

Editorial (July- September, 2026)

Agricultural extension is undergoing a profound transformation as global food systems confront the intertwined challenges of climate change, resource degradation, food and nutritional insecurity, and rapid technological advancement. Across the world, extension systems are evolving from conventional technology transfer models to innovation-driven, farmer-centric approaches that integrate artificial intelligence, digital platforms, climate services, precision agriculture, and data-informed decision-making. International initiatives emphasizing sustainable food systems, climate resilience, and digital public infrastructure have further reinforced the strategic role of extension in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In India, these global developments coincide with an expanding digital agriculture ecosystem, increasing emphasis on climate-resilient farming, and renewed focus on entrepreneurship, value chains, and farmer producer organizations. While digital technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for personalized and timely advisory services, they also underscore the need to bridge digital divides, safeguard data privacy, and ensure that women, smallholders, tribal communities, and rural youth benefit equitably from emerging innovations. The future of extension therefore lies not in replacing human expertise with technology, but in strengthening extension professionals as facilitators of knowledge, innovation, and inclusive rural transformation. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched an Intensive Campaign on the Balanced Use of Fertilizers in May 2026 across high fertilizer-consuming districts to promote soil test-based nutrient management and the judicious application of fertilizers. Building on this initiative, the Government of India launched the Khet Bachao Abhiyan in June 2026, a nationwide campaign aimed at protecting agricultural land, restoring soil health, and promoting scientific and sustainable farming practices. Further strengthening the agricultural extension system, a Model Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is being established in Vidisha district, Madhya Pradesh, to serve as a "Live Laboratory" and a Centre of Excellence for demonstrating innovative technologies, advancing scientific farming, and fostering farmer-centric learning and capacity building.

The *Indian Journal of Extension Education* remains committed to respond to the rapidly changing realities. We encourage interdisciplinary research, methodological innovations, and evidence-based policy analyses that strengthen extension systems at local, national, and global levels. By fostering dialogue across disciplines and geographies, the journal seeks to contribute to resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agricultural development in an increasingly interconnected world. Present issue (July-September, 2026) features 52 manuscripts, including four research tools, eight research notes, and forty full-length papers, with double digit international contributions from Nepal, Iraq, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Vietnam. The papers covered a wide spectrum of contemporary issues in agricultural extension and rural development. Major themes included -Agricultural Extension, Communication and ICT; Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Bibliometric Studies; Climate Change, Sustainability and Natural Resource Management; Entrepreneurship, Agripreneurship and Youth Aspirations; Technology Adoption, Knowledge and Farmer Behaviour; Gender, Social Inclusion and Rural Livelihoods; Indigenous Knowledge, Tribal Development and Rural Communities; Farmer Motivation, Livelihoods and Agricultural Economics; and Tourism and Rural Development. The collection reflects the growing emphasis on integrating digital technologies, sustainability, and socio-economic dimensions to strengthen agricultural extension and rural transformation.

On the basis of 333 included documents during 2022-25, the Scopus issued a Cite Score of 2.2 for 2025, SJR 0.293 and SNIP 0.546, however, as on date, Cite Score is 2.6 with 400 documents in Scopus database (<https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100846015>). To give proper credit to the reviewers, from present issue, we have started publishing reviewers' names on the manuscript itself.

On behalf of the editorial board, I extend sincere thanks to all reviewers, contributors, and members of the editorial and executive bodies for their continued support. We also acknowledge the publisher for maintaining timelines. Special appreciation is extended to Dr. U.S. Gautam, Dr. J.R. Mishra, Dr. Keshava, Dr. Basvaprabhu Jirli, and Dr. Bhanu P. Mishra for their valuable guidance. The financial assistance extended by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi for publication of the *Indian Journal of Extension Education* is duly acknowledged.



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