



# INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH Deccan Development Society's

## Krishi Vigyan Kendra

Zaheerabad, Sangareddy, Telangana- 502228



ISSUE #1

### Newsletter

January - April 2024



*In this newsletter you can expect:*

**DDS KVK - Profile**  
**Scientific Demonstrations**

**Capacity Building**

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DDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra (DDS KVK) was sanctioned in the year 1991 and was operational by 1994. Since then, it has been actively demonstrating agricultural technologies in the Sangareddy district (erstwhile Medak district) of Telangana. Committed to ensuring food and nutritional security, DDS KVK places sustainable agriculture at the forefront of all its programs. It seamlessly integrates the ideals of DDS with the mandates of ICAR to foster a farmer-centered participatory approach that encompasses major crops and technological interventions tailored to the needs of farmers in the region.

#### Soil Health Campaigns



In preparation for the upcoming kharif season, DDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra conducted 18 Soil Health Campaigns across four mandals of Zaheerabad division. During these campaigns, 635 soil samples were collected. Farmers were educated on the importance of soil health and trained in proper soil sample collection procedures. Mr. E. Swamy, Program Assistant of the Soil Testing Lab at DDS KVK, tested the samples for key fertility parameters, including Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, pH, Electrical Conductivity, and Organic Carbon levels. Based on the detailed analyses, soil health cards were issued, providing tailored fertilizer recommendations

#### Backyard Poultry for SC Women



DDS KVK distributed 700 Rainbow Rooster birds to enhance nutritional security and promote low-tech, disease-resistant breeds, specifically for the benefit of SC women. These birds yield 345 eggs over 80 weeks, aiding rural livelihoods. Beneficiaries were educated on optimal management practices, ensuring sustainable egg and chicken production, thus combating malnutrition.



**SAFFLOWER FIELD DAY**

**Guava Nematode Management**

Demonstration and Distribution of Critical Inputs for Front Line Demonstration (FLD) on Nematode Management in Guava, conducted by Dr. N. Snehalatha, SMS (Plant Protection). She engaged farmers in identifying nematode symptoms on roots and provided insights into nematode management practices. Also distributed critical inputs including Paecilomyces lilacinus, Trichoderma, and Pseudomonas to farmers. Additionally, demonstration on how to multiply these bioagents by mixing them with Farmyard Manure (FYM), applying in orchard for every 3 months and with Jaggery water in a drum.



**Field day on Safflower Variety ISF - 764 under FLD Oilseeds at Rejinthal village**

A field day in Rejinthal village, Nyalkal mandal, was organised focusing on safflower cultivation. Mr. V. Ramesh, SMS Agronomy, introduced ISF-764 seeds from the Oilseeds Research Institute of India, highlighting their 30% oil content and potential yields of 8-10 quintals, encouraging farmers to observe this variety and anticipate good yields. Dr. C. Vara Prasad, Senior Scientist & Head, emphasized KVK's role in providing high-yield crop varieties. Chief guest Mr. B. Bikshapati, Assistant Director of Agriculture (ADA), Zaheerabad noted the favorable weather in Sangareddy district for safflower and encouraged larger cultivation of ISF-764, stressing its health benefits. Farmers Gopala Reddy, Venkat, and Tirupati Reddy shared their experiences of cultivation during the event.

**SUGARCANE FARMERS' FIELD**



**Sugarcane variety VSI – 12121**

Local varieties of sugarcane historically yielded less and were susceptible to pests and diseases. Indrasena Reddy, a farmer from Mamidigi Village, Sangareddy District, struggled with low yields from his local variety. DDS KVK team suggested trying a new variety, VSI-12121, known for high yield, high sugar content, good ratoonability, and tolerance to drought. A field trial titled "Assessment of New High Yielding Sugarcane Variety VSI-12121" was conducted in 3 villages, covering 3 acres with 3 different farmers. Each farmer received 6000 seedlings for the trial. Reddy adopted smart farming techniques including proper plant spacing, drip irrigation, and soil testing for nutrient management. Application of fertilizers and organic manures was done based on soil test recommendations. Reddy achieved significant outcomes, gross cost of 4,58,180/-, net income of 10,91,820/-, and a B:C ratio of 3.38 for 10 acres. Integrated farming practices were supported by DDS KVK, resulting in Reddy receiving the Millionaire award in New Delhi. National media coverage of Reddy's success led to the spread of VSI- 12121 cultivation to over 5000 acres in the district.



## Organic Terrace Garden

An organic terrace garden was developed by DDS KVK to showcase technology in order to meet the increasing demand for fresh, chemical-free vegetables in urban areas. This initiative addresses the high cost of purchasing vegetables and the scarcity of land for cultivation in towns and cities.

Terrace gardening also provides numerous benefits, including decorative appeal, fresh produce, temperature control, hydrological

benefits, architectural enhancements, wildlife habitats, and recreational space. Regular watering is essential, especially during summer when plants need to be watered twice a day.

Vegetables, such as tomatoes, chillies, brinjals, cucurbits, and leafy greens like mint, fenugreek, and spinach, can be grown. After each season, it is recommended to add mild organic fertilizers, such as vermicompost and Ghana jeevamrutham, to enrich the soil with essential nutrients. DDS KVK also offers frequent crop advisory services for organic pest and disease management.



## Sugarcane Bud Chip Method

In Telangana, sugarcane cultivation spans 50 hectares, yielding approximately 37 lakh tonnes. However, due to rising cultivation costs and labor shortages, sugarcane acreage has declined. The minimum cost to cultivate one acre is around 40,000 rupees, with 40 percent allocated to seed material. To promote profitable and quality cane production while reducing seed costs, the Bud Chip method is favoured. The DDS KVK, Sangareddy team utilized this method to raise sugarcane seedlings in nurseries and distributed 12000 seedlings to four farmers, offering technical guidance on scientific cultivation methods. The Bud Chip method aims to optimize yields, increase side canes, ensure equal growth, enhance cane branching, weight, and sugar content, and while also improving water use efficiency and reducing pests and diseases. Proper spacing allows for intercropping, boosting farmer income. Furthermore, this method facilitates easy machine movement, enhancing profitability for sugarcane farmers.

## Goat Husbandry Unit inaugurated at DDS KVK

On the day of the 23rd SAC meeting, DDS KVK inaugurated a goat husbandry demo unit as part of the IFS unit establishment. This featured veterinary officials including the Dr. M. Mahendar, Director of Extension, P. V. Narasimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University, Hyderabad and Dr. C. Ramakrishna, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRC for Meat, Hyderabad.

The initiative responds to the rising demand for goat meat, milk, and fiber, Dr. Kailash, SMS (Animal Husbandry) said Telangana is the leading state in meat consumption but does not meet its demand, with goat meat prices reaching Rs. 800 per kg and expected to rise further if imports are stopped. This shortage highlights the potential profitability of goat farming for local farmers. With proper planning, management, and market access, goat farming can yield significant returns on investment for entrepreneurs. Integrating goat farming with IFS involves cultivating nutritious fodder crops to provide sustainable feed sources for goats while utilizing goat litter for compost production, thereby enhancing soil fertility and promoting overall farm profitability.





## NABARD Training on Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Development Program on Millet Cultivation & Value Addition

DDS KVK organized a 15-day training program for the third batch, focused on the Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Development Programme on Millet Cultivation and Value Addition. Sponsored by NABARD, this initiative aimed to equip farmers with essential knowledge and skills for successful millet cultivation and value addition. Farmers received comprehensive training on soil suitability, soil testing, organic manure preparation and organic

pesticide formulation. They also learned packaging techniques and how to prepare various processed millet products. Participants were awarded certificates by NABARD's DDM, Sri V. Krishna Teja, recognizing their commitment to improving agricultural practices. Additionally, farmers from the second batch in Algol village received essential equipment such as flour machines, dehullers, and ovens, provided free of charge to empower farmers.



### Pre-kharif trainings for farmers by DDS and KVK

DDS and KVK organized 3 pre-kharif trainings in april for farmers from Rejintal, Elgoy, Siddhapur thanda, Metlakunta, and Potpalli villages in Nyalkal, Kohir and Jarasangham mandals, focusing on summer crop field activities, soil testing, organic fertilizers, and the preparation of botanical extracts. E. Swamy highlighted the ideal time for soil sampling and its benefits. V. Ramesh demonstrated the preparation and use of organic fertilizers like Panchagavya and Jeevamrutham. Dr. N. Snehalatha discussed pest management and botanical extracts such as Dashaparni Kashayam and Brahmastram. DDS supervisors Keshamma, Chukkamma, Vinay and Balanna, along with 150 women farmers actively participated.



### NI-MSME Scientific beekeeping training

The NI-MSME, Hyderabad, sponsored a 7-day Scientific Beekeeping Training at DDS-KVK, Zaheerabad, coordinated by N. Snehalatha, SMS - Plant Protection. 30 participants, including farmers, farmwomen, and rural youth, were trained on various topics of scientific beekeeping practices and practical demonstrations. A guest lecture by Ravindra Kumar Pydi, Vice President of the AP Beekeeping Association, covered different state and central schemes. Participants also visited the FCRI Integrated Beekeeping Centre in Mulugu, where V. Shailaja, Assistant Professor, provided insights on value-added products and marketing. The training concluded with certificate distribution



## Nutrigarden kits

DDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Sangareddy distributed 20 Nutri Garden seeds, growbags and organic inputs as part of the SCSP initiative. The event emphasized the nutritional benefits of Nutri Garden and provided essential resources to SC farmers, fostering sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing farm productivity.



## Boosting cane cultivation



DDS KVK distributed 12,000 sugarcane seedlings to 3 SC farmers, promoting sugarcane cultivation under SCSP. This initiative aims to enhance farm productivity and economic prosperity in rural areas, empowering farmers with essential resources for sustainable agriculture.



## Bioacoustics, Solar Fence, and Biofertilizers

DDS KVK distributed inputs as integrated agricultural solutions such as bioacoustics, solar fence, Trichoderma, and Pseudomonas, empowering farmers with holistic solutions. Training on biofertilizer application and solar fence installation to promote sustainable practices, enhancing soil health and crop protection for long-term agricultural resilience."

## Livelihoods with goat farming



DDS KVK distributed 18 goats to 4 SC farmers to bolster rural livelihoods, focusing on resilient Osmanabadi breeds under SCSP. Beneficiaries were explained management practices for sustainable milk and meat production, fostering economic empowerment and food security.

Other inputs such as tarpaulin covers, tomato seedlings were also distributed to identified beneficiaries. The SCSP initiatives at DDS KVK were aimed to significantly impact Scheduled Caste farmers by enhancing nutritional security, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and boosting economic prosperity. Through the distribution of essential resources like Nutrigarden kits, poultry, goats, and biofertilizers, and providing comprehensive training, these programs empower farmers to adopt more profitable and resilient farming practices.



## Kisan Mela cum Biodiversity festival

DDS KVK organized a Kisan Mela cum Biodiversity Festival at Machnoor aimed at raising awareness among farmers about millet cultivation, organic inputs preparation. The event featured various stalls offering information on these topics, including insights into the nutritional aspects of millets and value-added products. Distinguished guests, including NABARD officials Cecil Timoti (DDM-Medak), Krishna Teja (DDM-Sangareddy), Bikshapathi (ADA Zaheerabad), DDS board members Rukmini Rao, Vinod Pavurala and CSA Director Dr. G.V. Ramanjaneyulu participated in festival. They spoke about history and origin of biodiversity festival, sustainable farming and encouraged farmers to uphold traditional practices.



## Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra by DDS KVK

The scientific staff of DDS KVK were involved in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra from November 25, 2023, to January 24, 2024. The program informed citizens about central government welfare schemes and empowered women, covering 10 mandals and 36 villages in Sangareddy district. Key schemes discussed included Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Drone Didi yojana, Pradan Mantri Avas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Jandhan Yojan and Swachh Bharat. The initiative involved 1,400 participants, translating speeches, and encouraging farmers to utilize government schemes and funding options for entrepreneurs.



## Women's Day Event at Digwal's Primary School

Dr. Pagadala Sai Priyanka, SMS (Agricultural Extension) and Mrs. G. Shailaja, SMS (Horticulture) from DDS KVK participated in a Women's Day event at Digwal village, co-organized by the Gandhi Fellowship team of Piramal Foundation. They addressed the rural women, along with the school headmaster and Piramal group interns. The sessions focused on nutrition, kitchen gardening, and livelihood options. The women were educated on growing Nutri Gardens and informed about various government schemes supporting entrepreneurship. The event aimed to empower and educate the women of Digwal community.



## Guest Lecture on Honey Supply Chain

On February 16, 2024, Dr. N. Snehalatha delivered a guest lecture on the honey supply chain at a National Seminar on Scientific Beekeeping in Hyderabad. Organized by ni-MSME and sponsored by the National Bee Board, the seminar covered beekeeping opportunities in Telangana, honey production, export scenarios, and government schemes. Dr. Snehalatha also introduced blockchain technology for supply chain traceability. The event alone attracted 300 participants and featured stalls from various firms, highlighting innovations in beekeeping.



## Rythu Sadassu Event: KVK Zaheerabad Takes Centre Stage

KVK Zaheerabad co-organized a Rythu Sadassu (Farmers Meet) at Rythu Vedika, Ranjole on April 4th. The event included horticulture scientists from Fruit Research Station, faculty of SKLTSHU, State department, and students showcasing agricultural innovation. Final year B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture students attached to DDS KVK under RHWEP presented models of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) and mulching techniques, alongside live demonstrations of value addition with Papaya Tutee Fruity to participating farmers. Dr. C. Vara Prasad, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK, urged farmers to embrace modern agricultural practices disseminated by KVK for sustainable agricultural prosperity and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the host farmers for their invaluable contributions to the experiential learning journey of students. Mrs. G. Shailaja, SMS - Horticulture, delivered an enlightening discourse on the significance and multifaceted uses of mulching, enlightening farmers on optimal horticulture crop cultivation practices and emerging technologies.

## 23rd Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting

The 23rd Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of DDS-KVK was held on March 11, 2024, at Didigi Campus, Zaheerabad, with 35 attendees from various institutions. Dr. N. Sneha Latha welcomed participants, and Ms. Divya Velguri, Executive Director, highlighted key DDS activities. Dr. C. Vara Prasad presented the 2022-23 progress report and 2023-24 action plan. Key discussions were led by Dr. Bhaskaran, Dr. Chandra Shekar, Dr. M. Mahendar, and Dr. C. Ramakrishna, focusing on natural farming, pest management, and horticulture. Discussions focused on natural farming initiatives, pest management strategies, and the promotion of high-density cotton planting, the need for trials on organic bioagents for cotton pests and documenting organic farming success stories. Additionally, the importance of protein supplementation to address malnutrition and innovative practices in animal husbandry were underscored. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Senior Scientist & Head.



## Method Demonstrations on Pest Control

As part of course curriculum RHWEP students of SKLTSHU, under supervision of DDS KVK scientists conducted a method demonstration to horticulture farmers in Didigi village, Zaheerabad. The event focused on spraying precautions, pest control methods and soil conservation, benefiting local farmers and students. Key topics included pest identification, biological control methods, and soil health management. The event featured practical demonstrations providing valuable knowledge to enhance farming practices and increase crop yields in marigold and brinjal.



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**Thank you for reading!**



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Celebrating Golden Jubilee Year of KVKs



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