

Training on Resource Conservation technologies in rainfed farming

23th September 2014, Hyderabad

CRIDA organized a Model Training Course sponsored by Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture on “Sustainable conservation technologies for enhancing resource use efficiency in rainfed farming” from 16 to 23rd September, 2014, for the Senior and middle level extension personnel of the rank of Joint Directors, Deputy Directors, Agricultural Officers and Assistant Veterinary Surgeons, and Assistant Agricultural Officers of the line departments of various states namely Andhra Pradesh, Telanagana, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.



The plenary session was on 23rd September, 2014 was chaired by Dr A. K. Sikka, DDG (NRM & Agrl Extension), who made a presentation on resource conservation technologies and their potential in sustainability of rainfed ecosystem. Dr S. M. Virmani (Chief Guest) elaborated on several technologies which improve the use efficiency of water, nutrient and energy. He further highlighted the need to focus on conservation agriculture in rainfed system. Dr Ch.Srinivasa Rao (Director, CRIDA) indicated the strategies for upscaling of various RCT's into national programmes. On this occasion three books were released by DDG (NRM & AE) namely compendium of lectures, AICRPDA Technical Programme 2014-15 and AICRPDA-NICRA Technical Programme 2014-15.

The training curriculum emphasized on conservation of natural resources through management and strategies of rainwater management, crops & cropping systems, farm implements, soil health, intercropping systems, integrated farming systems, insitu moisture conservation technology, water harvesting and recycling, mulching practices in vegetable crops etc. Upcoming and specific topics on use of polymers, tank silt application, site specific soil testing, application of decision support system for pest forecasting, use of Biochars, custom hiring services and agro-advisory services were also covered. Further broadening the scope towards increasing livelihood security of rural farmers livestock technologies like integrated farming systems modules, pasture management and scientific meat production and management were also dealt and exposure visits organized to Hayatanagar Research farm, Gunegal Research Farms and Fodder Research Station (Mamidipally).

The feedback indicated that the trainees were more impressed with the topics like: Soil & water conservation technologies, Conservation agriculture, Rain water harvesting, Zero tillage, Biochar and use of polymers.. The training helped the trainees in acquiring new skills as majority (>90%) of the trainees felt that it would be helpful in improving their job performance at their respective work places.

(Source: NRM Division)