

## **Visit of Dr. Shaik N. Meera, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone -X to KVK, Darsi**

**Dr Shaik N Meera**, Hon'ble Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone –X, Hyderabad visited KVK, Darsi on 02.02.2023 and monitored KVK demo units viz., Sheep unit, poultry unit, azolla unit, shadenet, nutri-garden, vermicompost unit, DAMU meteorological unit, soil testing lab, information centre and instructional farm maintained by the KVK. He also interacted with scientific staff of KVK and reviewed the progress of technical programmes.

The following points were suggested for enhancing the visibility of KVK, Darsi in Prakasam district and for production of quality Agricultural inputs in business mode.

1. Documentation of pest scenario during diagnostic field visits of last five years for disseminating timely updates on pest and disease occurrence based on weather forecast in different crops in different areas of Prakasam district.
2. Production of quality tobacco seedlings and supply to needy farmers
3. Quality planting material supply and feasible commercial innovative planting systems introduction in dragon fruit, training on package of practices, processing, packing and marketing of dragon fruit in large scale
4. Suggested to test the soil samples using Krishitantra kit and check the accuracy of results with traditional soil test lab results.
5. Collection of feedback from beneficiaries of DAMU project and also suggested to study weather forecasting services offered by other weather forecasting organizations
6. Maintenance of previous year's weather data for documentation and timely suggestions.
7. Suggested to maintain the Kitchen garden throughout the year and also suggested to promote suryamandal kitchen garden with edible leafy vegetables and vegetables for balanced diet.
8. Suggested to promote and popularize value addition of Millets.
9. Suggested to send proposals for upgradation of Agricultural information centre at KVK, Darsi.
10. Maintenance and commercialization of INDIBRO poultry breed at KVK, Darsi and advised to conduct training programme to poultry growers on poultry production, tips for enhancing meat quality.
11. Quality meat production by giving capacity building trainings to sheep and goat rearing farmers
12. Mentioned to send proposals for the purchase of New tractor at KVK, Darsi.

He also interacted with farmers, SCSP beneficiary farmers, NGO's pertaining to organic farming in rice, millet processing and upscaling. Later facilitated sesame seed (YLM 66 @ 2kg) to farmers under SC sub plan for promotion of oil seeds in rice fallow irrigated areas in summer and critical inputs of foliar nutrition (13-0-45 @1 kg/acre) and insecticide (thiamethoxam 25% WG @ 100g/acre) for management of sucking pest to farmers under CFLD oil seeds.

The visit was accompanied by Dr M. Seshu Madhav, Director, CTRI, Rajahmundry, Dr B. Vijayabhinandhana, Director of Extension, ANGRAU and Dr B. Mukundarao, DDE, ANGRAU, Lam, Guntur.