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# **AGRICULTURE EXTENSIONS**



**ARD Notes  
For NABARD Grade A Exam**

# Agriculture Extensions/ KVKs

## ARD Notes for NABARD Grade A Exam

**Agricultural extension** is the **application** of scientific research and new knowledge to agricultural practices through farmer education. Extension practitioners can be found throughout the world, usually working for government agencies.

### Importance, Role, & Methods of the Evolution of the Extension Program

- It is done to measure the degree of the programme in terms of the objectives and goals set forth.
- This is basically done to determine the changes in the behaviour of people as a result of the extension programme.
- The evaluation is done not only for the physical achievement but also for the method and techniques used and of the other steps in the programme.
- Considerable savings can be made by conducting formative evaluation at the training stage.
- The plans for coordination outside extension were followed as planned after periodic evaluation indicated that no changes were required.
- Evaluation keeps the extension agency on right track and helps in differentiating means from ends.
- Evaluation helps in the planning of future programmes based on the evaluation result of the previous one.

### Importance in Programme Planning

- Evaluation helps to establish a benchmark, the first principle in programme building is to get the facts about a situation and the first measurement in the evaluation must be taken at the point where people start or just before the teaching process begins.
- The extension shows how far our plans have progressed. Studies of extension work have shown that it often takes years of constant teaching to ensure general adoption of practices.
- The evaluation shows whether we are proceeding in the right direction. It helps to test our objectives and to recommend changes where needed.

- Evaluation helps to locate strong and weak points in any programme or plan, Improvement can be made only when we locate weak points and tries to strengthen them.
- Evaluation improves our skills in working with people. In programme building, much skill is required to enable people to bring all the facts together and to arrive at sound conclusions without domination by professional workers.
- Evaluation helps to determine properties for activities in the plan of work, extension becomes more complex, and one of its greatest problems is to determine what to do, how much to do and what to omit.
- Evaluation brings confidence and satisfaction to extension work. Volunteer leaders even more than paid workers benefit from the satisfaction they get from knowing what results are obtained.
- When the evaluation shows a negative result, we can then change or work in line with what has been found and proceed with confidence with the results of evaluation studies rural people can more intelligently participate in future planning of their own programmes.

### **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)**

- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) are agricultural extension centres created by ICAR (Indian Council for Agricultural Research) and its affiliated institutions at the district level to provide various types of farm support to the agricultural sector.
- The first KVK was established in 1974 (Pondichery) and has grown into the largest network in the country.
- KVKs provide several farm support activities like providing technology dissemination to farmers, training, awareness etc.
- They play a vital role in conducting on-farm testing to demonstrate location-specific agricultural technologies.
- KVKs conduct demonstrations to prove the potential of various crops at farmers' fields.
- They also conduct need-based training programmes for the benefit of farmers and farm women, rural youths.
- KVKs are creating awareness about improved agricultural technologies through a large number of extension programmes.

- Critical and quality inputs like seeds, planting materials, organic products, biofertilizers and livestock, piglet and poultry strains are produced by the KVKs and made available to the farmers.

**Krishi Vigyan Kendra performs its activities as per the mandate suggested by ICAR, New Delhi.**

### **Objectives of the KVKs**

- To organize on and off-campus training programmes for farmers, rural women, youth, and officers of the department of agriculture to make them aware of the latest technologies in agriculture.
- To organize short and long-term vocational training courses on vegetable, floriculture, beekeeping, dairying, mushroom, organic farming, and protective cultivation etc for rural youth for self-employment.
- To arrange front-line demonstrations and on-farm trials at farmer's fields on improved technologies and refinement of existing technology so as to suit the need of the farmer.

### **Activities of KVK**

- On-farm testing to identify the location specificity of agricultural technologies under various farming systems.
- Front-line demonstrations to establish production potentials of technologies on the farmers' fields.
- Training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills in modern agricultural technologies.
- Training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.
- Work as a resource and knowledge centre of agricultural technology for supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sectors for improving the agricultural economy of the district.

**To achieve the set objectives KVKs undertake the following types of activities in the adopted villages:**

(1) Farm Advisory Service

- (2) Training programme for different categories of people.
- (3) Training programme for the extension functionaries
- (4) Front Line Demonstration (Fill)
- (5) On Farm Testing (OFT).

### **Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in the Dissemination of Agricultural Technologies**

- The first Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) was established in 1974 at Pondicherry.
- The initial idea behind the establishment of KVKs was to provide vocational education in agriculture and allied sectors for the pre and post matriculate levels rural youth.
- Subsequently, objectives and mandates have been changed according to the needs of agriculture.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras is acting as an innovative institution for imparting vocational training to the practising farmers, school dropouts and field-level extension functionaries.
- During each plan period, the performance of KVKs was reviewed and more and more KVKs were established in the country successively. On the occasion of the Independence Day Speech on 15th August 2005, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India announced that by the end of 2007 there should be one KVK in each of the rural districts of the country.
- To date, there are 660 KVKs working established in the country.



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