

CHAPTER-1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Concurrent Monitoring & Evaluation of ATMA (Agricultural Technology Environment Management Agency; support to State Extension Programme for Extension reforms) scheme of the Department of Agriculture in Karnataka State has been entrusted to Centre for Symbiosis of Technology Environment & Management (STEM).

The aim and objective of the National Mission on Agriculture Extension & Technology (NMAET) is to enable delivery of appropriate technology and improved agronomic practices to the farmers. The ATMA scheme (support to state extension programme for extension reforms) is a part of the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SAME), which is one of the Sub-missions under NMAET

The objective of the Concurrent Monitoring & Evaluation of the Scheme is concerned with how the programme is planned and implemented, where the activities occur, when they occur and who delivers them. Thus it involves evaluation of the activities undertaken to achieve programme objectives.

The ATMA scheme is being implemented in 07 districts of Belgaum revenue division and 8 districts of Mysuru revenue division. As a part of Concurrent Monitoring and Evaluation of the scheme, the study team of STEM visited the districts and sample taluks in two rounds. The first round was from 31-01-2017 to 03-03-2017 and the second round was from 16-05-2017 to 14-06-2017. During the visits secondary data from the officers of the Joint Directors of Agriculture office at district level was collected and focus group discussions were held with officers of Agriculture Department & ATMA functionaries, BTMs & ATMs and their responses were collected. The information from the Joint Director offices about the planning & implementation process and the ATMA activities implemented as per the approved annual action plan was collected in the predesigned questionnaire formats. This exercise has been done in all the fifteen districts of the two revenue divisions.

For collection of data at taluk level, a sample taluk has been selected in each district using simple random sampling method. The study team also visited the sample taluk in each districts. The secondary data and the information pertaining to planning & implementation process & ATMA activities have been collected from the office of Assistant Director of Agriculture in the predesigned questionnaire format. The ADAs views wherever available has also been taken in to consideration. At village level the farmer beneficiaries/participants were contacted for their

views and experiences on the activities they were involved & recorded in predesigned questionnaire formats.

SAMETI (N) was also visited on 04-03-2017 & 15-06-2017 for obtaining information about the activities implemented by it & recorded in predesigned questionnaire formats.

The information & data collected district level, taluk level & village level has been tabulated and processed and interpreted as per guidelines to arrive at some findings as per the Terms of Reference. The results have been correlated with the views and opinions of officers at district, taluks, BTMs & ATMs and observations have been made at the end of the entire process has been given in this “Final Report”. The physical & financial achievements from 01-04-2016 to 31-03-2017 have been taken into consideration to prepare this report.

After the field visits of the first and second round, the data collected was consolidated, tabulated and analyzed to interpret the data as per the guidelines and on interim report and a monthly report was also submitted to the client department.

Salient findings:-

- 1) The Strategic Research Extension Plan (SREP) has been prepared 9-12 years back and this need to be revisited and revised accordingly. The Annual Action Plans (AAPs) should also be prepared keeping in view the gaps identified in the SREP in all the districts.
- 2) The Annual Action plans for each taluks should have been prepared keeping in view the procedure outlined in the para 4.1.3 (II) and 2.6 of ATMA guidelines 2014 in all the districts.
- 3) Bottom up approach in the preparation of AAPs and allocation of resources should have been followed at different levels in all the districts.
- 4) Allied sectors like Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries should have been more affectively involved in ATMA activities based on the priority of each sector in the taluks. In Mysuru revenue division allied sectors are not involved in Chamrajanagara district.
- 5) Allocation of resources to each major group of ATMA activity should have been done as per financial allocation prescribed in the guidelines in all districts.
- 6) The physical achievement of ATMA activities in Mysuru revenue division range from 7 in Mandya district to 16 in Mysuru, Udupi & Hassan district. The financial achievement range from 55% in Chamarajanagar district to 90% in Udupi district. Out of these

financial achievements the Administrative expenditure ranges from 32% in Udupi district to 76% in Mandya district. In Belgaum revenue division the physical achievement of ATMA activities range from 4 in Vijayapura district to 14 in Belgaum district The financial achievement range from 39% in Vijayapura districts to 70% in Haveri district. Out of these financial achievements the Administrative expenditure ranges from 44% in Haveri district to 93% in Vijayapura district. Though the prescribed percentage 28% has been exceeded in the administrative cost. It is attributed mainly due to the payment of salaries to deployed ATMA manpower which is fixed during a year and this when viewed against the additional duties discharged by ATMA staff in the implementation of others schemes of the department. It will be less than the 28%.

- 7) The compositions of ATMA GBs in the district are under the chairmanship of CEOs. Against a representation of 11 non-official members 0 to 10 are present in different districts. Against 4 meetings to be conducted in a year 2 meetings have been conducted in Dakshina Kannada, 1 meeting each in all other districts are conducted. In Belgaum revenue division two meetings have been conducted in Dharwad and Haveri districts; one meeting each is conducted in all other districts.
- 8) The compositions of DFACs in the districts vary from district to district. Regarding the meetings conducted, one each is conducted in all districts. In Belgaum revenue division one meeting each is conducted in Bagalkote, Belgaum, Dharwad, Gadag Uttarakannada & Vijayapura district. Three meetings have been conducted in Haveri district.
- 9) 10 to 30% representation to women farmers in the farmer advisory committees is provided in the districts of Mysuru revenue division. In Belgaum revenue division the representation is 5 to 20%.
- 10) Less number of quarterly meetings of DLASC, DFAC, and monthly meetings of BTT & BFAC are conducted against the prescribed guidelines.
- 11) In Belgaum revenue division less number of women, scheduled caste, OBC farmers have been benefitted/participated in the activities.
- 12) During interactions with officers and ATMA functionaries at district and taluk level it was pointed out as under
 - a) The Assistant Directors of Agriculture at taluk level are the implementation officers of activities related to Agriculture & coordinating Officer to implement activities of allied sectors. These officers are reported as instructing the ATMA functionaries to implement the programme of Agriculture Department first thereby leaving very less time to plan and implement the ATMA activities.

These officers should have given play to the ATMA functionaries to plan & implement ATMA activities first and then implement the other scheme activities.

- b) An officer to co-ordinate the ATMA activities at district level with district level officers of allied sectors, taluk level officers, NGOs, ACABCs, farmer group, DAESI trained input dealers etc. to implement ATMA scheme in tune with the guidelines is found missing at district level.
- 13) Awareness creation about the latest viable technologies in all sectors is less.
- 14) NGOs, FOs ACABC trained personnel are not involved in any districts as desired.

Recommendations:

- 1) The SREP should be revisited and revised as early as possible on priority. For the past 9-12 years when the SREP were prepared first, lot of changes have taken place in the rainfall patterns, many improved varieties, practices and technologies have emerged from research institutions and change in the approach to production system have emerged in Agriculture and allied sectors. The SREP should be updated based on all these and other related researches and innovations in all sectors and in all district of the two RDs.
- 2) The Annual action plans of all the districts need to be prepared based on bottom up approach as outlined in para number 4.1.3(II) and 2.6 of ATMA guidelines 2014.
- 3) The farmer oriented activities, farm information dissemination and research-Extension-Farmer linkages activities should be planned keeping in view the gaps identified in SREP which are location specific to each district and taluks. If possible this should be made mandatory in all the districts.
- 4) The resources to the activities at (2) above should be allocated as prescribed in the guidelines while planning the Annual Action Plans and thus bringing down the Administrative expenditure to the prescribed 28% of the total allocation in all the districts.
- 5) The prescribed meetings of ATMA GB, TLAIC should be conducted regularly as prescribed in the guidelines. Required number of non-official members should be included in all GBs.
- 6) The farmer advisory committees, DFAC and BFAC should be reorganized keeping in view the composition prescribed in the guidelines. Their meetings also to be insisted regularly and as per guidelines.

- 7) The women representations in DFACs need to be provided to the extent of 30% as per guidelines in all the districts. In the BFACs of the taluks representation to women farmers also need to be given in all the taluks except Yellapura of Uttarakannada district in Belgaum revenue division. In Mysuru revenue division this representation also need to be given in all the taluks except Mandya.
- 8) The allocation of resources to allied sectors and their involvement in ATMA activities should be based on the priority of each sector in the taluks.
- 9) The process for giving farmer awards to the achiever farmer should start in the first quarter of the financial year and efforts should be made to distribute the prescribed number of awards during the year. The districts Chamarajanagar & Kodagu have not given any awards in Mysuru revenue division. The districts of Dharwad, Gadag & Vijayapura in Belgaum revenue divisions have also not given any awards to farmers.
- 10) Success stories of achiever farmers, awardees and innovators should be documented and their achievements published and distributed among other farmers at all possible occasions in the form of leaflets, brochures, booklets, low cost publications & through electronic media. This needs to be done in all the districts of Mysuru revenue division and all the district of Belgaum revenue divisions except Belgaum& Uttarakannada.
- 11) The subjects like post-harvest technology in all the relevant sectors has to be included as one of the subjects to be transferred to the farmers during trainings, exposure visits, demos & farm schools in all the districts.
- 12) The process of selection of third party for Concurrent Monitoring and Evaluation should be completed by the end of first quarter of each year so as to monitor the process of implementation in time and when the activities are being implemented.
- 13) Monitoring of the scheme need to be strengthened at state and district level with periodical communication of the monitoring reports to the district and taluk level officers.
- 14) Allocation of resources to allied sectors should be ensured as per the annual action plans for the taluks and districts and the ATMA staff at taluks and Hobli level should be instructed to participate, coordinate and converge the activities of ATMA with the activities of the allied sectors.
- 15) Awareness creation through the implementation of farm information dissemination activities, adoption of Innovative technology dissemination methods and tools, development of the technology packages, farm schools, field days, should be insisted as per the annual action plans in all the districts.

- 16) Involvement of Non-governmental organizations Farmers organizations, AC ABC and DAESI trained personnel should be considered in all possible activities and in all districts.
- 17) Department may consider the intervention of the appropriate authority at State Govt level to bring about effective convergence of the ATMA activities with the activities of allied sectors through an administrative order.