



## Science-led Agriculture at Farmers' Doorstep – Collaborating with Krishi Vigyan Kendras



### Background

India is predominantly an agrarian country and more than 60% of its population directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. The transfer of technology (TOT) forms the main edifice on which the success of agricultural production depends. The TOT remains a key missing link as the main stakeholders living in remote areas are not adequately educated. Besides, Indian agriculture obtains the best results where crops, animal husbandry, horticulture and fisheries are an integral part of a harmonized system. Addressing these problems is the primary role of a grass-root level institution: the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) or farm science centres – a unique and widely acclaimed system in the world.

There are more than 600 KVKs in India. The KVK network, an integral part of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), aims to assess and facilitate the uptake of location-specific technologies in agricultural development.

### Key Focus Areas

1. On-farm testing to assess agricultural technologies
2. Frontline demonstrations to establish potential of technologies on farmers' fields
3. Capacity development of farmers and extension personnel
4. Guidance to farmers using ICT and other media.

The KVKs are one of the important institutions to translate the vision of Bioversity International at the grass-root level in India. Bioversity International has been collaborating with several KVKs across the country to implement its initiatives or collect data, carry out socio-economic studies and validate technologies. KVKs take Bioversity International's innovations to farmers in the most remote areas and our initiatives are scaled up.



Krishi Vigyan Kendra Satna

**“Krishi Vigyan Kendras develop FAITH in the farmers.”**

*Shri Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India*



PVS trials at KVK Chitrakoot

## Bioversity International in Collaboration with KVKs

‘Seeds for Needs’ is a flagship research initiative of Bioversity International that focuses on identifying, evaluating and supplying a wide range of crop varieties as a strategy to better adapt to climate change and biotic and abiotic stresses, while conserving genetic diversity at the farm level. The KVKs are helping Bioversity International to implement different activities under Seeds for Needs in India. Bioversity International provides financial support and technical guidance. The KVKs conduct on-farm scientific and farmers’ field trials, and train farmers on quality seed production and community seed bank management. They also conduct surveys on different aspects related to crop diversity and organize fairs to promote diversity. Information collected under these activities strengthens the KVK database about the performance of different varieties and landraces in their areas, and at the same time Bioversity International gets information on biodiversity available in the region. The KVKs are adopting the diversification concept and taking it further while Bioversity International is taking new initiatives to other areas.

In Central India, Bioversity International is collaborating with KVKs located at Satna and Chitrakoot. Both these KVKs are hosted by Deendayal Research Institute.

### KVK-DRI Satna

The KVK located in Majhgawan block in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh was established in 1993 with the objective of strengthening the capacity of farmers in the district and adjoining areas. Since its inception, the KVK has extended its services to more than 150 villages.

It was awarded with the ‘**National Best Krishi Vigyan Kendra Award – 2008**’ for its contribution towards socio-economic development of downtrodden sections of the society.

Its programmes aim to improve natural resource management and promote organic agriculture. They provide training and technical assistance analyzing and validating indigenous and traditional knowledge systems, and running demonstrative units on agri-enterprises – such as model watershed management, organic farms, nursery, dairy, poultry, goaterly and mushroom cultivation. These programmes have led to a change in rural households’ attitude towards education, health, environmental

protection, human rights, and self-realization for future production and cooperative life.

### KVK-DRI Chitrakoot

Tulsi Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ganivan, Chitrakoot, was established in 1992. Chitrakoot district falls under the Bundelkhand agroclimatic zone, which is characterized by deep terrains, porous soils with low organic matter and water-holding capacity. It has also been facing severe drought problems since 2007. For achieving social, economic and agricultural sustainability, this KVK is actively engaged in the integrated management of crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry and related fields through vocational training, demonstrations, seminars, farmers’ fairs and field days. Since its inception, its various activities have reached more than 210 out of 330 villages in the district.

The KVK, Ganiwa, received the ‘**Best National Krishi Vigyan Kendra Award – 2004-05**’ for its outstanding contribution in the field of agricultural extension and training. This KVK is particularly recognized for the promotion of quality seed production and the creation of entrepreneurship models related to agriculture.



Krishi Vigyan Kendra Chitrakoot



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