

## **ARYA: Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture**

ICAR launched the Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) project in 2015-16 and implementing of the project through Krishi Vigyan Kendra. The need of the project was to retain youth in agriculture and making agriculture more profitable through agriculture and allied enterprises. Thus, realising the importance of rural youth in agricultural development, especially from the point of view of food security of the country, ICAR has launched a program on “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)”. Its aims to create adequate employment opportunities for the youth in the agriculture sector so that they do not have to migrate from villages to cities or urban areas in search of jobs and stable income and as a result boost the growth of the agriculture sector. The VBKVK has started ARYA project since 2019. KVK imparted 21 days vocational training on three components i.e. nursery management, goat rearing and poultry rearing. In the trainings KVK trained 279 rural youths, out of which 95 youth were trained in goat rearing, 84 in nursery management and 100 youth in poultry farming. Under the project support were also made for establishment of units. Total 105 youth established enterprises at their doorstep, out of which 34 youth in goat rearing, 24 youth in nursery management and 47 youth in poultry rearing. KVK also exposed the entrepreneur in different platform like Kisan Mela's and exhibitions. KVK is regular in conducting ex-training meetings to provide them on spot solutions of their problems.

## **MARVI: Managing Aquifer Recharge and Sustaining Groundwater Use through Village-level Intervention**

About MARVI (<https://www.marvi.org.in/>)

The MARVI project is funded by the Australian Water Partnership (AWP) and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Key partners of this project are Western Sydney University, Vidya Bhawan Society, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, CSIRO Land & Water, International Water Management Institute, Development Support Centre and Arid Communities and Technologies.

The project is focused on developing a village level participatory approach, models and tools to assist in improving groundwater supplies and reducing its demand through the direct involvement of farmers and other affected stakeholders. The project commenced in February 2012.

A unique feature of MARVI is the use of scientific measurements by citizens through the engagement of Bhujal Jankaars (BJs), a Hindi word meaning 'groundwater informed' volunteers. With appropriate training and capacity building, BJs monitor groundwater levels and quality, making sense from a village perspective of what is happening to village groundwater availability. BJs convey this information to farmers and others in their own language. The study areas of this project is Dharta watershed of Bhindar Blcok in the Udaipur district in Rajasthan. The Dharta watershed is about 55 km east of Udaipur



Figure 1: Sign MoU between CGWB and MARVI partners.



Figure 2: Launching of MARVI publications

### **Schedule Tribe Component (earlier Tribal Sub Plan)**

The project aims at increasing income of the adopted tribal farmers and also efforts at improving nutritional status of tribal families. It is envisioned that the income of the beneficiary farmers reached to be doubled. Sustainability of agriculture has been kept a front through better enhancement in livestock productivity in Goat and Poultry, input management, promotion of bio-control management for insect and disease control, goat shed, farm implements bank, grain storage bins, nutri-garden etc. The entire strategy is basically for bringing substantial economic benefit to farming community bringing in skills about new technology and creating on farm employment opportunity through breed improvement in livestock and agriculture production. Now the effort is to upscale and cover large number of farmers in relatively much greater areas. Since 2017-18 project reached to nearly 500 tribal families.

## NFSM (National Food Security Mission) on Oilseed and Pulses

NFSM (National Food Security Mission) on Oilseed and Pulses is a flagship schemes of GoI from 2014. The aim of the scheme is very clear to increase the production and productivity of oilseed and pulses in India through demonstration of improved variety with package of practices. Package of practices included certified seed of new varieties, integrated pest management, integrated nutrient management, irrigation and intervention of latest technologies with this. Since 2014, every year more than 100 ha area demonstration of oilseed and pulses were conducted. The major crops were Blackgram, chickpea, groundnut, soybean and Mustard.

