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Awareness Programme on Natural Farming and South India Natural Farming Summit

DDS–Krishi Vigyan Kendra organized an Awareness Programme on Natural Farming as part of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme and South India Natural Farming Summit to promote sustainable agricultural practices among farmers. Around 350 farmers, farm women, and officials participated in the programme. The programme witnessed participation from the District Agriculture Officer, officials from Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, Agriculture Extension Officers, NABARD representatives, and around 350 farmers. Scientists from DDS–KVK conducted technical sessions on natural farming practices including soil health management, use of bio-inputs, crop diversification, and eco-friendly pest and disease management. Dr. C. Vara Prasad, Senior Scientist & Head, explained the objectives and benefits of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and highlighted the extension activities and outreach programmes of the KVK. The District Agriculture Officer emphasized the need to expand natural farming practices for improving soil fertility, reducing cultivation costs, and ensuring safe food production. NABARD DDM explained financial support schemes available for farmers, SHGs, and FPOs.

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Recognition of DDS - KVK at ICAR-ATARI Zone X Annual Zonal Workshop

DDS-KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad received four awards during the ICAR-ATARI Zone X Annual Zonal Workshop held at Rajahmundry in recognition of its outstanding extension and documentation efforts. The KVK received two awards in the category of Soil Health and Soil Health Card distribution for its significant contribution towards promoting soil testing and nutrient-based soil management among farmers. The KVK was also recognized with the Best Box Item Content award in the Zonal Annual Report-2024 and received another award for Best Success Story documentation. The recognitions highlighted the consistent efforts of the KVK team in strengthening farmer-oriented extension activities, effective communication, and sustainable agricultural development initiatives.



World Soil Day-2025 Celebration

DDS-KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad organized World Soil Day-2025 under the theme “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities” to create awareness on soil health and sustainable soil management practices. 84 farmers, students, and KVK staff participated in the programme. Dr. C. Vara Prasad, Senior Scientist & Head, highlighted the importance of soil testing and informed that DDS-KVK has tested 24,128 soil samples and issued 23,710 Soil Health Cards to farmers. Dr. P. Sai Priyanka, SMS (Agricultural Extension), emphasized the need for adopting sustainable soil management practices. Scientists explained the role of bio-fertilizers, mulching, crop rotation, livestock integration, and organic farming in maintaining soil fertility and productivity. A progressive farmer also shared experiences on improving soil organic carbon through organic farming. Soil Health Cards and bio-fertilizers were distributed to farmers during the programme.



National Farmers Day



DDS–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Medak-1, Zaheerabad celebrated National Farmers Day (Kisan Diwas) on 23rd December 2025 to recognize the contributions of farmers towards agriculture and food security. As part of the programme, seven progressive organic farmers from nearby villages were felicitated for their efforts in promoting sustainable and natural farming practices.

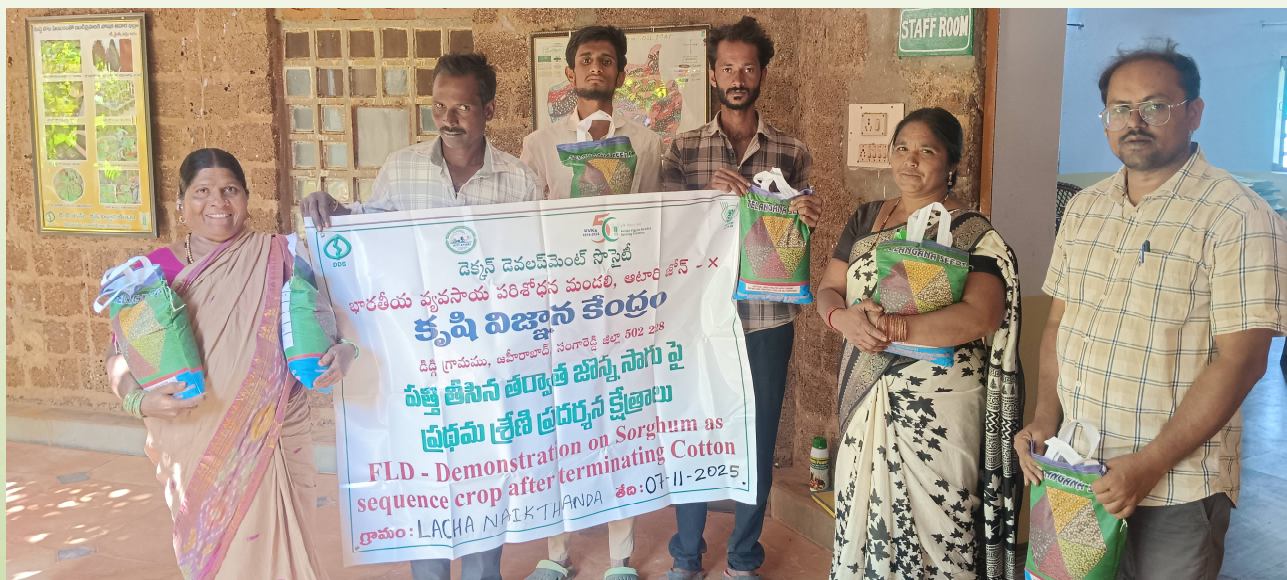
An experience-sharing session was also organized where farmers shared their successful practices, challenges, and learnings in organic farming. KVK scientists interacted with the participants and highlighted the importance of eco-friendly agriculture, soil health management, and farmer-led innovations for sustainable rural development.

Swachchhta Hi Seva Campaign–2025

DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad successfully organized the “Swachchhta Hi Seva” Campaign–2025 as per the guidelines communicated by ICAR–ATARI, Hyderabad. The campaign was coordinated by Dr. Sai Priyanka, SMS (Agricultural Extension), with active participation of KVK staff and supporting personnel. Various cleanliness and awareness activities were conducted from 17 September to 02 October 2025 to promote hygiene, sanitation, and environmental responsibility within the KVK campus and surrounding areas. Daily activities were organized according to the assigned schedule, while logistical support and online reporting were coordinated by the designated staff members. The campaign created awareness on cleanliness, community participation, and the importance of maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment.



Demonstration of Sorghum as a Sequence Crop after Cotton Termination



A Frontline Demonstration (FLD) on sorghum as a sequence crop after cotton termination was conducted by DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad in several villages of Sangareddy district to promote sustainable crop diversification under rainfed conditions. During the programme, Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained that sorghum is a suitable follow-up crop after cotton due to its drought tolerance, short crop duration, and low input requirements. The demonstration emphasized the effective utilization of residual soil moisture and nutrients available after cotton harvest, helping farmers maximize land productivity with minimal additional inputs.

Farmers were informed about the dual-purpose benefits of sorghum as both a grain and fodder crop, supporting household food security as well as livestock feed requirements. Technical guidance was provided on improved cultivation practices including timely sowing, suitable variety selection, recommended seed rate and spacing, balanced nutrient management, and effective weed management practices. The programme also highlighted the importance of crop diversification in maintaining soil health, sustaining long-term productivity, and improving farm profitability under resource-limited farming conditions.

Demonstration on ICM Practices in Mango

DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad conducted a comprehensive goat management training and vaccination drive aimed at improving livestock health and enhancing livelihood opportunities for rural women across five mandals covering 20 villages in Sangareddy district. The programme, led by Dr. Kailash Madne, SMS (Animal Husbandry), provided hands-on training to women farmers on scientific goat rearing practices. Key topics included scientific housing management, feeding practices, seasonal disease management, income generation opportunities, and market linkages for goat-based enterprises. Special emphasis was given to the use of ethno-veterinary practices, combining traditional knowledge with scientific methods to ensure effective preventive and curative animal care.



FLD on Usage of Sapling Transplanter for Increasing Work Efficiency



DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad conducted a Frontline Demonstration (FLD) on the usage of a sapling transplanter to improve work efficiency and reduce drudgery among farmers and farm women. Ms. M. Hemalatha, SMS (Home Science), demonstrated the operation and handling of the sapling transplanter and explained its role in reducing physiological workload and improving transplanting efficiency. Data were collected on parameters such as time taken to empty a tray, age of saplings, and average time required for transplanting individual saplings to assess the performance and efficiency of the implement. The demonstration created awareness on the use of drudgery-reducing farm tools for efficient crop establishment.

Assessment of Pusa Decomposer for In-situ Rice Straw Decomposition

An On-Farm Trial (OFT) on the assessment of Pusa Decomposer for in-situ rice straw decomposition was conducted by DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad at Venkatapur village of Narayankhed Mandal and Nallavalli and Gummadidala villages of Gummadidala Mandal. The trial aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of the technology in promoting rapid decomposition of paddy straw and improving soil fertility.



During the programme, Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained that the Pusa Decomposer technology developed by ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute accelerates decomposition of rice straw within 20–25 days, thereby reducing the practice of stubble burning and minimizing environmental pollution. Farmers were educated on the preparation, method of application, and benefits of the technology. The intervention highlighted advantages such as improvement in soil organic carbon, enhancement of beneficial microbial activity, and conversion of crop residues into nutrient-rich organic matter. Soil samples were collected from treated and untreated fields to assess changes in soil fertility parameters and evaluate the impact of the technology under field conditions.

OFT on Assessment of Sugarcane Detrasher in Reducing Drudgery



DDS–KVK, Medak-1 conducted an On-Farm Trial (OFT) on assessment of a sugarcane detrasher to evaluate its effectiveness in reducing drudgery during sugarcane leaf removal operations. The programme focused on assessing the efficiency of the implement by recording parameters such as sugarcane diameter, number of leaves present, and number of leaves remaining after detrasher operation. Farmers were informed about the advantages of using the sugarcane detrasher for efficient removal of bottom leaves, reduction in labour burden, and improvement in work efficiency during sugarcane cultivation operations.

Assessment of High-Yielding Bengal Gram Variety NBeG-776 under OFT

An On-Farm Testing (OFT) programme was conducted by DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad to assess the performance of the new high-yielding Bengal gram variety NBeG-776 in Jamalai Thanda, Lacha Naik Thanda, Potpally, and Raikode villages of Sangareddy district. During the programme, Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained the characteristics and advantages of the variety. NBeG-776 (Nandyal Gram 776) is a desi type Bengal gram variety with a crop duration of 90–105 days and a yield potential of 8–10 quintals per acre under rainfed conditions and 10–12 quintals per acre with limited irrigation.



The variety possesses wilt disease resistance, uniform plant height suitable for machine harvesting, and attractive round light-brown seeds with a 100-seed weight of 25–26 g. Farmers were also trained on improved cultivation practices including recommended seed rate and spacing, nutrient management, weed management, and efficient water management practices to improve productivity and profitability under local conditions.

Input Distribution under OFTs & FLDs



Under OFT and FLD programmes, diagnostic visits were conducted to farmers fields and need based inputs were distributed. In guava, Tea Mosquito Bug incidence was observed, and inputs such as traps (@12/acre), neem oil 10,000 ppm, Beauveria and Verticillium @1 L/acre each and Thiamethoxam were supplied. Farmers were guided on proper trap installation and application of bioagents.

In mango orchard, leafhopper damage was noticed, and under FLD, fruit fly traps @12/acre, sticky traps @ 24/acre, neem oil, Beauveria bassiana, and Thiamethoxam were distributed with detailed instructions.

In chilli crop at vegetative stage, black thrips infestation was observed. Sticky traps @20/acre were provided, and spraying with Beauveria, neem oil, and Profenophos was recommended. Farmers were educated on integrated pest management practices and proper use of inputs.

Field Day under Model Pulse Village (MPV) on Black Gram

A Field Day was organized under the Model Pulse Village (MPV) programme on black gram at Nagoor (K) village by DDS-KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad to demonstrate the performance of the improved black gram variety MBG-1070 along with integrated crop management practices. During the programme, Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained the importance of adopting improved production technologies, quality seed, integrated nutrient management, and eco-friendly pest and disease management practices for enhancing pulse productivity. Farmers actively observed the standing crop in the demonstration plots and interacted with scientists to gain practical field-level knowledge.



The demonstration plots recorded a yield of 9.68 q/ha, compared to 8.79 q/ha under farmers' traditional practices, showing a 10.12 percent increase in yield. The demonstration also resulted in higher gross income (₹69,276/ha) and net income (₹30,006/ha) with an improved benefit–cost ratio of 1.76, compared to 1.60 under existing practices. Farmers appreciated the improved yield potential, access to quality seed, and better understanding of sustainable pulse production practices. The programme served as an effective platform for farmer–scientist interaction and encouraged the adoption of high-yielding pulse varieties for improved profitability.

Field Day under the Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLD) on Oilseeds Soyabean variety DSb-34.

A Field Day was organized under the Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLD) on Oilseeds, focusing on soybean. Dr. C. Varaprasad, Senior Scientist and Head, briefed farmers about the National Mission on Edible Oils Oilseeds (NMEO-OS), CFLD programme, and ongoing KVK activities. SMS (Agronomy) explained improved soybean crop management practices, while SMS (Plant Protection) highlighted major pests and diseases and suggested Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM) practices.



SMS (Extension) emphasized the importance of Field Day, value addition, and market opportunities in soybean. PA (Soil Science) explained soil testing and the use of soil health cards for better nutrient management. The MAO guided farmers on crop booking under the State scheme. The programme concluded with a field visit, where the soybean crop at pod formation stage was found healthy. The farmer expressed satisfaction and expected yields up to 5.5 q/acre.

Field Day on High Density Planting System (HDPS) in Cotton

A Field Day on High Density Planting System (HDPS) in cotton was organized at Nagoor (K) village by DDS-KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad to demonstrate the benefits of HDPS technology in cotton cultivation. During the programme, Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained the importance of adopting improved production technologies, quality seed, integrated nutrient management, weed control, and integrated pest and disease management practices for enhancing cotton productivity.



Farmers observed the standing HDPS cotton crop and actively interacted with scientists to gain practical field-level knowledge on improved crop management practices. The demonstration highlighted the advantages of HDPS, including higher plant population, efficient utilization of resources, uniform boll maturity, and improved crop performance. The HDPS demonstration plot recorded a yield of 21.12 q/ha with a gross income of ₹1,92,430/ha and a net income of ₹91,200/ha, compared to the farmers' practice, which recorded a net income of ₹57,358/ha. The demonstration also achieved a higher benefit-cost ratio of 1.90 compared to 1.53 under existing practices. Farmers appreciated the improved technical knowledge and recognized HDPS as a sustainable alternative for increasing profitability and productivity in cotton cultivation

OFT on Assessment of High yielding watermelon variety on Arka Shyama

Conducted a field visit to the Arka Shyama and recorded detailed observations on plant growth parameters, including plant height, canopy development, and flowering status. Assessed the crop condition for pest and disease incidence, nutrient status, and irrigation practices. Observed fruit setting and overall crop vigor. Advised the farmer on need-based nutrient management, timely plant protection measures, and proper intercultural operations to enhance crop growth, yield, and quality.



Diagnostic Field Visit

A field visit to the organic farm of progressive farmer Sri Mallesham at Kasimpur village, Zaheerabad was conducted to observe trellising method in vegetable cultivation and soil moisture conservation practices adopted in the field. During the interaction, discussions were held on improving vegetable productivity through scientific crop management practices. Dr. Sai Priyanka also advised the farmer on adopting mixed cropping systems and a staggered vegetable cultivation model to ensure continuous harvest, better income generation, and efficient resource utilization under organic farming conditions.



Diagnostic visits and timely advisories for effective crop protection

Diagnostic visits were conducted to different crops under OFT and FLD programmes. In chilli, black thrips incidence was assessed; infestation reduced by about 60% in hybrids compared to local varieties. Farmers were advised to reapply glue on sticky traps, spray Beauveria at 15-day intervals, and apply NPK consortium through drip. In potato, root grub incidence was reduced after three applications of Metarhizium through drip, and the crop was healthy. In apiary, wax moth infestation was managed by removing infected frames, cleaning boxes, and fumigation. In tomato, whitefly infestation was controlled by installing yellow sticky traps and spraying Acetamiprid.

In cotton, IPM practices reduced thrips and pink bollworm incidence by 60–65%, resulting in healthy crop with good boll formation. In ginger, rhizome rot was observed, and suitable chemical management was advised.



Cluster Frontline Demonstration on Red Gram under Sustainable Cultivation Practices

A Cluster Frontline Demonstration (CFLD) on red gram was conducted by DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad in Chilkepally, Ippepally, Nagoor B, and Turkwadgaon villages of Sangareddy district to demonstrate improved and sustainable cultivation practices in red gram. As part of the programme, a training cum input distribution programme was organized to promote eco-friendly crop management practices among farmers. During the session, Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained the role of natural and biological inputs in improving crop productivity while reducing dependence on chemical pesticides.



Farmers were trained on the use of Panchagavya as a natural growth promoter to enhance flowering and yield in red gram. The use of Neem oil as a bio-pesticide for the management of pod borer and sucking pests was also demonstrated. In addition, pheromone traps were promoted for monitoring and mass trapping of *Helicoverpa armigera*. The intervention encouraged sustainable pest management practices, reduced chemical usage, and improved crop health under rainfed farming conditions.

Training cum input distribution on ICM Safflower

DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad organized Training-cum-Input Distribution Programmes under CFLD Rabi Oilseeds (Safflower) to promote sustainable and eco-friendly safflower cultivation practices. The programmes focused on integrated pest and disease management, biological control measures, and reduced dependence on chemical pesticides.



On 30 December 2025, the programme was conducted at Raikode Mandal for farmers of Shapur village by Dr. Sai Priyanka Pagadala, SMS (Agricultural Extension), and Dr. Snehalatha, SMS (Plant Protection), in coordination with Smt. M. Sarika Reddy, MAO, and Agricultural Extension Officers. On 31 December 2025, a similar programme was organized at Kashimpur village by Dr. Sai Priyanka Pagadala along with Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy). Farmers were trained on installation and use of pheromone traps, sticky traps, and application of bio-inputs such as Trichoderma, Beauveria, Metarhizium, NPK consortium, Panchagavya, and Dashaparni for effective pest and disease management.

Critical CFLD inputs were distributed to beneficiary farmers to encourage adoption of biological and organic approaches in safflower cultivation. The programme strengthened awareness on eco-friendly crop protection practices and sustainable oilseed production.

Training on soil fertility and INM of Safflower



DDS–KVK, Medak-1 organized Seed Distribution and Awareness Programmes under CFLD Oilseeds – Rabi (Safflower) at Rythu Vedika, Raikode Mandal for farmers of Shapur village, and similar programmes at Sanghar/Tardipalli villages of Nyalkal Mandal and Kashimpur village of Zaheerabad Mandal under NFSM–National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO). The programmes focused on identification of beneficiary farmers, distribution of safflower seeds (PBNS-886), and creation of awareness on improved oilseed cultivation practices.

Dr. Sai Priyanka Pagadala, SMS (Agricultural Extension) and CFLD Oilseeds–Rabi Incharge, explained the objectives of the CFLD programme, varietal characteristics of PBNS-886, importance of soil testing, balanced nutrient management, and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) practices for improving productivity. Farmers were also guided on scientific crop management practices and sustainable cultivation approaches for the Rabi season. Mr. Srikanth, Farm Manager, explained the role of green leaf manuring and organic inputs in improving soil fertility and crop performance. The programme strengthened farmers' awareness on improved safflower production technologies and sustainable oilseed cultivation.

Model Pulse Village Programme on Red Gram

A Model Pulse Village programme on red gram was implemented by DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad in Godegarpally and Nagoor (K) villages of Sangareddy district through Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLDs). The programme aimed to promote improved and sustainable red gram cultivation practices among farmers using eco-friendly crop management approaches. As part of the intervention, a training cum input distribution programme was organized to strengthen awareness on natural farming practices and integrated pest management in pulse cultivation.



During the programme, Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained the importance of using biological and natural inputs to enhance crop productivity while minimizing dependence on chemical pesticides. Farmers were trained on the application of Panchagavya as a natural growth promoter to improve flowering and yield in red gram. The use of Neem oil for managing pod borer and sucking pests, along with pheromone traps for monitoring and mass trapping of *Helicoverpa armigera*, was also demonstrated. The intervention promoted improved crop health, reduced chemical usage, and encouraged sustainable pulse production practices.

Training Programmes on Sustainable Crop Production and Eco-friendly Pest Management

DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad organized a series of training programmes across Nagoor (K), Ippepally, Chilkepally, Godegarpally, Turkwadgaon, Bheemra, and Degulwadi villages in Sangareddy district to strengthen farmers' knowledge on improved and sustainable agricultural practices. A total of 10 training programmes were conducted, benefiting 486 farmers. During the programmes, Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), provided technical guidance on Bengal gram cultivation, High Density Planting System (HDPS) in cotton, and improved red gram production technologies.



Farmers were also trained on the preparation and application of organic inputs for sustainable crop management. Special emphasis was given to eco-friendly pest management practices through the use of pheromone traps and neem oil for effective monitoring and control of insect pests while reducing dependence on chemical pesticides. The trainings enhanced farmers' awareness and technical skills on climate-resilient and sustainable farming approaches, encouraging adoption of improved crop management practices for higher productivity, reduced cultivation costs, and increased farm income

Skill training on scientific beekeeping for income and employment generation for Rural Youth under SCSP



A three-day skill training programme on scientific beekeeping was organized for rural youth and farmers under SCSP. The programme was coordinated by Dr. N. Snehalatha, SMS (Plant Protection), who covered important topics such as history of beekeeping, species of honey bees, role of pollinators, commercial beekeeping practices, precautions during migration, pest and disease management, seasonal management, and scientific honey extraction. Hands-on training was provided on bee box handling and identification of different bee castes. Mr. V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained the role of honey bees in crop pollination, while Dr. Sai Priyanka, SMS (Agricultural Extension), guided participants on various government schemes related to beekeeping. On the final day, Dr. C. Varaprasad, Senior Scientist and Head, highlighted the income and employment opportunities in beekeeping and the concept of custom hiring centers. The programme concluded with feedback and certificate distribution.

Training program on Potato cultivation and management practices



Attended as a resource person and delivered on the package of practices on potato cultivation. Explained suitable varieties and seed treatment, raised bed system, a method that enhances soil drainage and aeration, which is critical for the growth of healthy potato plants. effective water management strategies and nutrient management practices.

Training Programme on Ensuring Food Security through Nutri-Gardens in Anganwadi Centres

A training programme on “Ensuring Food Security through Nutri-Gardens” was organized by DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad for Anganwadi teachers at the ICDS Office, Zaheerabad. A total of 39 Anganwadi teachers participated in the training programme. The programme aimed to strengthen awareness on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and the role of kitchen gardens in improving nutritional security among women and children. During the session, Ms. M. Hemalatha, SMS (Home Science), explained the importance of nutri-gardens in combating malnutrition among preschool children and anaemia among pregnant and lactating women. Participants were encouraged to incorporate diversified vegetables grown in kitchen gardens into Anganwadi mid-day meals and adopt organic cultivation practices.



Ms. G. Shailaja, SMS (Horticulture), provided technical guidance on cultivation of vegetables and fruits in limited spaces, covering important aspects such as planting techniques, nutrient management, and water management practices. Dr. Sai Priyanka, SMS (Agricultural Extension), oriented participants on site selection, watering practices, garden management, manuring, and preparation and availability of organic inputs for sustainable kitchen gardening. The programme enhanced the technical knowledge of Anganwadi teachers and promoted the establishment of nutrition-sensitive kitchen gardens in Anganwadi centres.

Training cum input Distribution under Nutrition sensitive villages through SCSP

Delivered the importance of Scheduled Caste (SC) schemes through SCSP, which are designed to aid and benefit farmers from these communities. Elaborated on the significance of cultivating nutrigardens, emphasizing their benefits along with the proper cultivation practices necessary for growing vegetables and fruits effectively.

Promoting eco-friendly pest and disease management through training and field demonstration.

A training cum demonstration programme was conducted for farmers on pest and disease management in soybean and cotton, along with the preparation of organic inputs. During the session, SMS - Plant Protection expert explained in detail the major pests and diseases affecting soybean and cotton crops and recommended suitable integrated management practices. Emphasis was given on reducing chemical pesticide use and adopting sustainable approaches.



A hands on demonstration on the preparation of Panchagavya and Dashaparni was organized, highlighting their role in improving plant health and enhancing resistance against pests and diseases. Farmers actively participated and clarified their queries. Subsequently, a field visit was conducted to the soybean crop under the CFLD Oilseeds programme. The crop was observed at the pod formation stage and was found to be healthy and well-maintained, reflecting the effectiveness of the recommended practices. Farmer expecting yield 5 q/acre.

Training Programme on Herbal Soap Preparation for Rural Youth and Women

DDS-KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad organized a skill training programme on Herbal Soap Preparation for rural youth and women to promote entrepreneurship and value-addition-based livelihood opportunities. A total of 26 participants attended the programme. During the session, Ms. M. Hemalatha, SMS (Home Science), explained the growing demand and advantages of herbal soaps over chemical-based products and provided guidance on the preparation of herbal extracts and solutions used in soap making.



Dr. Shankara Swamy, Assistant Professor, SKLTGHU, participated as a resource person and demonstrated the preparation of different herbal soaps using natural ingredients such as carrot, tomato, beetroot, papaya, and aloe vera. Participants were also trained on packaging methods, branding, and marketing strategies for developing small-scale soap-making enterprises. Dr. C. Vara Prasad, Senior Scientist & Head, highlighted the importance of skill development programmes conducted by KVK and encouraged participants to utilize such trainings for establishing micro-enterprises. He also assured technical guidance and handholding support for interested entrepreneurs. The programme concluded with an exhibition of soaps prepared by participants and distribution of certificates to all trainees.

Training Programme on Value Addition of Millets

A one-day hands-on training programme on Value Addition of Millets was organized at DDS-KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad for SHG women and farm women to promote millet-based entrepreneurship and nutritional awareness. A total of 32 participants attended the programme. During the training, Ms. M. Hemalatha, SMS (Home Science), explained the nutritional and health benefits of millets and emphasized their importance in promoting healthy diets and nutritional security. Participants received practical demonstrations on the preparation of various millet-based value-added products such as Finger Millet Laddu, millet mixture, and other nutritious food products.



The programme highlighted the role of value addition in increasing farmers' income and creating livelihood opportunities for rural women through small-scale enterprises. Participants were also oriented on branding, labelling, packaging, and marketing strategies for millet products. Guidance was provided on essential steps involved in establishing millet-based micro-enterprises, including awareness on FSSAI registration and food safety standards. The training enhanced participants' practical skills and encouraged them to adopt millet processing and value addition as an income-generating activity.



Training Programme on Nutri-Sensitive Organic Kitchen Gardens

A training programme on Nutri-Sensitive Organic Kitchen Gardens was conducted by DDS-KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad for adolescent girls at Bhuchunelli village to promote nutrition awareness and healthy dietary practices. A total of 90 adolescent girls participated in the programme. During the session, Ms. M. Hemalatha, SMS (Home Science), explained the importance of dietary diversification in preventing anaemia and highlighted the nutritional and health benefits of consuming organically grown vegetables. Emphasis was placed on the role of balanced diets and nutri-gardens in improving nutritional security among adolescents.

Ms. G. Shailaja, SMS (Horticulture), provided technical guidance on cultivation practices for vegetables and fruit crops suitable for kitchen gardens, including water management and nutrient management practices for sustainable production. As part of the programme, anthropometric measurements of adolescent girls were recorded for pre- and post-intervention assessment to evaluate the impact of nutri-garden interventions on nutritional status. Fruit saplings and vegetable seed kits were distributed to participants, followed by a plantation activity carried out by the students to encourage practical adoption of nutrition-sensitive gardening practices.

Workshop on Millets and Organic cultivation

Dr. N. Snehalatha SMS (Plant Protection) gave an overview of DDS KVK, highlighting its ongoing activities, mandates, demonstration units, and projects. She also briefed the participants on importance of organic agricultural. Further, V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), presented on organic production practices of millets, while G. Shailaja SMS (Horticulture) explained horticultural production practices, nursery management, and terrace gardening.

Soil Health Management Initiatives



During the past four months, as part of the ongoing soil health management initiatives, Mr. Swamy Program Assistant - Soil Science collected total of 1638 soil samples and analyzed across 28 villages covering 8 mandals. Based on the results of these analyses, Soil Health Cards were prepared and distributed to the respective farmers.

The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers about the importance of soil testing and the balanced use of fertilizers. Farmers were guided on appropriate nutrient management practices to improve soil fertility, enhance crop productivity, and promote sustainable agriculture.

The distribution of Soil Health Cards has enabled farmers to make informed decisions regarding fertilizer application, thereby reducing input costs and ensuring long-term soil health and environmental sustainability.

Awareness on scientific beekeeping and pollination for improved crop productivity

A one-day awareness-cum-training programme on scientific beekeeping was conducted for farmers in collaboration with the Horticulture Department. The programme focused on creating awareness about the importance of pollination in agricultural and horticultural crops and its direct impact on yield improvement.

Farmers were educated on the role of pollinators, especially honey bees, in enhancing crop productivity and maintaining ecological balance. Sessions also covered basic aspects of scientific beekeeping and its potential as an additional source of income.

The concept of commercial beekeeping was explained, highlighting its benefits, management practices, and scope for entrepreneurship. Farmers actively participated in the programme and showed interest in adopting beekeeping as a sustainable and profitable activity.

Promoting Bio Agents for sustainable farming through awareness and distribution

After the establishment of the BRC, efforts were made to create awareness on the importance and use of bioagents among farmers. During the visit of the sponsor from Geneva, Switzerland under the SCALAGRO Project, and also under the PM-KISAN programme, awareness programmes were organized at KVK to farmers across different villages and mandals. On these occasions, various bioagents were distributed free of cost to farmers, covering about 205 beneficiaries. Farmers were educated on the role of bioagents in pest and disease management, soil health improvement, and reduction of chemical pesticide use. Demonstrations on proper application methods and dosage were also provided.

The initiative helped in promoting eco-friendly farming practices and encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable agriculture, leading to improved crop health and reduced input costs.

Rythu Sadassu and Agricultural Exhibition



DDS–KVK, Medak-1 organized a Rythu Sadassu and Agricultural Exhibition at the KVK campus to promote sustainable agricultural practices, farmer–scientist interaction, and experiential learning. A total of 150 farmers, students, scientists, agricultural officers, and KVK staff actively participated in the programme. The programme was attended by Mr. Bikshapati, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Scientist, ARS Basantpur, Mr. Asaruddin, MAO Mogudampalli, and Dr. Yuvaraj, Assistant Professor, Malla Reddy College. Dr. C. Vara Prasad, Senior Scientist & Head, guided farmers on crop-related challenges and highlighted the importance of organic farming and agricultural education. Dr. Sai Priyanka Pagadala briefed participants about the Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme.

The event featured student-led exhibition stalls showcasing innovative agricultural concepts such as integrated livestock models, IPM techniques, edible landscaping, nutrition games, and precision farming technologies. Video documentaries highlighting progressive farmer success stories were screened, followed by farmer felicitations. A CFLD training programme on soybean under oilseeds was also organized focusing on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and preparation of organic inputs. The programme concluded with a Swachhata drive and a pledge by farmers to adopt eco-friendly farming practices.

National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas)

DDS–KVK, Medak-1, Zaheerabad observed National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and promote the spirit of national unity and integrity. A total of 75 students and KVK staff participated in the programme. A Unity Walk Rally was organized with students and KVK staff carrying placards and slogans promoting unity and peace. Dr. Sai Priyanka Pagadala, SMS (Agricultural Extension), highlighted the importance of teamwork, discipline, and collective responsibility in nation building and rural development.



Dr. C. Vara Prasad, Senior Scientist & Head, emphasized the role of unity in strengthening community-based agricultural systems and sustainable rural development. The programme concluded with the Unity Pledge by all participants.

Launch of Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) – Live Telecast



DDS–KVK, Medak-1 organized the live telecast of the national launch of the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) and Pulses Self-Reliance Mission by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. District Agriculture Officer Sri K. Shiva Prasad attended as Chief Guest and ADA Sri Bikshapathi as Special Guest. Around 150 farmers, women farmers, students, scientists, and Agriculture Department officials participated in the programme. The Prime Minister's address was translated and explained to farmers by Dr. C. Vara Prasad, Senior Scientist & Head, DDS–KVK. Officials emphasized the importance of pulses, oilseeds, millets, organic farming, and self-reliance in agriculture. The programme created awareness on PMDDKY, an umbrella initiative integrating schemes related to agriculture, fisheries, livestock, infrastructure, and women farmer empowerment. Under the National Mission on Natural Farming, 50,000 farmers were enrolled, including organic farmers associated with DDS–KVK. As part of the programme, Dr. Sai Priyanka Pagadala, SMS (Agricultural Extension), distributed CFLD safflower seeds (PBNS-86) to farmers, while Sri V. Ramesh, SMS (Agronomy), explained varietal characteristics, nutrient management, soil testing, and recommended cultivation practices.

Live Telecast of Krishi Chaupal on Natural Farming

DDS–KVK, Medak-1 organized a live telecast of the DD Kisan programme “Krishi Chaupal” focusing on Natural Farming, featuring expert discussions from the Natural Farming University, Gujarat. Around 30 farmers and Agriculture students participated in the programme. Farmers and B.Sc. Agriculture students participated in the programme and actively discussed various aspects of natural farming practices after the telecast. Dr. Sai Priyanka Pagadala, SMS (Agricultural Extension), coordinated the programme and translated the technical content into the local language for better understanding among participants. The programme enhanced awareness on natural farming principles, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly cultivation practices.



Group Discussion on Cotton Chemical Input Utilisation Dynamics



Dr. Sai Priyanka, SMS Agricultural Extension of DDS–KVK, Medak-1 organized a group discussion with farmers on cotton chemical input utilization dynamics. Farmers shared experiences regarding pesticide and fertilizer usage, increasing input costs, pest incidence, and challenges in cotton cultivation. Key issues and farmer perspectives were documented, and awareness was created on the judicious and need-based use of chemical inputs through interactive discussion.

Group Discussion on Natural Farming Feasibility



A group discussion was conducted by Dr. Sai Priyanka, SMS Agricultural Extension at Bidekanne village on the feasibility of natural farming practices among women farmers. Participants discussed opportunities, challenges, local experiences, and adoption possibilities under rainfed conditions. The discussion helped clarify misconceptions, sort key practical points, and improve awareness on sustainable and low-cost natural farming approaches.

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