

National Dialogue on Smart Farming for Sustainability of Smallholders

24th – 25th March, 2018

Organised by

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University & NABARD

NABARD Chair Unit- ANGRAU

Department of

Agricultural Economics,
Agricultural College, Bapatla



The NABARD Chair Unit - ANGRAU and NABARD with TCS Digital Farming Initiatives and AARDI & GVC, Chennai as knowledge partners is convening a national dialogue on 24th – 25th March, 2018 at Agricultural College, Bapatla. The objective is to explore smart innovative ways for higher productivity, cost reduction and the way forward for substantial improvement in net farm income of smallholders who accounts for more than 85% in India. More often, they have limited access to technologies, information, timely credit and markets. The platform offers an opportunity to share innovative ideas, and deliberate the following issues with specific reference to smallholders.

1. Smart technologies and data requirements

Solutions that deliver on-time to enable farmers to adopt best farming practices are thought off to enhance farmer's income. Disseminating knowledge about best practices to farmer's specific needs such as image analysis, satellite imagery and soil sensors for judicious use of resources and practices is increasingly felt by NGOs, FPOs and governments. In this regard, huge data are required in developing solutions for soil and plant health diagnostics, appropriate fertilizer use, etc. Data on crops including horticulture as well as animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries under various farming models and allied activities needs to be explored for improving efficiency of smallholders. In this context, paper writers need to focus on smart, replicable and scalable innovative technologies to empower smallholders.

2. Financial services and Market linkages

Smallholders often have limited access to timely credit, input supply and information. Consequently, they rely on sources that provide generic advisory services and makes them to depend on private money lenders. Solutions that provide low-cost financial products to small and marginal farmers help them to meet the required capital. Challenges such as complicated procedures, higher rate of interest from informal sources, insurance products suitable to the needs of smallholders are to be addressed through technology centric solutions that revamp traditional financial products.

Further, smallholders often have limited options to procure inputs, and sell with different output markets, results in sub-optimal decisions that increases the costs of acquiring inputs, and reduce the price realization. The solutions that connect farmers to agricultural markets provide wide range of options. Increasingly, digital platforms are reducing the traditional dependence on middlemen by linking farmers directly to input companies and output buyers. Technological solutions that disrupt the traditional agriculture value chain and enable farmers to reduce the cost of acquiring inputs and realize a fair price by linking them to input and output markets need to be highlighted by the paper writers.

3. Smart leadership and entrepreneurship for empowerment of smallholders including women and youth:

Leadership plays a significant role for empowerment of farmers. NABARD and governments are promoting FPOs/FCs as an institutional arrangement for farmers' empowerment in the light of the success of SHGs. Women are increasingly contributing to Indian agriculture. Despite their importance, women are continually denied their due share for access to resources. Giving legal support will facilitate recognition of women as farmers and enable them to access credit, inputs, and marketing outlets. It is time to nurture them for resilient and flexible leadership to empower farmers including women in agriculture and allied activities. Micro-enterprises are the keys to generate employment opportunities as well as income earning avenues for women. The paper writers should focus on leadership and entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied enterprises.

About ANGRAU

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Guntur has ten constituent colleges and two PG centres in the faculties of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering and Technology, and Community Science. In addition, there are nineteen Polytechnics, 28 Agricultural Research Stations operating under six Regional Agricultural Research Stations and 13 *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (KVKs) apart from Agricultural Information and Communication Centre (AI & CC), Electronic Media Wing and Farmers Call Centre are operating across the state for the welfare of the farmers. The university has instituted the NABARD Chair Unit and is functioning from 2016-17 with an objective to collaborate with NABARD for joint research activities. During the year 2017, the Chair has organized a national conference on Adaptation Interventions for Climate Resilient Agriculture in Coastal Agro-ecosystems on 9-10 March, 2017. Besides, there are six affiliated agricultural colleges and seventy nine affiliated polytechnics are catering the needs of farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

Call for Papers

The conference aims to bring various stakeholders together to address the issues. We invite scholars and related individuals to contribute papers on the above topics and related issues with rigorous analysis on these issues. Extended abstracts and full papers are to be sent to the organising secretary through the mail, ncu2017.angrau@gmail.com Posters can also be exhibited at the venue of the conference.

Guidelines for the submission of manuscripts: Extended abstract: Maximum 1000 words; Keywords: Maximum 5; Margin: 2.5 cm; Font: Times New Roman, 12; Spacing: 1.5; Paper size A4. Posters can also be submitted for exhibition.

Important Dates

**Acceptance of Abstract/Poster/Final Paper:
20th March, 2018.**

24.03.2018: Technical Sessions.

25.03.2018: Discussions on formation of FPOs/FCs interested groups of farmers.

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Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, ANGRAU

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Dr. D. V. Subba Rao, NABARD Chair Professor.

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Conference mail: ncu2017.angrau@gmail.com

Registration

All the participants are required to register well in advance as per the schedule by paying registration fee as given below:

Participants	Registration
Delegates from Academics & Research	INR 1000
Industry & Private organizations	INR 5000
Students	INR 500
Spouse/Accompanying person	INR 1000

Registration fee may be sent through crossed demand draft drawn in favour of Organising Secretary. Registration fee may also be transferred directly or electronically through NEFT/RTGS to the bank details given below:

Name of the bank	Andhra Bank, Koretipadu, Guntur
Account name	Organising Secretary, NC
Account number	SB A/C No. 031410100085682,
IFSC Code	ANDB0000314

Accommodation

Accommodation will be arranged for registered delegates on first come first serve basis in nearby guest houses and hotels with a tariff ranging from Rs.500-4000/- per day per head. Request for accommodation may be made at the earliest.

About Bapatla

Bapatla town is located at 15° 50' 4.34" N, 80° 30' 18.25" E and is situated on the Guntur-Chirala road. It is a coastal town located on the coast of Bay of Bengal and having Suryalanka beach, which overlooks the crystal blue waters of the Bay of Bengal. Average annual temperature is 28.4 °C and about 854 mm of precipitation annually. Climate during March is average and manageable. It is well connected by road, rail and air. The nearest airport is Vijayawada located about 110 km away from Bapatla.

Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University
NABARD Chair Unit,
Agricultural College, Bapatla,
Dist: Guntur, Andhra Pradesh– 522101.

Registration Form

National Dialogue on Smart farming for Sustainability of Smallholders

Name: _____

Designation : _____

Organisation : _____

Address : _____

Pin Code: _____

Contact No: _____

Email _____

Title of the paper

Registration fee details: _____

DD. No. _____

Date: _____

Issuing bank _____

*Accommodation required Yes / No

Date: _____ Signature: _____

* On request accommodation will be arranged near the place of venue and the delegates have to bear the charges.