



Under the 4th Five Year Plan proposals, it is planned to extend this training programme to 200 additional Centres thereby providing training to four hundred thousand farmers.

## 2. Training of progressive farmers in the Intensive Agricultural District Programme and Intensive Agricultural Areas, Blocks :

A training programme of short duration for the farmers in the Intensive Agricultural District Programme and Intensive Agricultural Area, Blocks has also been started. The salient features of the programme are as under :

- (a) Training is imparted to a limited number of willing farmers in specific jobs which they have to perform at a particular time in their fields to step up production.
- (b) The venue of training is decided according to local conveniences. The holdings of progressive farmers are also taken up as sites.
- (c) The duration of training varies from 1 to 3 days depending on the subject matter and the time available to the farmers in a particular season.
- (d) Each batch generally consists of 15 farmers and they are drawn from neighbouring villages at the rate of about three farmers from each village.
- (e) Since the trainees are drawn from the nearby villages, no specific arrangements for their board and lodging are made. However, light refreshments and meals are provided according to the duration of training.

### Progress :

This training programme has been taken up in all the Intensive Agricultural District Programme and Intensive Agricultural Area Districts and is being implemented on a regular basis.

## 3. Training of farmers in the non-Intensive Agricultural District Programme and non-Intensive Agricultural Area, Blocks.

The training programme on the same lines as is being done in the Intensive Agricultural District Programme and Intensive Agricultural Area Blocks has also been formulated and recommended to the State Governments for non-intensive agricultural districts and non-intensive

agricultural areas, blocks. In this connection, it may be mentioned that there are about 400 blocks which are not covered by the Intensive programmes so far. This programme is being implemented on a phased basis.

## 4. Exchange of Farm Leaders within the country

The scheme envisages the provision of an opportunity to interested farmers to visit the farms of outstanding farmers, with them for a fortnight as their guests, observe the farm planning and farm operations and out and to acquire skills in any specific line the visiting farmers' choice, being practical on the farm of the host family. In the initial stages, it is proposed to have this exchange within the State and after gaining some experience, the exchange will be extended to neighbouring States. The original idea was to enable the farmers for a duration of two months but in view of the discussions held with the State Governments, it has been decided to reduce the duration to 15 days. Under this scheme about 2,000 farmers will be exchanged per year. During the current year which is the 1st year of the implementation of the programme, 1,190 farmers are expected to take advantage of this programme. Last year 420 farmers were exchanged.

## 5. Training of Farm Women in Agricultural Production :

Women share a number of farm operations with men. Seed selection, storage, sowing behind the plough, dibbling and planting, irrigation, weeding and cleaning of grains, collection and storage of manures, and host other farm operations are mainly carried out by women. Feeding cattle, looking after calf and the cow, maintenance of milch cows and poultry keeping are usually the job of farm women. In an Indian society the household is the custodian of the tradition and unless changes her attitude, no improvement can be carried out either on the farm or at home. Therefore, training of farm women, if more important, is as important as that of training of farmers. In order to achieve this end, a programme to train farm women has been drawn up under which selected farm women are being trained in agricultural production. The scheme has been introduced in blocks in which the Gramswak Training Centres are situated. There has been quite

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encouraging response under this programme and about 2000 women have already been trained. Based on these encouraging results, the training has been extended to Intensive Agricultural District Programme districts and Intensive Agricultural Areas.

## 6. Associating the manufacturers, Importers and distributors of agricultural inputs in the training programme of farmers :

Under this programme it is envisaged to associate the manufacturers, importers and distributors of agricultural inputs in the training programme of farmers to intensify the training already on hand and to expend it wherever it is possible. Under this programme, emphasis is laid on the handling of agricultural implements, Plant protection materials and equipments and judicious use of fertilizers. Training will be imparted to farmers in selected specific subjects and the existing training programme will be made more effective and practical by availing of the materials and manpower available with these private organisations whose objective is also to enable the farmers to use effectively the modern agricultural inputs.

## (B) Farmers' training programmes, undertaken by the State Government.

Apart from the various training programmes, being undertaken under the auspices of the Ministry of Food and Agricultural, certain State Governments have also formulated massive training programmes for the farmers. The salient features of these programmes being undertaken in the State of Punjab, Maharashtra and Orissa are as under :—

### Punjab :

The Punjab State has organised service-cum-education training camps of the farmers at the rate of one in each Gramswak circle. These camps are of one day's duration. They are organised well in advance of each crop season. The Block Development Officers and Agricultural Extension Officers participate in these camps and impart training to the farmers and there is not much expense involved on training.

A unique feature of these Training camps is the combining of service with education. This makes it a highly useful activity. In these

camp posters on package of practices of major crops are displayed. Besides, various production requisites like fertilisers and seeds packed in handy bags, improved implements, different kinds of pesticides etc. are also Exhibited. After the training, the farmers before they disperse, procure fertilizers, seeds etc. according to their requirements. This saves their time which would otherwise have been wasted in travelling long distances to purchase production requisites. These camps have made a tremendous impact on the adoption of improved practices by the farmers of Punjab. The salient features of the entire training programme in Punjab are :

1. Punjab has a training programme for farmers at State level, district level, block level and village level.
2. The training is imparted in agriculture and allied fields depending upon the requirements of the particular batch of trainees.
3. The duration of training at the state level is one month whereas the training at the district level is for a week and at the block level for 1 to 2 days.
4. The strength of the trainees in a batch varies from 40 to 50 farmers.
5. During the course of training, the farmers are provided with free board and lodging and the expenditure is met by the State Government.
6. Under this programme 400 to 500 farmers are being trained per block per year.

## 2. Maharashtra

The training envisaged is of two types.  
(a) Training of farmers through peripatetic training camps.

(b) Short vocational courses on important crops.

As regards the training of farmers through peripatetic teams, there are two units in each district. Each unit holds four camps in various parts of the district every month. Thus during the period of six months (from April to June and October to December) about twenty four camps are organised by each unit. In each course about 50 farmers are admitted thereby providing training to 2,400 farmers in each District. At this rate 60,000 farmers would be trained in the twenty-five districts of the State.

It has been planned to organise short vocational courses of fifteen days duration in all the Districts of the State. In each District eight such courses are organised in a year and the training relates to main crops and livestock of the District concerned. Each batch consists of fifty farmers. At this rate, 400 farmers are trained in each District. This means in a year 10,000 farmers will receive vocational training in specific fields.

### 3. Orissa :

The Government of Orissa have formulated a massive vocational training programme of fifteen days duration for the farmers. Under this programme it is proposed to provide training to at least three farmers per village. There are 46,000 villages in the State. This training is proposed to be imparted at the Government

Agricultural Farms and Research Stations during the growing season of crops in batches. The farmers will be brought to the farms for 15 days at a time during each operational period. This will enable the farmers to participate in the actual field operation. This programme has been taken up on a phased basis.

A very ambitious programme has been formulated for the Fourth Five Year Plan period as it is now realised by all, that without training of farmers in scientific agriculture, it will not be possible to increase agricultural production at a rapid rate. The farmers are keen to learn the technical know-how. There are over sixty million farming families in our country and it is proposed to train as many of them as possible 'at least 10%' so that scientific agriculture is brought to their doors.