



Chapter-IV

Role of Stakeholders vis-à-vis Mandate



Kisan mela in progress



Farm School Demonstration

Chapter - IV

ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN ATMA VIS-À-VIS THE MANDATE

BACKGROUND

- 4.1 With comprehensive institutional and operational reforms, ATMA programme is expected to improve the quality and type of technologies being disseminated by the extension system with an emphasis on location-specific recommendations, diversification and intensification of different farming systems and sustainable yield-enhancing technologies; enable the Research-Extension system to become more demand-driven and responsible to solving farmers' problems; strengthen Research-Extension-Farmer linkages especially feedback; increase the financial sustainability of the public extension system; move towards shared ownership of the agricultural technology system by key stakeholders; generate replicable experiences that can be documented, analyzed and then used in expanding this approach to other districts in future projects; and develop new partnerships with private institutions including NGOs. The present chapter attempts to critically evaluate the performance of the key institutions envisaged under the ATMA scheme like the Governing Board, Management Committee, Farm Information Advisory Centre [FIAC] comprising of Block Technology Team [BTT] and Farmers' Advisory Committee [FAC], Farmers' Interest Groups [FIGs]/Farmers' Organisations [FOs], Inter Departmental Working Group [IDWG], SAMETI, etc. in terms of their institutional maturity, administrative/operational capability, financial viability/sustainability in discharging their role more effectively through collective decision-making and greater involvement of farmers, etc. in the studied sample districts.
- 4.2 ATMA, the institutional mechanism devised under the project, is a registered society of key stakeholders at the district level, involved in project planning and implementation of various farm activities for sustainable agricultural development in the district. It has linkage with all the line departments, KVKs, research organizations, non-governmental organizations and other agencies associated with agricultural development in the district with a substantial representation of the farmers' organizations. It lays strong emphasis on private sector participation in input supply and support services and community involvement. The broad objective of the scheme is to bring knowledge generation much closer to market and value-chain development, as well as to the creation of social capital at the grass-roots level for technology transfer by involving the concerned

governmental and non-governmental agencies. It has the flexibility to receive funds directly from Government of India/states, membership fees, beneficiary's contribution etc. ATMA has the main responsibility for all the technology dissemination activities at the district level.

- 4.3 ATMA functions under the guidance of a Governing Board [GB] that determines program priorities and assesses program impact. ATMA also has a Management Committee at the district level, which is headed by the Project Director of ATMA. It consists of all the representatives of the line departments concerning agriculture & allied sectors, research institutions at the district level, farmers' organizations and NGOs. Block Technology Team [BTT] comprising of all the technical officers at the block level, who are involved in agriculture and allied sectors, is constituted at the Block level. BTT assists farmers' groups in identifying, planning and implementing extension activities. A Farmers' Advisory Committee [FAC] comprising of farmer's representatives from FIGs and FOs is also constituted at the block level. It is the forum for articulating extension priorities of farmers and to recommend necessary extension activities to fulfill farmers' extension needs. FAC also reviews implementation of approved extension activities. FIGs are promoted at block/village level to make the technology generation/dissemination farmer driven and farmer accountable. In order to provide needed human resource development (HRD) support in innovative areas of extension delivery, a State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute [SAMETI] has also been established in the project states.

4.4 **EVALUATION OF THE FUNCTIONING OF INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM**

Governing Board [GB]:

- 4.4.1 The Governing Boards have been duly constituted and notified in all the sampled districts of both the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana with Deputy Commissioners as the Chairmen and Deputy Director [Agriculture]-cum-Project Director, ATMA as the Member-Secretary. Similarly, the ATMA Management Committees [AMCs] have been formed under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Directors [Agriculture]-cum-Project Directors at district level in all the sampled districts. The AMCs consist of all the technical officers at the district level concerning agriculture & allied sectors, ZRS, KVK, farmers' representatives including women and SCs, NGOs etc. The AMC is supposed to meet at least once every month to review the progress of activities at the district and block levels after receipt of progress reports from the BTTs whereas the GB is required to review the progress on a bi-monthly basis or atleast once in every quarter

invariably. The information with regard to the total number of meetings of the Governing Board (GB) and Managing Committee (MC) held during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 in the sample districts together with the number of field inspections conducted by the Project Directors of ATMA as well as farmers contacted during such field visits had, therefore, been obtained from all the sampled districts. A detailed statement giving year-wise position in this regard is enclosed as Annexure 4.1. A brief summary of the position in this regard is given in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 : Meetings of Governing Board, Management Committee and Field Inspections Conducted by Project Director (2005-2008)

S. No.	Districts	Total No. of Meetings		Total Field inspections conducted (No.)	Total farmers contacted (No.)
		Governing Board	Managing Committee		
Uttar Pradesh					
1	Jalaun	5	15	79	1115
2	Lucknow	3	16	62	675
3	Saharanpur	3	5	36	336
4	Baghpat	7	8	48	318
5	Bareilly	9	15	92	1380
6	Aligarh	11	9	98	1490
7	Maharajganj	5	9	72	1205
8	Allahabad	12	16	37	555
9	Barabanki	4	9	69	1082
	Total [A]	59	102	593	8156
Haryana					
10	Sirsa	4	2	81	1441
11	Sonepat	3	2	58	810
	Total [B]	7	4	139	2251

4.4.2 During 2005-06, the Governing Boards and Management Committees were constituted in only five (5) out of nine (9) sample districts in UP namely, Saharanpur, Jalaun, Barabanki, Aligarh and Bareilly that too at the fag end of the financial year. The remaining districts constituted these vital bodies during the first quarter of the succeeding year i.e. 2006-07. Overall, in UP, as can be seen from the Table above, the Management Committee had met regularly only in four districts in UP viz. Jalaun, Lucknow, Bareilly and Allahabad. In the rest, the Management Committee had met only rarely raising uncertainties on the effectiveness of the ATMA program. On the other hand, in Haryana both the sample districts of Sirsa and Sonapat had set up Governing Boards and Management Committees during the financial year 2005-06 itself. However, the GB and MC met seldom during the period 2005-2008 thus raising doubts on its functioning. As a matter of fact, though there had been gradual improvement in

- the periodicity of meetings after 2005-06, the meetings had not been held as per the GoI guidelines in any of the sampled districts both in UP and Haryana.
- 4.4.3 The field inspections and farmer contacts had been relatively less in Lucknow, Saharanpur, Baghpat and Allahabad districts of UP. Total field inspections during 2005-2008 in particular had been relatively less in six of the nine districts. Comparatively, in Haryana, field inspections and farmer contacts had been less in Sonapat while Sirsa district fared relatively better during 2005-2008. Comparison of the two states revealed a slow, almost negligible, improvement in the number of meetings of the Governing Board (GB) and Management Committee (MC) held in the sample districts. The number of field inspections conducted by the Project Directors of ATMA as also the number of farmers contacted during such field visits during 2006-07 onwards appears to be picking up slowly after somewhat sloppy performance in 2005-06.
- 4.4.5 The AMC is providing technical support to the ATMA Governing Board and serves as its Secretariat. The Block Action Plan and programme requests of each Block are scrutinized by AMC on the basis of technical, financial and management criteria and placed before the Governing Board for approval. The Project Director of ATMA, who is invariably the district head of the Agriculture Department designated as Dy. Director of Agriculture in both the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, functioned as the Chief Executive. The PD played a major role in coordinating and integrating the research and extension activities in the district.
- 4.4.6 The ATMAs in each of the sampled district had no separate and exclusive staff to undertake various activities under the scheme. The scheme has no provision for creating new posts and the manpower required for its implementation has to be provided by the State Governments from out of their existing staff strength on full time basis. Similarly, no infrastructure, civil works, vehicle or subsidy is permissible except to the extent specified in the Cafeteria. The staff in the agriculture department at the district level, therefore, looks after all the activities of ATMA in addition to their other regular duties. All the districts had a very small complement of staff looking after the works of ATMA which included, apart from the Project Director, a Technical Assistant or a Subject Matter Specialist (SMS), an accountant/cashier and a clerk. In districts like Barabanki, Maharajganj and Jalaun in UP, there were reportedly only two staff (a T.A. and a Clerk/Cashier). In other districts, the staff strength generally ranged from 3-4. In the districts of Sirsa and Sonapat, there were three staff members looking after the works of ATMA (a T.A., a Clerk and an Accountant). Incidentally, the PDs in all the sampled districts were qualified agriculture graduates with good knowledge and

experience in the areas of agricultural science, technology and development. Further, all the PDs had also undergone training in extension management from SAMETI. However, the Project Directors, as the highest-ranking agricultural officials in the district, are not dedicated for ATMA activities alone and are overburdened with various other agriculture activities in the district.

FARM INFORMATION AND ADVISORY CENTRES [FIAC]:

- 4.4.7 The Farm Information and Advisory Centres [FIACs] have been duly established at the block level in each of the project district in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. FIACs comprise of two bodies namely, the Block Technology Team [BTT] comprising of all the Technical Officers involved in agriculture and allied sector and Farmers' Advisory Committee [FAC], which is a body exclusively of farmers. While BTT is supposed to develop the Block Action Plans (BAPs) in the light of SREP and is responsible for its implementation, the FAC is envisaged to play a more proactive role by scrutinizing, improving and approving BAPs, before these are referred to the ATMA GB for its final approval. The BTTs as well as FACs have been duly put in place at the block level in all the sampled districts both in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.
- 4.4.8 The senior most official among the line departments in the district has been appointed as the Convener of BTT for each block in all the districts. FIAC is a platform where the farmers and the extension functionaries from each line department come together and discuss, plan and execute extension programmes at the block level. However, FIAC in the project blocks in none of the sampled districts possessed their own building and were found to be operating from a small space of the agriculture department usually meant for stocking seeds, with a few chairs. Meetings were usually held in open areas. There was neither any PC (computer) in any of the offices nor any staff in position for looking after the ATMA programme. It is imperative that the ATMAs in both UP and Haryana take up the task of construction of FIAC buildings in all blocks on priority and equip them with necessary infrastructural facilities viz. computer, library etc. so as to ensure effective monitoring, coordination and execution of field activities.
- 4.4.9 The scheme envisages monitoring and review of progress in the block level and village level activities on a monthly basis in the joint meetings of BTT and FAC members. The Convener of BTT is required to compile the monthly progress reports of all line departments and submit the same to the PD, ATMA. Table 4.2 below shows the status with regard to meetings of FIAC comprising of BTT and FAC in the sample district and their frequency during the period 2005-2008:

Table 4.2 : Meetings of Farm Information Advisory Centre [FIAC] comprising of BTT and FAC and their frequency [2005-2008]

S. No.	District	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total	Frequency of FIAC meetings
Uttar Pradesh						
1	Jalaun	1	3	5	9	One meeting during every crop season i.e. Kharif, Rabi, Jaid and other meetings whenever required
2	Lucknow	1	5	7	13	Bi-monthly and other meetings whenever required
3	Saharanpur	1	3	4	8	Quarterly
4	Baghpat	2	4	5	9	Whenever required
5	Bareilly	1	2	4	7	Irregular/quarterly in 2007-08
6	Aligarh	1	3	4	8	One meeting during every crop season i.e. Kharif, Rabi, Jaid and other meetings whenever required
7	Maharajganj	0	3	4	8	Bi-monthly and other meetings whenever required
8	Allahabad	2	4	5	11	Whenever required
9	Barabanki	1	5	6	12	One meeting during every crop season i.e. Kharif, Rabi, Jaid and other meetings whenever required
Haryana						
10	Sirsa	1	3	5	9	One meeting during every crop season i.e. Kharif, Rabi, Jaid and other meetings whenever required
11	Sonepat	1	2	4	7	Bi-monthly and other meetings whenever required

4.4.10 The above table shows that the frequency of meetings of Farm Information Advisory Centres [FIAC] in all the sampled districts has witnessed a progressive trend during the 3-year period from 2005-2008. The FIACs in all the sampled districts of both UP and Haryana were formally set up only during 2006-07. Yet, it is noteworthy that the joint meetings of line department officials and farmers' representatives at the block level were invariably held mainly in connection with preparation of SREP and setting block priorities in all the sampled districts. The FIACs in Lucknow, Allahabad and Barabanki in UP and Sirsa in Haryana seem to be more active as compared to the others. Generally, as a pattern, FIACs usually hold meetings on an average around 3 times in a year at a frequency of 1 meeting during each crop season to discuss, plan and execute extension programs at the block level.

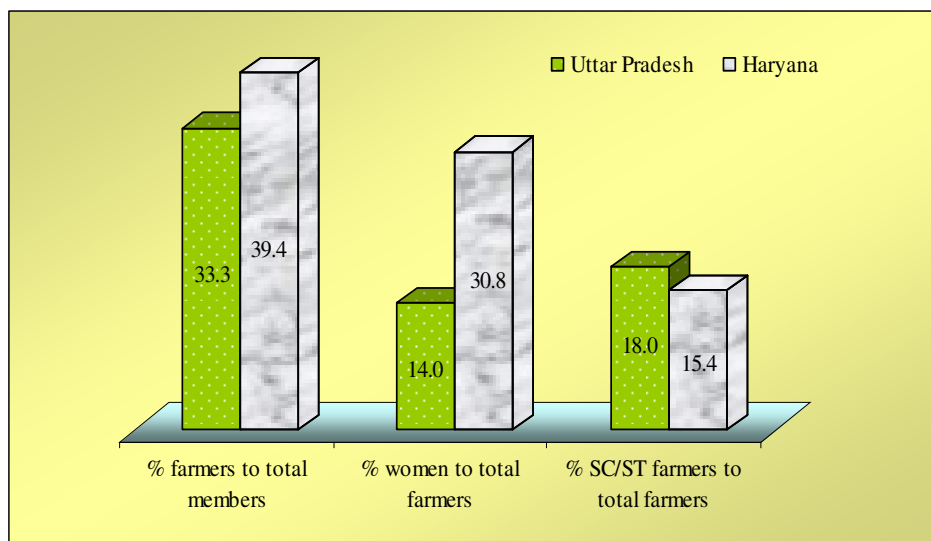
REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN, SC/ST FARMERS & NGO SECTOR IN GB, MC AND FAC

4.4.11 An important element in ATMA model is the involvement of farmers, particularly women & SC/ST farmers and the voluntary sector including NGOs and input

dealers in decentralized decision-making, planning and priority-setting of extension activities. The representation of farmers who are major stakeholders in the programme is imperative in all the decision-making bodies of public and private extension services. As per the Government of India's guidelines, the composition of the Governing Board in all the sampled districts provides a good balance among all the line departments concerned with agriculture and allied sectors, the head of KVK, a cross-section of a few progressive farmers representing different sub-sectors, one representative each of a women Farmers' Interest Group and SC/ST farmer, one representative each of input dealers' association, growers' association and NGO besides the Lead Bank Officer (LBO) and a representative of the Agriculture Marketing Board. The guidelines also stipulate that 30% of the farmer representatives on the GB should be reserved for women farmers and atleast one farmer representing SC/ST community on the GB to secure their welfare and interests. Table 4.3 below shows the position with regard to total membership in the GB in all the sampled districts and the representation of women farmers, NGO and SC/ST thereon:

Table 4.3: Representation of SC/ST, women farmers and NGO in GB

S. No.	District	Total members	No. of farmers	% farmers to total	No. of women farmers	% women	No. of SC/ST farmers	% SC/ST farmers	NGO
Uttar Pradesh									
1	Jalaun	19	5	26.3	1	20.0	1	20.0	1
2	Lucknow	15	5	33.3	1	20.0	1	20.0	1
3	Saharanpur	15	5	33.3	1	20.0	1	20.0	1
4	Baghpat	19	5	26.3	1	20.0	1	20.0	1
5	Bareilly	15	6	40.0	1	16.7	1	16.7	1
6	Aligarh	21	5	23.8	1	20.0	1	20.0	1
7	Maharajganj	14	5	35.7	1	20.0	1	20.0	1
8	Allahabad	15	6	40.0	0	0.0	1	16.7	1
9	Barabanki	17	8	47.1	0	0.0	1	12.5	1
Haryana									
10	Sirsa	16	6	37.5	2	33.3	1	16.7	1
11	Sonepat	17	7	41.2	2	28.6	1	14.3	1

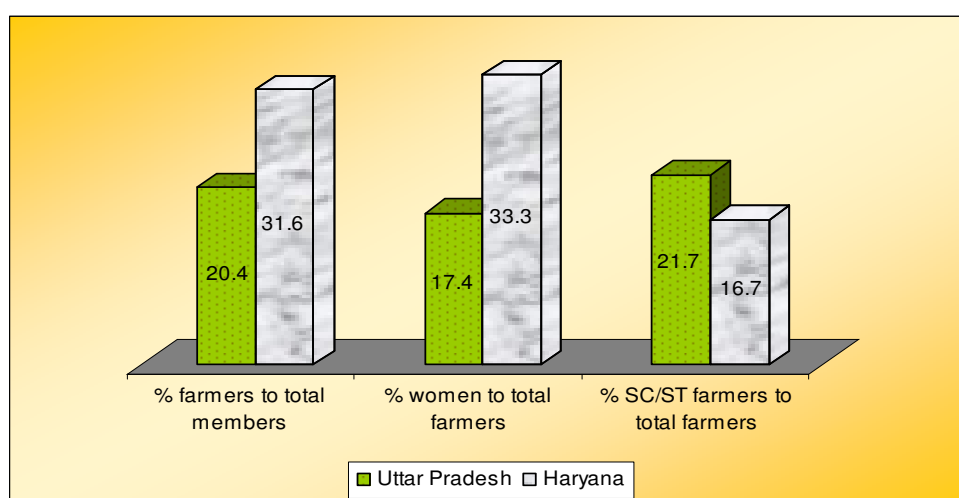


4.4.12 Among the sampled districts of Uttar Pradesh, Jalaun, Baghpat and Aligarh had less than the stipulated 30% representation of the farming community in the Governing Boards. Barabanki with 47.1% had the highest representation of the farming community while Allahabad and Bareilly too had good representation (40% in both). In Haryana, the representation of farmers was 37.5% and 41.1% in Sirsa and Sonapat districts, respectively. Representation of women farmers in the Governing Boards was 16.7% in Bareilly, 20% each in Jalaun, Lucknow, Saharanpur, Baghpat, Aligarh and Maharajganj, 28.6% in Sonapat and 33.3% in Sirsa while Allahabad and Barabanki remained unrepresented. All sampled districts had one representative from SC/ST community thereby adhering to the stipulation in the guidelines on SC/ST while guidelines in regard to representation of women farmer were followed only in Sirsa district.

4.4.13 The ATMA Management Committee (AMC) at the district level is chaired by the Project Director of ATMA in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer, who in the case of both the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana is the Dy. Director of Agriculture. AMC comprises of the heads of line departments of allied sector, a representative each of ZRS and KVK, a representative of NGO and two representatives of farmers' organizations. AMC is responsible for planning and reviewing of the day-to-day activities of ATMA. The position with regard to total membership in the AMC in all the sampled districts and the representation of farmers including women farmers, SC/ST and NGO sector thereon is tabulated below:

Table 4.4: Representation of SC/ST, women farmers and NGOs in AMC

S. No.	District	Total members	No. of Farmers	% farmers to total members	No. of women farmers	% women to total farmers	No. of SC/ST farmers	% SC/ST farmers to total	NGO sector (No.)
Uttar Pradesh									
1	Jalaun	10	2	20.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	1
2	Lucknow	10	2	20.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	1
3	Saharanpur	13	3	23.1	1	33.3	1	33.3	1
4	Baghpat	12	2	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
5	Bareilly	15	2	13.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
6	Aligarh	13	2	15.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
7	Maharajganj	15	5	33.3	1	20.0	1	20.0	1
8	Allahabad	14	5	35.7	1	20.0	1	20.0	1
9	Barabanki	11	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	1
Haryana									
10	Sirsa	10	3	30.0	1	33.3	1	33.3	1
11	Sonepat	9	3	33.3	1	33.3	0	0.0	1



4.4.14 The representation of the farming community in the ATMA Management Committees was quite substantial in Allahabad (35.7%) and Maharajganj (33.3%). The other districts except Barabanki had followed the stipulated guidelines in this regard. Representation of women farmers existed in only four districts (Lucknow, Saharanpur, Maharajganj and Barabanki), leaving Jalaun, Baghpat, Bareilly, Aligarh and Barabanki unrepresented. Similarly, Management Committees in Lucknow, Baghpat, Bareilly, Aligarh and Sonepat districts of the two States remained devoid of SC/ST farmers' representatives. The situation in some districts indicate program implementation without heeding to the underlying objectives that defeats the very essence of the ATMA program.

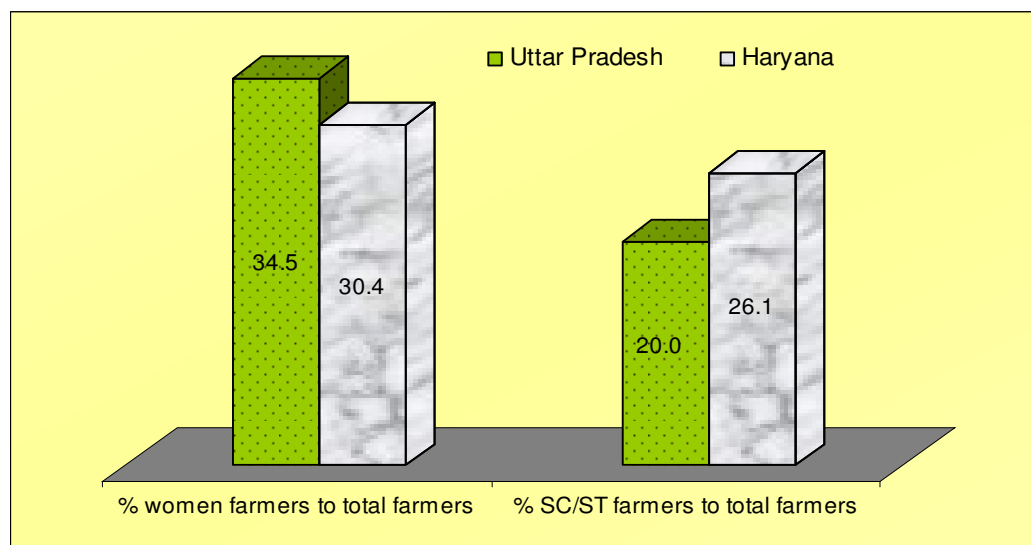
4.4.15 The Farmer's Advisory Committee (FAC) functions as one vital arm of the Farm Information Advisory Centre, the other arm being the Block Technology Team (BTT). FAC comprises of farmer representatives of Farmers' Organisations within the block from different categories of farmers representing all the sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, live stock producer and input dealer with due representation to women farmers and weaker sections of the society. The Government of India has not specified any rigid criteria for representation of different groups or categories in FAC and its composition is flexible depending upon the agro-ecological situation and other local factors. However, it is presumed that a reasonable representation should find place for women and SC/ST farmers in FAC to secure their interests, which is expected to be at least 30% and 20% respectively keeping in view the importance of this body in setting block extension priorities and also in recommending allocation across program areas. The chairman of the FAC is to be elected from among the farmer representatives on rotation basis. Table 4.5 below gives the position of FAC in all the sampled districts and the representation of farmers including women and SC/ST farmers thereon.

Table 4.5: Representation of SC/ST, women farmers in FAC

S. No.	District	Total Farmers (No.)	Women farmers (No.)	% women farmers to total farmers	SC/ST farmers (No.)	% SC/ST farmers to total farmers
Uttar Pradesh						
1	Jalaun	12	4	33.3	3	25
2	Lucknow	13	4	30.8	3	23.1
3	Saharanpur	11	4	36.4	2	18.2
4	Baghpat	12	4	33.3	2	16.7
5	Bareilly	12	4	33.3	2	16.7
6	Aligarh	15	6	40.0	1	6.7
7	Maharajganj	11	4	36.4	2	18.2
8	Allahabad	13	4	30.8	3	23.1
9	Barabanki	11	4	36.4	4	36.4
Haryana						
10	Sirsa	12	4	33.3	3	25.0
11	Sonepat	11	3	27.3	3	27.3

4.4.16 Women farmers were reasonably represented in the FACs of all the sampled districts ranging from 30.8% (Lucknow & Allahabad) to 40% (Aligarh). In Sonepat, it was a trifle low at 27.3%. The representation of SC/ST farmers in the FACs was good (23% to 36%) in Jalaun, Lucknow, Allahabad, Barabanki, Sirsa and Sonepat. The representation of SC/ST farmers was not uniform in the two states studied. While it varied to a great extent in UP (with a high of 36.4% in

Barabanki and low of 6.7% in Aligarh), it was relatively stable and uniform in Haryana.



SAMETI

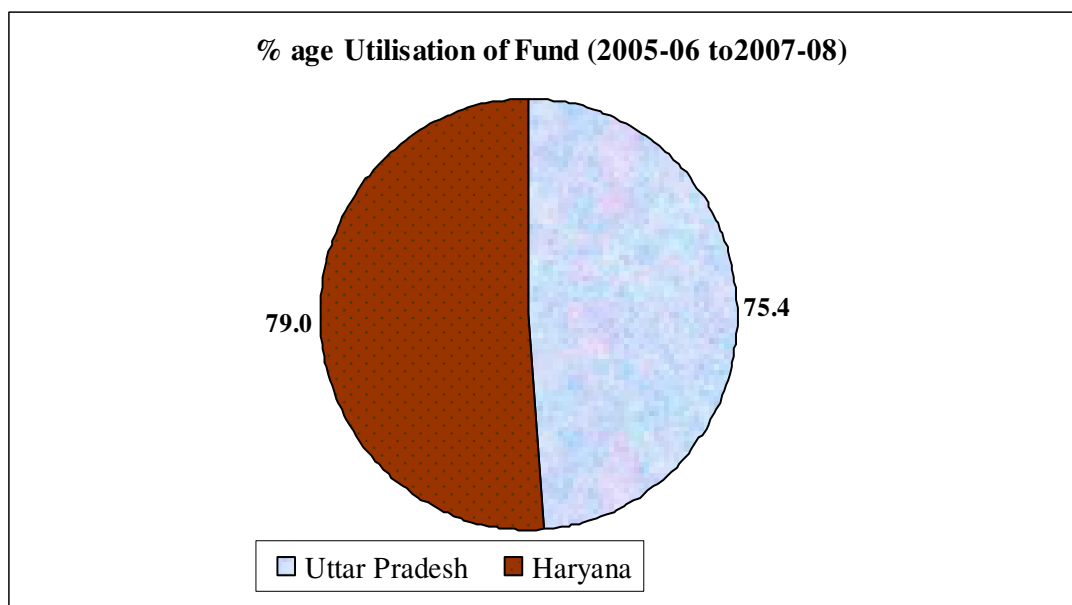
- 4.4.17 At the State level, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has set up the State Agricultural Management Training and Extension Training Institute [SAMETI] at Lucknow whereas the Govt. of Haryana has set up HAMETI at Jind which function as apex training institutes for providing needed HRD support and capacity building in innovative areas of extension delivery in the States. One of the major focus areas of the ATMA intervention is capacity building of extension functionaries associated with the newly created institutional mechanism at the district and block levels. Orienting and sensitizing all those associated with the new concept and to impart PRA and bottom-up planning skills to block level functionaries was the most challenging task before the ATMA management in the district. The apex level National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management [MANAGE] had facilitated in developing the capacity to provide professional skill training to KVK trainers and SMSs in participatory rural appraisal techniques, Strategic Research Extension Plan (SREP) preparation and Group Formation. MANAGE organized 'Training of Trainers' for the faculty members of SAMETI in both the States. These 'trained trainers' took up the responsibility of imparting orientation and PRA trainings to the ATMA functionaries. SAMETI has organized several programmes for diverse skill up-gradation of district, block and grassroots workers in different areas such as farming system approach, participatory management, community mobilization, computer application, etc. A statement showing the details with regard to training programmes conducted by SAMETI in

both the States under ATMA scheme are indicated in Annexure 4.2. Table 4.6 is a summarized version of the Statement giving the year-wise total training programmes conducted by SAMETI vis-à-vis fund allocation & utilization:

Table 4.6: Training Programmes organized by SAMETI vis-à-vis Fund Allocation & Utilisation during 2005-2008

(Rs. lakh)

Year	Training Programmes conducted		Fund		% age Utilisation
	No.	No. of Participants	Allocation	Utilisation	
Uttar Pradesh					
2005-2006	05	265	0	0	0
2006-2007	05	113	4.36	4.36	100
2007-2008	10	421	11.27	11.27	100
TOTAL	20	799	15.63	15.63	100
Haryana					
2005-2006	0	0	0	0	0
2006-2007	15	376	12.00	8.79	73.3
2007-2008	14	411	15.00	12.53	83.5
TOTAL	29	787	27.00	21.32	79



4.4.18 It is apparent from the table above as well as the annexed statement, fund allocation & utilization in 2005-06 had been nil in both UP and Haryana. Participation in trainings in UP in 2005-06 may be in the state government sponsored programmes, when no fund had been allocated. In 2007-08 with 69.3% fund utilization, the number of training programs were doubled and

participation tripled of that in 2006-07 though 23.4% more of allocated fund was spent. Such ambiguity did not exist in participation and fund utilization during 2005-2008 in Haryana though participation was less in more number of training programs in 2006-07 and just opposite in 2007-08.

- 4.4.19 Thus, SAMETIs in both the States of UP and Haryana have played an important role in imparting trainings to project officials of different levels. They can still play a better role by participating in development of HRD plan of the ATMA districts. Focus needs to be laid on the capacity building of members of block technology teams, farmers' advisory committees and farmers' organizations. Size of this target group being very large, no single institute/agency could handle the training requirement. Thus, the involvement of KVKs and other local level training institutes and local resource persons must be increased to supplement the efforts of SAMETI. ATMA officials and district heads of line departments have acquired sufficient familiarity with the different concepts and areas related to the project and they have started imparting training to BTT, FAC and FO members at local level, which is a healthy trend. This arrangement not only reduced the cost of training but also facilitated handling of the large number of trainees. All ATMAs have executed capacity building programs for skill up-gradation of extension functionaries at different levels and non-official members of different institutions. In some districts, large-scale capacity building efforts were taken for improving the skills of grassroots workers also. The interaction with extension functionaries at the district and block level has revealed that many of the field functionaries have still not received training in one or more aspects. Similarly, good number of FAC members could not be trained on different aspects. Undoubtedly, the training programs, whenever organized, at least at local level, were open to all concerned. But due to individual reasons, personal or otherwise, some persons could not attend such programs. Actually, ATMAs conduct different training programs in order to meet the target and utilize the budget provisions. The issues related to HRD and training was regularly discussed during the review visits/meets by higher authorities/institutions. But, progress/performance was hardly reviewed in terms of extent of coverage of the target population (number of total concerned officers/functionaries). This approach in planning, implementation and review is the main reason behind the fact that all officers have not been imparted various trainings. Thus, it is required that a time bound capacity building plan should be prepared with a target to train all the members.

INTER DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP

- 4.4.20 The States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have duly constituted and notified a State level Inter Departmental Working Group [IDWG] under the Chairmanship of

the Principal Secretary (Agriculture) to guide, coordinate and monitor the implementation of ATMA programme in the districts. IDWG comprises of the heads of all the line departments in the State namely, agriculture, rural development, finance, animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture, soil conservation, women development, panchayati raj etc. besides VC of SAUs as members. The Directors of Agriculture in both the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have been nominated as the Member Secretary of the Group. IDWG is required to meet once in a month as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

- 4.4.21 The IDWG in both the States have been meeting usually on an annual basis to review the progress in implementation of the scheme at the district level, to guide the human resource development activity and to oversee the agricultural extension research activities being undertaken under ATMA. The IDWG have taken a number of policy decisions and interventions on inter departmental matters including issues related to gender mainstreaming, Public-Private Partnership in extension, etc. The details of the meetings held by the IDWG in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana since inception of the scheme and the important decisions taken during such meetings are indicated in Table 4.7 below:

Table 4.7: Frequency of IDWG Meetings

Year	No. of meetings	
	Uttar Pradesh	Haryana
2005-06	1	1
2006-07	1	0
2007-08	1	0
2008-09	1	0
2009-10	1	1

- 4.4.22 As brought out in the table above, Uttar Pradesh had held IDWG meetings at least once in each year during 2005-2008, while Haryana held it only once each in 2005-06 and 2009-10. The fact remains that the guidelines in this regard has been clearly overlooked in both the States of UP and Haryana though relatively, the position in UP seems to be better as compared to Haryana, which showed a lackadaisical attitude during the initial stages This could be attributed to the initial inertia after launch of the programme in 2005 and the situation appears to be gradually improving over the years. Looking into some of the important issues taken up in the meetings, as evident from Table 4.8 below, the eagerness and importance bestowed by the State administration on IDWG Meetings is quite apparent.

Table 4.8: Meetings of IDWG and important policy interventions

Year	Date of meeting	Important Policy Decisions
Uttar Pradesh		
2005-06	7.2.06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of ATMA Programmes in 32 districts • Establishment of SAMETI in Lucknow and appointment of Nodal Officer in the State • Constitution of GB, MC, BTT, FAC in ATMA districts
2006-07	1.3.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of SEWP for 2006-07 • Approval for setting up of Community Radio Station at Saharanpur, Aligarh, Jalaun, Barabanki and Basti • Appointment of Sub-committee for Public-Private Partnership at State and District levels • Nomination of Nodal Officer at Government and Head of Department level • Introduction of one year Diploma course in Extension Management by SAMETI in association with MANAGE • Utilisation of Agripreneurs trained under ACABC scheme for extension activities. • Extension of ATMA programme in remaining 38 districts • Appointment of Dy.Project Director in the districts from line departments having maximum activities in the district after agriculture
2007-08	24.8.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval to cover 38 districts under ATMA scheme • Approval of SEWP for 2007-08 • Approval for Independent third party monitoring & evaluation of the scheme through UPCAR • Approval for establishment of Farm Schools in each block
2008-09	8.12.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilisation of AMU and BHU for training of agripreneurs under ACABC Scheme • Approval of SEWP of 38 new ATMA districts, • Establishment of Community Radio Station in KVK Baghpat and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Agriculture University, Meerut • Involvement of Corporates viz. ITC Bayer Bio Science, Excel Crop Care and Jagaran Prakashan under PPP Mode for Extension activities • MOU with Jagran Prakashan for publication of journal titled "Khet Khalihan" for propagation of farm related matters • Exposure visits of farmers to states of Punjab Maharashtra, H.P. Karnataka & A.P in a batch of 20 farmers for each State through CARD.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding of monthly review meetings by State Nodal Officer.
Haryana		
2005-06	5.7.06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of SREP for all the 6 pilot districts namely, Sonapat, Hisar, Rohtak, Rewari, Sirsa and Karnal • Approval for registration of HAMETI as autonomous body under Societies Registration Act, 1860 • Approval for renovation/repair and upgradation of HAMETI • Appointment of State Nodal Officer and support staff for implementation of ATMA in the State • Allocation of funds for various activities
2009-10	7.7.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Utkarsh Society, an autonomous agency of the GoH to undertake DTH telecast of extension programmes and activities through EDUSET for the benefit of farming community • Constitution of State Award Committees for recommending awards to progressive & and achiever farmers as well as FIGs and good performing ATMA districts

4.4.23 The Inter Departmental Working Group (IDWG) has started functioning and has been successful in resolving policy and other issues emerging from project implementation at the field level. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has appointed State Coordinators to exclusively focus on ATMA works. They have become crucial links between the State Nodal Officer, SAMETI and different ATMA bodies at the district level. In general, these State Consultants have done a good job in increasing the awareness about the project among participating departments and institutions; promoting effective inter-departmental coordination; and organizing training. The Government of Haryana could also consider appointing a suitable official, preferably a senior level retired officer, as State Coordinator to provide the needed focus and attention to extension activities in the State.

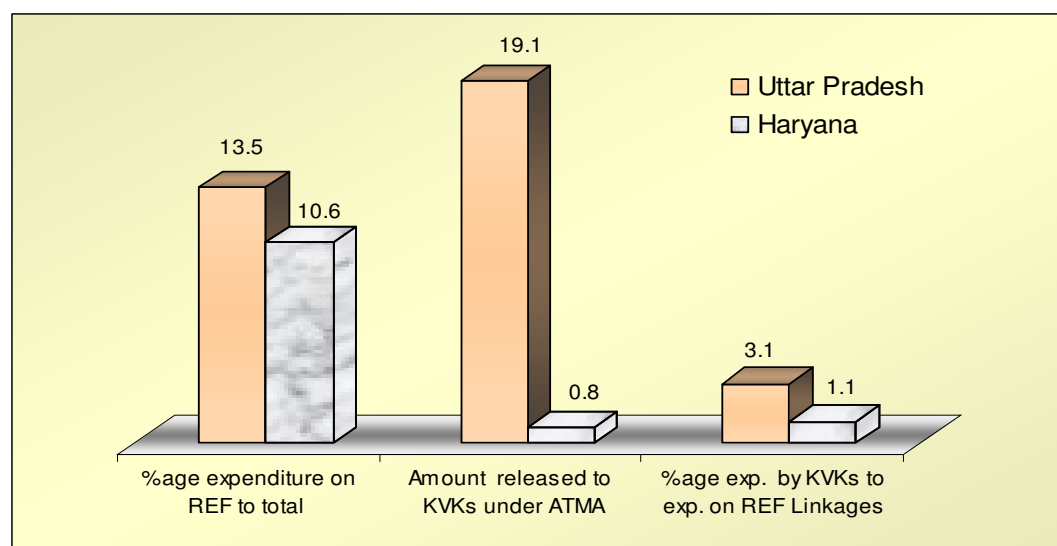
KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS (KVKs) / STATE AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITIES (SAUs)

4.4.24 Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been set up to demonstrate the application of science and technology input on the farmers' fields with the help of a multidisciplinary team of agricultural scientists. The KVK stands as a bridge between the research laboratories and the application of modern agricultural science in rural India, aiming at technology assessment, refinement and frontline demonstration of the technology and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel. A number of initiatives have been taken in the recent past both for strengthening infrastructure and knowledge empowerment of the KVKs.

4.4.25 The ATMA model envisages a proactive role for KVKs in operationalizing the scheme in the district. The research priorities of KVK are expected to be fully aligned with and made sensitive to SREPs at the District level. Table 4.9 below gives the details of expenditure incurred by the sample districts under the head “Agricultural Technology Refinement, Validation and Adoption through Research-Extension-Farmer Linkages” vis-à-vis the amount released to KVKs under ATMA in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana:

Table 4.9 : Expenditure incurred on REF Linkages in the sample districts vis-à-vis amount released to KVKs during 2005-2008

S. No.	District	Total exp. incurred	Exp. incurred on REF Linkages	%age exp. on REF	Amt released to KVKs	% exp. by KVKs to exp. on REF
Uttar Pradesh						
1	Jalaun	59.02	9.10	15.4	1.84	3.1
2	Lucknow	47.30	4.35	9.2	0.96	2.0
3	Saharanpur	74.57	10.11	13.5	6.76	9.1
4	Baghpat	59.99	7.22	12.1	4.40	7.3
5	Bareilly	93.01	16.01	17.2	NIL	0
6	Aligarh	83.60	6.52	7.8	3.55	4.2
7	Maharajganj	82.75	13.38	16.2	NIL	0
8	Allahabad	77.20	16.70	21.6	1.60	2.1
9	Barabanki	88.00	6.25	7.1	NIL	0
	Total [A]	665.46	89.57	13.5	19.10	3.1
Haryana						
10	Sirsa	37.81	6.67	17.6	0.30	0.8
11	Sonepat	33.61	0.90	2.7	0.50	1.5
	Total [B]	71.42	7.57	10.6	0.80	1.1



- 4.4.26 As can be seen from the tables above that in UP, except Jalaun, Lucknow and Baghpat, in rest of the districts the level of spending under ATMA had been optimum. Level of expenditure incurred in the three districts had been less than even 10%. It is disturbing to note that no fund had been released to the KVKs in three districts namely, Bareilly, Barabanki and Maharajganj and only a meager release in Lucknow. Equally disturbing is the observation on low scale of spending by KVKs in Lucknow and Allahabad.
- 4.4.27 In Haryana, the level of expenditure incurred under ATMA had been at optimal optimum level in both the districts. The quantum of fund released to the KVKs had been optimal in Sonapat but less in Sirsa. Similarly, the scale of spending by KVKs in Sirsa had been extremely low compared to that in Sonapat. The expenditure incurred on REF Linkages had been as per norms in four districts of UP viz., Jalaun, Bareilly, Maharajganj and Allahabad and in Sirsa district of Haryana. The rest of the districts in both states had miserably failed to do justice to 'research-extension-farmer linkage' that is so important an aspect of ATMA.
- 4.4.28 Thus, it is observed that the ATMA structure at the district level has failed to utilize the instrument of KVK to its full potential. The activities of KVK too are left much to be desired. Interface with the officials of KVKs revealed that in some of the districts like Maharajganj, the KVK representatives also many a time did not get the opportunity to attend the Governing Board meetings in view of non-receipt and/or late receipt of notices. In other districts like Barabanki & Bareilly in UP and Sirsa & Sonapat in Haryana, the involvement of KVKs in extension activities under ATMA has been very less during the period 2005-2008 though situation seems to be gradually improving now. The study team also noted that the KVKs operated by State Agriculture Universities do not have the authority to receive funds from any agency including State Government directly to the account of their centres but instead the same are required to be invariably routed through the Comptroller of the respective Universities, as per their norms. The procedure also appears to be cumbersome in as much as the proposed training or other programmes/plan of action of KVKs are to be first approved by the University before being submitted to ATMA MC/GB for approval and grant of financial assistance. During the course of interface of the Study Team with the KVKs, there was a felt need for greater autonomy and flexibility to KVKs for drawing out extension programmes in the district keeping in view the local needs and priorities so as to ensure proper integration and synergy between the ATMA body at the district level and KVKs. KVKs may well be utilized for training of extension functionaries, progressive farmers and leaders of CIGs based on training needs emerging from SREP, in addition to their other activities.