

NEFORD-Cuts International Programme

Training on ‘Importance of water-management in agricultural production in the context of changing climate’ held on 5th September 2014

Some highlights

- A training program on the topic ‘Importance of water-management in agricultural production in the context of changing climate’ was organized under NEFORD-CUTS International collaborative program on the 5th September, 2014 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ghazipur.
- The twin objectives of this training programme included (a) why water has become so important today and (b) what technological options existed and/or needed to be developed to improve water productivity. The water becoming more and more scarce and the requirements growing day by day, the judicious and efficient use of water has become absolute necessity.
- The trainers included the water and crop management experts from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, ND University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ghazipur and NEFORD and the lectures were given on different topics which included : new water efficient management technologies such as direct seeding of rice, SRI, drip and springler methods, zero-till sowing of wheat and traffic control, water conservation and its re-use, stress resilient crop varieties, role of laser leveler and weed management in water-saving, the existing water policy and the government schemes to promote water saving management and conservation practices.
- Each lecture followed a discussion in which the farmers raised their queries and doubts which were then explained and clarified by the scientists.

- In total, 135 farmers, of which about 35 were women, participated and benefited from this training.
- The papers presented in the training programme were collected, compiled and published (1,000 copies) in advance in form of a bulletin- Nand Prasar Jyoti. A copy of the bulletin was given to each of the participants and the plan is to distribute the remaining copies to the farmers of other districts, so that more and more become aware of the technological options which help producing more crop per drop of water.
- The training programme was well covered by print electronic media, so as to reach more and more people in the shortest possible time.

Farmer's perception of water management

- Prior to the start of the training programme, a questionnaire was distributed to each farmer and their opinion sought on different aspects of water use in agriculture (a copy of the questionnaire attached).
- In total, 100 farmers participated in this exercise and all of them, except two, agreed that the water management were quite important in agriculture reproduction.
- As regards sources of irrigation, tube well occupied the first position (77%), followed by canal and other sources.
- More than 73% farmers reported that the availability of electricity was less than 8 hours a day, indicating power supply as a serious problem.
- More than 90% farmers believed that irrigation is more efficient if the fields are leveled and 'bed irrigation' method is used for irrigating the field.
- Farmers used different kinds of instruments for field leveling such as ladder (45%), rotavator (27%) and laser leveler (29%). Use of laser leveler on such a scale was a surprised finding.

- On an average, farmers gave 5.85 irrigations to paddy crop and 3.6 irrigations to wheat, indicating stress situation during the kharif season which was confirmed by the fact that 70% farmers reported drought as a major problem in their villages. About 13% farmers also reported flooding, besides sodicity and other problems.
- Almost 100% of the respondents were of the opinion that the rainfall has become less: about 87% farmers also reported drop in the level of ground water.
- While 86% of the participating farmers said that they do make use of the information given in such trainings, about 13% made less use of them. About 70% agreed to pay fees for such trainings, while the remaining said 'no'.
- None of the farmers knew about the requirement of water for producing 1kg of wheat or rice.