

Editorial Report on

International Extension Education Conference, BHU 2023 on “*Innovative Applications of Agricultural Extension for Sustainable Food & Environmental Security*” held at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (U. P.) India during 27-30 January, 2023.

Extension is a key pillar of agricultural development in the world. While large investments have been made during the last few decades to strengthen agricultural research, extension, and advisory services, the extension and outreach systems in most developing countries remain weak and are often broken, under-funded, and disconnected from research and education. The synergism between extension and research is well recognized, but in practice, often a lack of cooperation exists between them. Greater integration, cooperation, and effective communication are needed, and appropriate mechanisms to foster joint programs linking research and extension are critical. Additionally, extension programs should go beyond farm advisory support and encompass larger sphere of community development in both rural and urban areas. The 3rd International Extension Education Conference (IEEC BHU-2023) aimed to connect together the extension educators and practitioners round the globe for sharing their diverse experiences, innovations and good practices for proposing suitable alternatives for SDGs, climate and environmental security. The Indian Society of Extension Education (ISEE) New Delhi collaborated the event. The major themes were; Innovations in Agricultural Extension Management, Innovations in Extension Service and Future perspectives of Agricultural Extension. The following sub themes were presented viz, Institutional Pluralism: Mapping and Convergence, Entrepreneurial Extension, Incubation and Startups, Capacity Building & Training Management in Extension, Digital Initiatives, Disruptive Technologies and Knowledge Management, Technology Development Assessment and Transfer, Structural & Functional Imperatives of Communication Process, System Paradigm and Sustainable Models of Communication, Farm Journalism & Social Media Extension, Communication, Diffusion and Behavioural Research in Extension, Doubling Farmers Income: Innovations and Experiences, Value Chain and Market Led Extension, Family farming & nutrition sensitive extension, Gender & Youth in agriculture, Extension approaches in climate smart agriculture, Rethinking Agricultural extension: Policies and reforms, Extension in social context: Vocal for local, Emerging pedagogy in teaching and learning, Worldwide education policies and NEP 2020 and Sustainable Food Production Addressing SDGs Grass root innovation, Adaptation Strategies and IPR rules.

The conference formally inaugurated on 27th January 2023, brought together 348 scientists and delegates round the globe along with 50 farmers for three-day deliberations spread over 15 oral & 6 poster sessions – pertaining to four seminar themes and 21 sub themes where 7 key note addresses, 14 lead papers were presented by delegates from 25 states. Around 493 abstracts were submitted by extension professionals, published in the form of Compendium of Abstracts containing 435 pages. The prestigious Extension Leadership Awards were conferred on Dr. U.S. Gautam, DDG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, DG, MANAGE, Hyderabad. The event was graced by the august presence of many stalwarts and doyens in the field of Agriculture from India and abroad including; Dr. V.V. Sadamate, Former Advisor (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Government of India, Prof. P.K. Roul, Vice Chancellor, OUAT, Odisha, Dr. P. Chandra Shekara, DG, MANAGE, Hyderabad, Prof. Janaki Alavalapati, Professor and Dean, Auburn University, USA, Prof. Venkatramana Sridhar Professor, BSE, Virginia Tech & Diplomate, D.WRE, USA, Prof. K. Narayana Gowda, Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore, Sudhanshu Singh, Director, IRRI (ISARC), Dr. U.S. Gautam, DDG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi. Other stalwart of Agricultural Extension like; Dr. G. Trivedi, Former Vice Chancellor, RAU, Pusa, Dr. M. M. Adhikari, Former Vice Chancellor, BCKV, West Bengal, Prof. Chakradhar Satapathy, Former Director, Extension, OUAT, Former Vice Chancellor and Director AMITY University, Dr. T.K. Behera, Director, IIVR, Varanasi, U.P. and Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Honorable Vice Chancellor, RGCU, Arunachal Pradesh. Prof. B. Jirli, Department of

Agricultural Extension and Communication, I.Ag.Sc., BHU & convener of the event deliberated on various facets of themes of conference the recommendations of the conference.

The theme wise recommendations aroused from presentations and discussions were as follows:

- Institutional pluralism and convergence platforms need to be achieved for collaborative technology delivery system.
- FPOs are the institutions which can play key role in real time technology delivery.
- Exploiting youth power in agriculture by empowering them and developing entrepreneurial competencies.
- Overhauling agricultural education curriculum to suit the needs of the day and making provision for constant updating and revision on continuous basis.
- Providing blended learning opportunities not only to students but also practitioners of agriculture and allied sciences.
- Focusing more on demand driven approach rather than supply driven approach of extension.
- Extension education and extension services effort should focus more on blending traditional agricultural practices with modern practices.
- Open educational resources as weapon of mass education and education is the panacea of all problems of stakeholders.
- Agri -tourism combined with health and religious tourism can be the game changer in enhancing income of stakeholders of agriculture and allied sciences.
- There is immediate need for providing legal framework for extension service delivery mechanism to make extension more accountable.

On last day 930th January, 2023) a Scientist-farmer interaction with the active participation of around 50 farmers was organized.

Courtesy: Editorial Board, Indian Journal of Extension Education, ISEE, New Delhi