



**Proceedings of Workshop On**  
**“Sustainable Agriculture and Value Chain”**



**Venue: Hotel Patliputra Ashoka, Patna, Bihar**  
**Date: 13/04/2016**

## 1. Background

Bihar is the state blessed with abundant natural resources such as fertile land, water and availability of sun light round the year but agriculture has not flourished as per availability of these natural resources. However with government initiatives productivity has increased in last decade, but the cost of cultivation has also gone up with increase in price of input. It has led to marginal or no income to the farmers in most of the staple crops. This indicates lack of awareness and training, poor access to quality input and credit, improper policy, poor planning and implementation of extension services, development of marketing infrastructure and network. The farmers are forced to buy spurious quality of inputs as there is lack of training programs and hence awareness. The farmers are depending on the local or district level input supplier and the farmers hardly get proper insecticide, fungicide and medicine for the pest and disease. The cost of production goes up. Hence there is a great need to plan and execute extensive training programs to generate awareness and build the capacity of the farmer. Similarly cost of irrigation is also very high .The farmers are paying INR 100 to 130 per hour for hiring water. The farmer needs to spend approx. INR 2500 to 3000 for irrigating 1 acre of wheat land. There is abundant sun light round the year in Bihar and this can be utilized through proper policy and planning. It will not only reduce the cost of cultivation but also sustainable agriculture by protecting the agriculture from global warming. Global warming is putting pressure on our scientists to come out with short duration variety of crops as the temperature required during flowering and fruiting do not match for most of the variety and hence resulting in low yield or no yield. The policy and planning of use of solar energy is very much required towards sustainable agriculture.

There is need to use ground water judiciously. Every day there is hue and cry for drinking water and almost whole India is suffering from water crisis and day by day ground water is depleting. There is great need to harvest rain water and use it as and when required to decrease the dependency on ground water. In Bihar, there is 1200 mm rainfall but we do not have developed dam/structure to store rain water in order to abstain from exhaustive use of ground water towards sustainability of agriculture and life. Market infrastructure and price information also play vital role in better price realization for the agricultural produce for the farmers. Hence a market policy towards developing market infrastructure such as ware house, cold storage, grading and packaging house are required. Our farmers spends too much time, efforts and money on production but hardly an hour to get their produced sold as they do not have storage space and are not aware of the price in the market. They are fully dependent on the aggregator or commission agent and are exploited in absence of price information and market. Hence there is need to bring farmers into the contact of processor, miller and other stake holders through the collectivization of farmers and forming their company. The supply is ensured with quality to these market forces and farmers realizes better price for their produce.

In consideration of the above facts, Indian Grameen Services conducted a day long workshop on “Sustainable Agriculture and Value chain” with the support of CUTS International on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

## 2. Proceedings

- The workshop commenced with a welcome address by Mr. H.P.Singh, Assistant Vice President, Indian Grameen Services (BASIX). Mr.H.P.Singh talked about the present scenario of agriculture and the problems being faced by the farmers.
- This was followed by Dr. J.P.Upadhyay ,Director Research, RAU, Pusa , Samastipur who emphasized the need of use of solar energy to reduce the cost of cultivation and save environment from the effect of global warming as it affecting the agriculture and life shoddily. He also suggested farmers to visit nearby agriculture institution, college, offices to

update  
their



knowledge regarding crop variety and technology to enhance the productivity and reduce the cost of cultivation. He also talked about the varietal change of staple crops and technology introduced in this regard.

- Dr. K.K. Jha, Senior Scientist, KVK, Motihari talked more about the technology(Zero tillage etc.) with package of practices and other interventions being introduced by KVK Motihari and how the farmers are getting benefitted out of it. He also expressed his views that the farmers and the scientists should work closely to combat the prevailing situation and maximize the reach of extension services through FPOs. He also asked the farmers to take up agriculture as business instead of following the traditional way as the most of the farmers are having less than 1 hectare of land.
- Dr. R. C. Shrivastava, Vice Chancellor, RAU, Pusa, Samastipur addressed the participants and stressed the need of reducing the cost of cultivation through use of electricity in

agriculture especially for irrigation and harvesting. He also asked the participants from farmer institutions (FPCs) to select the stress tolerant variety as per climatic change to maintain productivity and minimize the environmental risk involved. He also underlined the need of storage facility to be increased with other agri. infrastructure such as packaging, grading and cold chain.

- Mr. Ashok Kumar from Entrepreneurship Development Association (EDA)-NGO asked the participants to use the technology (Drip) and package of practice for judicious use of natural resources to maintain soil health and abstain from excessive use of ground water towards sustainability of agriculture. He also gave a call to the farmer participants and processor to come closer to maximize the benefit of the S&M farmers through comparatively better price realization for their produce.
- Mr. Anil Kumar from Preservation and Proliferation of Rural Resources and Nature (PRAN)-NGO, Gaya and Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Mahatma Buddha Agri Clinic, Gaya were among the agriculture experts who addressed the participants and asked them to produce as per need of the market with quantity and quality to fetch remunerative prices.
- Mr. Dinesh Singh, Sakra, Muzaffarpur and Mr. Dilip Kumar Singh, Sasaram, Rotash were among the innovative farmers who addressed the participants. Mr. Dilip Kumar explained and suggested the use of Trichoderma birdie, pheromone trap, border cropping, mixed cropping, line cropping of flower in main crop field to protect the crop from pest and disease and reduce the cost of cultivation. He also explained the benefit of organic farming and demonstrated the produce (Tomato, Shimla Mirch and Cherry) before the participants and talked about the comparatively more shelf life of produce, how it is helpful in marketing in distant market and realizing better price. Mr. Dinesh Singh talked more about planning, marketing and collectivization of the farmers towards better price realization and assured that the farmers can get support from them as and when required. Participants applauded their experience and efforts made towards considering agriculture as a business and taking it forward right from production to selling into the distant market. All the participants noted down the contact numbers of these two farmers to get expert advice as and when required.
- Mr. Mayank Jain from Micro x Foundation, Mr. Amit Kumar from Reliance market, representatives from rice mills, Mahatma Buddha agri clinic were among the input supplier and processors who participated in the workshop and expressed their views assuring farmers to extend full support to them towards input and output linkage they are involved in.
- 3 Women participants from FPOs and women federation also expressed their concern and views and were satisfied with the expert advice they received from the speaker.
- The workshop was anchored by Mr. H.P. Singh and ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Kanhai Kumar from Indian Grameen Services.

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## Annexure

### Media coverage of Workshop

Figure 2: Dainik Bhaskar  
(14/04/2016)



Figure 1: Sanmarg (23/04/2016)



Figure 3: Dainik Jagran (17/04/2016)





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