

Modern Centre of Learning- Harbinger of Farm Technology

Category- Agri. Infrastructure Development i.e, Strengthening of State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Shimla.

Challenge- The State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Shimla, HP is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. The institute is catering to the training needs of Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and other line departments since the launch of NATP in the state of HP right from the year 1999-2000. It is located at an elevation of 2272 mtr. above msl at Craigneno, Mashobra which is 20 kms. away from Shimla. The institute was lacking in modern infrastructural facilities as there was no convention hall to hold programmes for larger groups of farmers/ extension functionaries. It was able to organize only one programme at a time due to lack of adequate accommodation in existing small hostel with 15 rooms which was sufficient for only 25-30 participants. The facilities in the old hostel were also not up to the mark and trainees regularly gave feedback regarding upgradation of lodging facilities. Sometimes a need arises to organize 2/3 programmes at a time but availability of accommodation used to be a limitation.

Initiative- With the introduction of RKVY in Himachal Pradesh, the role & domain of SAMETI in the implementation of need based training programmes for Agriculture & Allied departments had widened. The development of infrastructure was imperative to meet the aspirations of all the stakeholders. Therefore proposal to strengthen the infrastructure at SAMETI by constructing convention hall cum hostel was forwarded to GOI for support under RKVY (Stream-II) Scheme. It was proposed to

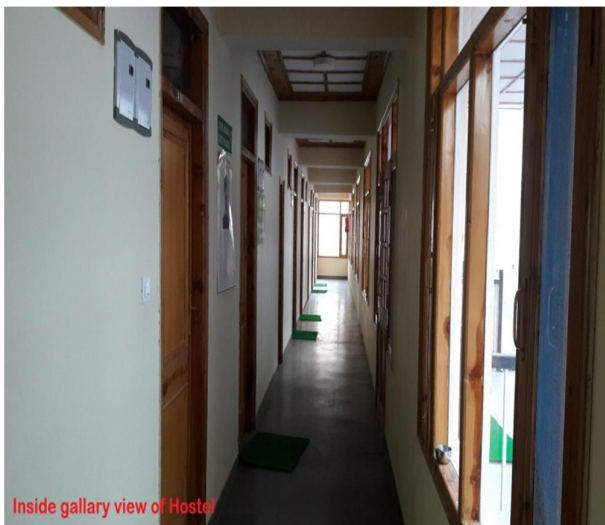
construct one convention hall with a seating capacity of 250-300 persons with all facilities, like stage, audio-visual support etc. and mess in the same block with a seating capacity of 64 plus participants at a time. Two blocks of hostels with 30 rooms accommodating 60 participants at a time on twin sharing basis were also proposed. The work was started on 31-05-2010 and the construction work was assigned to H.P. Tourism Development Corporation. The actual expenditure incurred on the construction of Convention hall and hostel was ₹504.96 lakh and after completion in the year 2013-14, the infrastructure developed has been put into use on regular basis.



Hostel view top



Front view of Hostel



Inside gallery view of Hostel



Newly built convention hall



Key result/insight/ interesting facts- The other stakeholder departments/Govt. Departments have come forward for conducting their departmental trainings at SAMETI. The infrastructure is also being used by other government agencies like HIPA, H.P. State Electricity Board, Department of Treasuries, Accounts & Lotteries & Farmer organizations etc.



Impact- The strengthening of infrastructure resulted in increase in number of trainings from other government departments and simultaneously participation level in trainings has also increased. The training centre has conducted 65 trainings during the year 2015-16. The construction of Convention hall alongwith the good lodging facilities has made other organizations like IFFCO, ICAR and Farmer Organizations to select this institute as top preference to conduct National Level Conventions at Shimla. The national institutes like MANAGE Hyderabad, EEI Nilokheri, Karnal , farmer organizations at national level are coming forward to utilize the resources of SAMETI created under RKVY scheme. The quality of trainings has also improved and requests for trainings of senior and middle level officers are being received from other departments. Now at one point of time, the institute can organize training programme for 90 participants. The quality infrastructure has resulted in the considerable enhancement in the knowledge, attitude and skills of extension functionaries which would definitely help them in efficient discharges of their duties and faster transfer of new technologies in the larger interest of the farming community. Since, the Institute has also carried out the capacity building of farmer organizations, FIGs, women groups etc. which would also give impetus to endeavors of Agriculture and other allied Departments in bringing desired growth rate in agriculture sector.



Lessons Learned-

1. Better boarding and lodging facilities improve the learning and efficiency levels of the participants.
2. Though the institute is located in one of the better surroundings in the Shimla but scarce resources were the main hindrance in the upgradation of institute which was overcome by the support from the RKVY.

Supporting Quotes and Images-

The upgraded facilities created at SAMETI is being appreciated by extension functionaries, farmers and other organizations from time to time. The 3rd National Convention of Farmers Organization was organized at SAMETI by Fruit, Vegetable & Flowers Producers Union Himachal Pradesh on 18-20th June 2016 and its state president Mr. Harish Chauhan said **“The Convention Hall & Hostel available at SAMETI is one of the best in Shimla and by hosting all the farmer leaders of the country, pride of Himachal & our organization has been elevated and we thank SAMETI for allowing us to organize and host National Level Convention”.**

The training on Geo-tagging of RKVY assets was also organized in this institute on 21st & 22nd Feb 2017 in which 33 officers from different stakeholder departments participated. Mr. B. Shyam Sunder, Scientist SF, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)/ISRO Hyderabad was Resource person and Sh. Ambanna Panekanevar, STA was the representative from RKVY Division, Govt. of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi. **The infrastructure created under RKVY was instrumental in smooth organization of the said training programme and was widely appreciated by the participating officers.**



In one of the training programme organized for farmer group leaders on 6-9th March 2017, one of the member of the leading group of Shimla region namely *Mahakaali Pushp Evam Sabzi Utpadak Sahkari Vipnan Samiti, Jubberhatti, Shimla* Mr.O.P Kashyap said **“We thank SAMETI for being unbiased in providing best available facilities to the farmers at par with the officers/officials, otherwise wherever we go for training programmes or exposure visits the farmers are not given best**

available accommodation which are otherwise reserved for only officers and other high level officials”.

In the end we can say that SAMETI having sylvan setting amidst the beautiful forests of Deodar, Rhododendron and Kail trees with diverse range of flora/fauna and strengthened with RKVY support is an ideal place for capacity building of extension personnel /farmers away from the hustle & bustle of the Shimla City and would be instrumental in sustaining desired annual growth by ensuring holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

Checklist

S.No.	Question to consider	Yes	No
1	Is the story interesting to the target audience of the project/activity report?	✓	
2	Does the story explain what new insights the project brings? What is the main lesson learned from this story? Does the story describe a key insight on what works and what doesn't and something that future project could build on	✓	
3	Does the story describe the outcomes the project produced and the people who are benefitting? What changes-in skills, knowledge, attitude, practice, or policy-has the project brought, and who is benefitting from these changes?	✓	
4	Does the story make a compelling point that people will remember? Does the story show how the project makes a difference to livelihoods and lessening poverty?		✓
5	Does the story provide an interesting fact that people will remember? For example, how much yields increased, how many hectares of land could become more productive from this innovation or technology?		✓
6	Does the story explain what kind of impact this innovation or technology could have if scaled up?		✓
7	Does the story show which partners contributed and how?	✓	
8	Does the story include quotes from Stakeholders or beneficiaries?	✓	
9	Have I provided links to other media (journal articles, website news, newsletter, blogs, annual reports of other Programme/ project) that also feature this story?		✓
10	Have I provided the contact details of people who can provide more information?	✓	

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