

**“Virtual Review Workshop on Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture Project”
organized on 16th June, 2020**

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A virtual Review Workshop of “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture Project” was organized on 16 June, 2020.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), inaugurated the Workshop and appreciated the KVKs for successful implementation of ARYA project. He suggested that the scope of the project can be expanded to service-oriented activities like soil health testing and related advisory services, hi-tech horticulture enterprises including sensor-based irrigation management, product aggregation and linking it to digital market platforms, linking youth entrepreneurs to various government schemes and packages, artificial insemination, mushroom spawn production, dal mills, poultry incubators and hatcheries. He stressed upon to identify the interest of the entrepreneurs, and link them with government schemes, and further establish a platform to develop strategic planning to make it more successful. He emphasized to develop one district for a particular commodity in the country so that better infrastructure and marketing linkages could be developed. Based on project success, he suggested to consider expansion of the project to 500 KVKs, particularly to engage migrated youths from cities.

Dr. A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) welcomed the participants and briefly outlined the ARYA project activities. Dr. G. Trivedi, Former Vice-Chancellor, RAU, Pusa, Bihar, appreciated the ARYA Project as the enterprises pursued have given reasonable income to the youth. He stressed upon to sensitize the interested youths who have migrated from city to their village to take up micro-enterprises in agriculture and allied sectors by encouraging them to visit successful ARYA entrepreneurs. Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Former Vice-Chancellor, UASB, Bengaluru, suggested that unexplored and innovative enterprises like banana fiber unit need to be identified and youths should be encouraged to take up such enterprises so that underutilized resources and farm waste could be used to generate income and employment. Two presentations made on the progress by the ARYA project by KVK-Bathinda and KVK – Erode during the inaugural session followed by two technical sessions..

The meeting concluded with Vote of Thanks to the Chair and all participants.

(Source: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Hyderabad)