

# OPERATIONALISATION OF ATMA

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- ATMA a registered society responsible for **technology dissemination activities** at the district level
- It is a **focal point for integrating Research and Extension** activities and decentralizing day to day management of the public Agricultural Technology System (ATS).
- It would have linkage with all departments of the Govt. and research organisation as well as NGOs and agencies associated with Agril. Development in the district
- ATMA is a society of key stake holders involved in the agricultural activities for sustainable agricultural development in the district
- As a registered society, it will receive and expend project funds and enter into **contracts** and **agreements** and **maintains revolving accounts** and use to recover the operating costs.

## KEY ACTORS

- Project Director ATMA
- Dy. Project Director ATMA
- Block Technology Team members
- FIAC Convenor
- FAC
- VEWs
- Farmer's Organisation / Commodity interest Groups

# To Operationalization ATMA Responsibilities of Key Actors:

## Project Director

- Provide overall leadership for agricultural extension and related technology transfer activities within the district.
  
- Work closely with the
  - ATMA Governing Board (GB);
  - Serve as Member Secretary of the GB;
  - Schedule GB meetings; and forward meeting notices, agenda and necessary reports to GB members in advance of scheduled meetings.

- Prepare and submit Annual Action Plans to the ATMA Governing Board (GB) for review, possible modification, and approval.
- Forward action plans approved by the GB to the State Nodal Cell for review and preparation of SEWP for the state.
- Prepare and submit other types of proposals, as authorized by the GB that will enhance the work and financial sustainability of the ATMA and its programs.
- Develop and maintain a close working relationship with line departments that participate in ATMA activities, as well as with other government offices in the district.

- Develop and maintain a positive working relationship with NGOs, cooperatives, and private sector firms, including input supply, agro-processing, and marketing.
- Promote the development of farmer organizations throughout the district.
- Promote and help establish new marketing and agro-processing opportunities for farmers within the district.
- Establish, equip, and maintain a suitable office for the ATMA to carry out its assigned functions, activities and tasks.

- Hire and supervise ATMA staff in carrying out ATMA business.
- Establish and maintain ATMA bank accounts; receive and disburse funds as directed by the GB.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date financial accounts that are periodically audited by Chartered Accountant.
- Submit financial reports to the State Nodal Cell in turn to be submitted to the Govt. of India.
- Collect project performance data and compile information needed to monitor project progress; submit performance reports to the nodal cell
- Carry out other duties and tasks necessary to ensure an active program of technology dissemination within the district.

## **FIAC –CONVENOR**

- Provide technical coordination and administrative supervision for all block-level extension programs
- Responsible for submission of block action plans (BAPs) to the ATMA.
- BAPs are compiled from proposals submitted by BTT teams.
- BAPs reviewed and approved by FAC before forwarded to the ATMA for approval and financing.
- Maintain bank account to deposit ATMA funds.

- Funds - disbursed to BTT (department wise) staff to carry out extension activities, approved by ATMA
- **Maintain financial accounts indicating how ATMA funds were spent; these financial records would be submitted periodically to the ATMA.**
- Establish and maintain an active Farmer Advisory Committee (FAC) to help set extension priorities
- Evaluate extension programs within the block or mandal.

- FAC composition should reflect the major groups of stakeholders within the block.
- If the OIC were from the DOA, then he/she expected to provide administrative supervision over other DOA staff within the block.
- DOA staff include AEOs, AOs who supervise VEWs
- In case of small blocks the OIC may directly supervise the VEWs.

## ROLE OF AEO/HEO/LEO

- AEO, HEO and/or LEO identify and prioritize important technical, management, and resource constraints faced by different socio-economic groups of farmers in blocks by using appropriate PRA - methods.
- Needs of resource poor farmers and other disadvantaged groups, including scheduled castes and tribal groups should be focused.
- Identify important NRM problems that pose a threat to the different cropping systems and the natural resource base within the block.

- Working with the district-level research and extension specialists,
- The technology team develops annual action plan for block,
- Work in collaboration with VEWs
- Shall implement their respective block action plans (BAPs).
- Working with NGOs and VEWs, shall establish and provide technical support to different types of FIGs who are producing different types of high value crops or livestock enterprises.

## **Village Extension Worker VEW:**

- VEW shall inventory the predominant crop, livestock, and farming systems in service area and determine the technology gaps that limit the productivity of field crop, horticultural, and livestock production systems.
- Identifying those homogeneous socio-economic groups of farmers (e.g. scheduled caste, tribal and women farmers) who carry out particular farming systems.
- Groups of similar socio-economic farm households could be targeted for specific farming system innovations (success stories within the district or block) and for organization into FIGs.

- VEW's prime responsibility is day - to- day program implementation under the technical supervisions and guidance of the FIAC
- VEW would carry out a combination of on-farm visits, meetings, demonstrations, farmer field days,
- With FIAC team members assisting in demonstration plots installations, teaching farmer – training courses and conducting field days and other group activities
- VEW work towards the goal to create an integrated or single window extension system

- Encouraging farmers to participate in training activities being offered at the mandal or Nyaya Panchayat level.
- Emphasis would be given to assisting resource poor farmers and other disadvantaged groups, including women farmers.
- VEW would encourage and help farmers gain access to other technical services, such as soil testing and artificial insemination (AI), and resources (credit).

- Work in collaboration with NGOs, for formation of CIGs
- Once groups are established, assist them with
  - Necessary information,
  - Technology and training
  - Access to inputs,
  - Credit and marketing services
- Working with the FIAC team, the VEW would encourage newly established FIGs to join similar types of FIGs within the block, to form a farmers associations

**Farmers Organizations (FOs)** would be encouraged at village level and in turn these groups, evolve into Commodity Associations (CAs), Marketing Cooperatives and other types of FOs at the block and district level.

- Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) and Farmer Associations (FAs) will be effectively involved in the preparation of BAPs.
- Coordinate in organizing demonstrations, on-farm and adaptive trails and give feedback to the extension and research.
- Their representatives would be directly involved in the block-level FACs and also at Governing Board of ATMA.

- The GB of ATMA would select and utilize project funds to support one or more NGOs to assist different types of farmers in becoming organized into different types of **FOs** within the district.

- **Farmer Advisory Committees (FACs)** will be constituted for providing a formal feedback mechanism. FACs constitute representation from all major stakeholders and farmer representatives of FOs within the block.
- **The FAC would help set block extension priorities and recommend resource allocation across program areas.**
- These committees would review and provide advice to each implementation unit at block level. The chairman of the FAC would be elected from the farmer representatives on rotation.
- FACs shall meet once in a month during the season and quarterly in lean season.

**Thank you**