

Mobilisation of SHGs for Effective Women's Development by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), South Tripura

KVK has to work for the upliftment of rural community i.e. farmers, farmwomen and rural youths by providing diverse technical knowledge and skills so that the production in agriculture and self-employment can be improved. The response of farmers and rural youths has been encouraging since beginning. However, the response from farm women in all the agriculture development and technology dissemination process has been very less. Therefore, KVK has to try a distinct concept to involve more women in the KVK activities. As SWOT analysis, it was found that majority of farm women are not coming forward to seek the technology for adoption at their field. This is mainly due to poor literacy, exposure and inadequate knowledge about the problem and solutions available, lack of availability of credit/financial support to adopt the technology and poor involvement in decision making process. Due to the lack of information, knowledge and skills, the farm women are not actively involved in the mainstream extension programmes.

In view of all the facts, KVK has developed the vision to empower the farm women socio-economically so that they can support the livelihood security of their family. With this vision, mobilization of SHG has been started for strengthening of



Self Help Groups (SHGs) of farm women so that they can be actively involved in the programmes conducted by the KVK as well as other agencies also. In this regard, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK, South Tripura) organized a series of programmes namely, SHG convener meet, four training programmes including leadership development in village and one group meeting during February 2009 (Table 1). Altogether 123 farm women members including President and Secretary of various SHGs participated in these programmes.

Table 1. Training & Extension Programmes conducted by the KVK for SHGs in South Tripura during February 2009.

Title of the Programme	Village Coverage	Women Participation
1. Formation and Management of S.H.G. & Leadership Development in Villages	South Takma, East Manu, Adivasa Para, Birchandra Nagar, Katalia (Bokafa Block)	22
2. Raising of Seedlings and Propagation Technique in Mango	Birchandramanu, Manpathar (Bokafa Block)	6
3. Mushroom Cultivation	Belonia	29
4. S.H.G. Conveners meet	Santir Bazar (Bokafa Block)	36
5. Managing Group Dynamics	Dudhpushkarni Gram Panchayat (Kakraban Block)	19

6. Other Training Programmes	Bokafa Block	11
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The needs and convenience of the SHG members was assessed through the above extension and training programmes. The major areas identified for intervention were fisheries, dairy, goatary, fruit nursery and mushroom cultivation. Now, KVK will organize some skill development programmes in the identified areas for selected SHGs. This will provide the general entrepreneurship skill to motivate the farm women and help to increase the response of the farm women to various activities.