

National Agriculture Technology Project (N A T P)

This project was launched by the ICAR on June 30, 1998, with the support of the World Bank to strengthen and complement the existing resources and to augment the output National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

Objectives:

The major objective of this component is

- 1) To accelerate the flow of technology from research, and extension to farmer.
- 2) Improve the dissemination of location specific and sustainability enhancing technologies.
- 3) Decentralize technical and decision making authority to the district level.
- 4) Create a more effective and financially sustainable public extension system.
- 5) Step up the privatization of certain technology transfer activities.

Salient Features:

- Pilot testing new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination at the district level and below through establishment of district Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).
- Moving towards integrated extension delivery.
- Bottom up planning procedures for setting the Research Extension agendas.
- Addressing gender concern in agriculture and
- Increasing use of information technology for effective dissemination.

National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP)

The Government of India has launched the National Agricultural Innovation project with a credit support of the World Bank. The project will run up to June 2012. The ICAR is operating the Project. The overall objective of the project is to facilitate accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture for rural poverty alleviation and income generation by the application of agricultural innovations through collaboration among public research organizations, farmers' groups, NGOs, the private sector and the civil societies and other stakeholders.

The India National Agricultural Innovation Project contributes to the sustainable transformation of Indian agricultural sector to more of a market orientation to relieve poverty and improve income. The specific aim is to accelerate collaboration among public research organizations, farmers, the private sector and stakeholders in using agricultural innovations. The project has four objectives.

1. Strengthens the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as the catalyzing agent for managing change in the Indian National Agricultural Research System (NARS) by focusing on: 1.1 Information, communication and dissemination system; 1.2 Business planning and development; 1.3 Learning and capacity building; 1.4 Policy and gender analysis and

visioning; 1.5 Remodeling financial management and procurement systems; and 1.6 Project implementation.

2. Funds research on production-to-consumption systems.

3. Funds research on sustainable rural livelihood security.

4. Supports basic and strategic research in the frontier areas of agricultural science features

The project will have a strong and transparent governance strategy for efficient working. Institutional and implementation arrangement will be fully streamlined to follow modern financial management, procurement system, knowledge management, and a results framework and monitoring which will ensure continuous progress and achieving the expected output. Systematic economic and financial analysis will be pursued along with close monitoring of environmental and social safe guards. Another major component of the project is a strong institutional learning and capacity building plan for self-renewal of National Agricultural Innovation System. The plan includes comprehensive training need assessment, harnessing modern ICT in knowledge and education dissemination management for agriculture, capacity building to deal with globalize agricultural market and economy, capacity building for visioning and foresight etc.

Integrated Tribal Development Project (I T D P)

The Programme on Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is being implemented since the Fifth Five Year Plan with specific objectives of reducing poverty, improving educational status and eliminating exploitation of the tribal families. The programme was evaluated by the programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) in 1996 to assess the effectiveness and performance of planning and monitoring arrangements, and impact of the programmes on the well being of the Scheduled Tribes. The report was released in July, 1997.

The findings of the study indicate that a large majority of the tribal feel that they are better off now in terms of possession of productive and utility assets and access to food, clothing, transport facilities, electricity, schools etc. Though, the administrative arrangements to execute this programme existed in all the states as per Central guidelines, the system of decentralised planning, implementation and monitoring as envisaged in the guidelines for the scheme were not operational in most of the states. The delivery system of the programme was not effective and a very large number of tribal farmers were found to use irrigation water, High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds, fertilizers and other inputs from private sources, even though a significant proportion of funds were being spent on free delivery of such inputs. Inadequate facilities for primary education and health were also observed.

In order to improve the situation it has been suggested that ITDP Project Officer should be made more effective in planning and implementation of Tribal Development Programmes. It is also necessary to assess the deprivation of tribal in all the areas of social concern for

adoption of an appropriate principle for determining the size of Tribal Sub-plan and allocation of funds across various sectors. This must be backed by a strong monitoring mechanism.

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (S G S Y)

This programme was launched in April, 1999. This is holistic programme covering all aspects of self employment such as organization of the poor into self help groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing.

Objectives:

The objective of SGSY is to provide sustainable income to the rural poor. The programme aims at establishing a large number of micro-enterprises in the rural areas, based upon the potential of the rural poor. It is envisaged that every family assisted under SGSY will be brought above the poverty-line with in a period of three years.

Scope:

This programme covers families below poverty line in rural areas of the country. Within this target group, special safeguards have been provided by reserving 50% of benefits for SCs/STs, 40% for women and 3% for physically handicapped persons. Subject to the availability of the funds, it is proposed to cover 30% of the rural poor in each block in next 5 years.

Funding:

SGSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and funding is shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 respectively.

Strategy:

SGSY is a Credit-cum-Subsidy programme. It covers all aspects of self-employment, such as organization of the poor into self-help groups, training, credit technology, infrastructure and marketing. Efforts would be made to involve women members in each self-help group. SGSY lays emphasis on activity clusters. Four-five activities will be identified for each block with the approval of panchayat Samities. The Gram sabha will authenticate the list of families below the poverty line identified in BPL census. Identification of individual families suitable for each key activity will be made through a participatory process. Closer attention will be paid on skill development of beneficiaries, known as swarozgaris, and their technology and marketing needs.

How to Seek Assistance:

For assistance under the programme, District Rural Development Agencies and Block

Development Officers may be contacted. The objective of Swarnajayanti Grama Swarojagar Yojana(S.G.S.Y.) is to provide sustainable income to the rural poor. The programme aims at establishing a large number of Micro-enterprises in the rural areas building upon the potential of the rural poor. It is envisaged that every family assisted under SGSY will be brought above the poverty line in a period of three years. This scheme is launched on 1 st April, 1999, the programme replaces the earlier self Employment and allied programmes IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA, GKY and MWS, which are no longer in operation. The programme covers families under below poverty line in rural areas of the country within this target group, special wage guard have been provided by reserving 50% of benefits of SC/STs, 40% for women and 3% for physically handicapped persons subject to availability of funds. It is proposed to cover 30% of the rural poor in each block in the next five year. S.G.S.Y. is a credit cum subsidy programme. It covers all aspects of self employment such as organization of the poor into self-help groups training, credit technology, infrastructure and marketing. SGSY is a centrally sponsored scheme and funding shared by the Central and State Government in the ratio of 75:25.

Prime Minister's Employment Yojana (P M EY)

Prime Minister Employment Yojana for providing self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth was announced by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 1993 to provide self-employed opportunities to one million educated unemployed youth in country. The Scheme has been formally launched on 2nd October, 1993.

Objectives:

- The PMEY has been designed to provide employment to more than a million Person by setting up of 7 lakhs micro enterprises by the educated unemployed youth. It relates to the setting up of the self-employment ventures through industry, service and business routes. The scheme also seeks to associate reputed non-governmental organizations in implementation PMEY scheme especially in the selection, training of entrepreneurs and preparation of project profiles.
- Educated constitute nearly 40% of the unemployed. Incidence of unemployment among the educated labour force is 11.8% against 3.8% for educated and uneducated taken together. Further, the incidence is much higher viz. 26.7% among women than 9.8% among educated men. Women constitute 27% of the educated unemployed level of education. Projection made using alternative techniques put the estimate of educated unemployed at 6-7 million in 1992. This is out of an estimated educated labour force of 52 million. Of the new employment opportunities that are being generated in the economy in recent years, about 45 per cent are estimate to be going to the educated. But, though relatively high, the employment growth of the educated still falls short of the growth of labour force by about 7 lakhs in a year. The trend of a higher growth of their employment is likely to continue with the introduction of modern technologies There may, in fact be a shift towards employment of the educated in the activities which hitherto were the preserve of the uneducated. Hence, the problem of the educated needs a special focus within the overall strategy for

tackling unemployment. Prime Minister's Employment Yojana (PMEY) seeks to address itself to this problem.