The continued focus on building the capacity of FPOs is crucial for ensuring a vibrant and resilient future for the agricultural community

