

Success Story of "Strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratory" under RKVY Madhya Pradesh

1. **Title:- Strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratory- A means of fighting against sub standard Seed.**
2. **Category:- Agriculture**
3. **Background and Challenges:-** Seed is a vital input parallel to fertilizer which influence the productivity of crop and total production. Before the starting of RKVY in the state, there were only one seed testing laboratory was established at divisional HQ Gwalior. This labs was established in the state approximately in 1980s and being old, this is in the most dilapidated conditions. The equipments and furniture's have almost gone out of use. During the year 2006-07 approximately 1037.41 thousand quintals of seed was distributed during Kharif and Rabi season in the state. Prior to RKVY the seed distribution of various groups were as follows :-

"000" Quintals

Crop Group	Season	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
CEREALS	Kharif	60.91	63.15	93.39	66.47
	Rabi	217.74	339.90	379.42	353.51
	Total	278.65	403.05	472.81	419.98
PULSES	Kharif	9.11	5.69	6.40	4.75
	Rabi	53.10	67.98	46.04	56.55
	Total	62.21	73.67	52.44	61.30
OIL SEED	Kharif	327.04	476.52	493.80	542.40
	Rabi	2.44	9.93	9.72	7.94
	Total	329.48	486.45	503.52	550.34
FIBRE	Kharif	21.28	7.55	9.37	5.79
FODDER	Rabi	0.03	0.01	0.31	0.00
All Crops	Kharif	418.34	552.91	602.96	619.41
	Rabi	273.31	417.82	435.49	418.00
	Total	691.65	970.73	1038.45	1037.41

(Source- compendium of Agriculture Statistics 2009-10.)

It is a well known fact that higher the seed production higher will be the distribution and higher seed distribution means involvement of more farmers. As this is the responsibility of the department that quality seed should be supplied to the farmers therefore to regulate the quality of seed and for enforcing the Seed Act to ensure the supply of good quality of seed in the state, it



is necessary to collect samples time to time and should be analyzed in the lab immediately. But during 2007-08 there were only one seed quality control Lab analyzing approximately 3000 samples every year. This quantity of sampling was not enough, as the total quantum of seed used was increasing year after year in the state.



This situation has compelled the state authorities to establish few more labs in the state. Accordingly it has been decided to establish one lab at each divisional HQ, but construction of new buildings, procurement of equipments, furniture and materials requires huge funds. Therefore the attempt has been made to get the funds in the state budget, but after trying for two three years the decision could not be materialized for want of adequate funds. The problem was continued as a result the deterioration of old buildings was more aggravated. Finally it was decided to prepare the project to be financed under RKVY.

4. Initiatives:- The RKVY was started in the state in the year 2007-08, since Seed Production and ensuring quality control sector was struggling for want of funds , therefore in the very first meeting of SLSC of RKVY the project for the construction of 6 new Seed Testing Lab was submitted and approved. As it was experienced that new building construction and procurement of equipments and furniture cannot be done simultaneously, therefore to fulfill the decided target of establishing 10 seed testing labs at each divisional HQ, the projects were submitted to SLSC in a phased manner. The total funds sanctioned for the establishment of Seed Testing Labs are as given below:-

Rs. in Lakhs

S.No	Date of SLSC	Cost of the project	Expenditure	Output
1	09.06.2012	600.00	151.50	Construction of seed testing lab at Morena, Sagar, Jabalpur, Ujjain and Indore with operational cost for Gwalior
2	18.05.2015	364.75	197.28	Construction of new seed testing labs at Bhopal, Rewa, Shahdol and Pawarkhera, Hoshangabad were constructed with furniture for all old labs.
3	23.02.2016	75.23	57.84	Renovation of old building with concrete road and operating cost.
Total		1039.98	403.62	

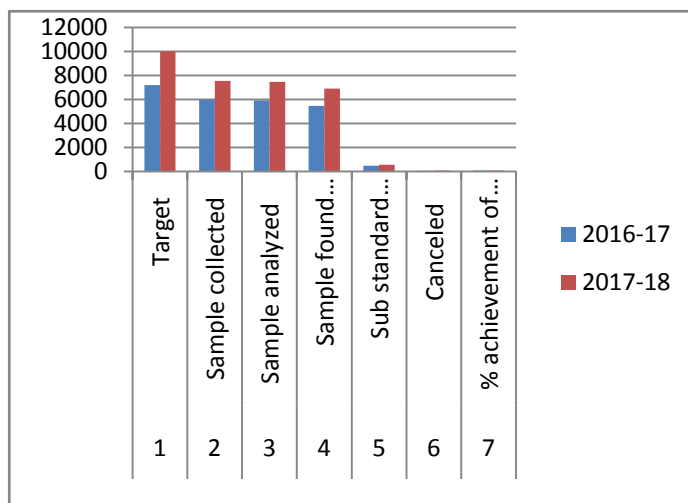
Though full support was made available for the strengthening of seed testing labs, but construction of buildings and procurement of furniture, equipments etc could not be done in the specified time and as RKVY is a project mode, there was a binding to send the utilization certificate every year for 100% release received from government of India. Therefore the sanctioned projects could not be completed as it was sanctioned. It is also observed that the equipments and furniture for labs was made available from the state funds.



- 5. Key Result/ Insight / Interesting Facts:-** As per the Seed Act, and Administrative order issued by the department , Senior Agriculture Development Officer(SADO) of the block is declared as seed Inspector for the block, likewise SDO Agriculture is seed Inspector for his jurisdiction and Assistant Director Agriculture of the divisional office is seed Inspector for the division. If one side the department has created the infrastructure facilities for quality control of Seed on the other hand the working strength of these cadre are day by day decreasing by virtue of retirement. There are certain blocks in the state where no SADOs are in position. Therefore directorate has to make the substitute arrangement by deputing SADO of other blocks to such block where no SADO are posted. Approximately 37.24% post in SADO cadre, 34.83% post in ADA cadre and 68.37% post of lab assistant are lying vacant at present in the state. This is hampering the sample collection process badly. Every year there is campaign organized for the quality control in the state during May - June for kharif and October- January for Rabi seasons. During these period inspections of godowns, dealers, retailers have been done and if any thing found against the law, appropriate action are being taken against the defaulters. Approximately 3000 samples were collected every year for quality control of various fertilizers during 2007-08.
- 6. Impact:-** As described above, one Seed testing lab was functional in the state prior to RKVY at Gwalior. With the help of RKVY projects new labs namely, Sagar, Ujjain, Morena, Hoshangabad, Rewa, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Morena, and Shahdol has been constructed at each divisional HQ and are equipped with RKVY funds. Out of 09 new labs newly established , 6 labs have been notified and started functioning and remaining 3 at Morena, Rewa and Shahdol are in process for notification. .Despite of all problems like non availability of staff as Inspectors , about 6000 samples are now being analyzed every year . The lab wise achievement for the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 are as given below :-

S.No	Particulars	2016-17	2017-18
1	Target	7205	10000
2	Sample collected	5973	7546
3	Sample analyzed	5924	7468
4	Sample found Standard	5457	6919
5	Sub standard sample	467	549
6	Canceled	49	78
7	% achievement of sample collection	82.90	75.46

After generating the minimum basic infrastructure facilities for seed testing department has also brought seed testing in the "Public Service Guarantee Scheme". According to the notification made by the state government any farmer can apply for the seed testing by paying the requisite fee to seed testing officer , Divisional seed lab who is bound to deliver the result in 60 days. If he fails or if farmer is not satisfied the first



appeal can be submitted to the Dy. Director of the divisional HQ , who has to decide the case in 15 days . The second appeal can be made to the Divisional Joint Director Agriculture. This facility has boosted the seed testing in the state along with maintaining the transparency. As soon as the remaining 03 labs are notified the target for sample collection may be increased to 15000 per year as per the quantity seed produced.

7. Lesson Learnt: - The data shows that 03 project pertains to the strengthening of seed testing labs have been sanctioned and implemented during the period 2007-08 to 2016-17. The lesson learnt from the implementation of these projects can be summarized as below :-

- The project report prepared for such purpose should be so detailed that every aspects like total component wise requirement, their actual cost, implementing agency, source of procurement, who will do what, and funds requirement from day one of financial year to last day of financial year etc should be clearly defined.
- As now it is a established fact that new building construction takes at least 15 to 18 months to complete it , therefore the cost should be phased out in such a manner that only actual fund required should be transferred to the implementing agency remaining part should be given in next financial year. This way utilization certificate may be sent easily and project will be completed as it is designed.

- As manpower is essential to run the lab, therefore it is understood that all parameters like building construction, procurement of essential equipment, furniture, and sanction of manpower should go parallel, than only one lab can be established in a true sense.
- It is also observed that at the time of preparing the project it should also be considered that what is the purchase power of various authorities so that sanctioning of various items should not be delayed or linger on.
- It is also observed that looking to the number of cases against which the action has been taken, Diploma in Agriculture Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI) program will be extremely useful.

8. Supporting Quotes and Images:-



- 9. Additional Information :-** The contact address of the officer in-charge for implementing this project is as given below :-

Shri R.P.S.Naik, Dy. Director Agriculture (Seed),
 Directorate of Farmer Welfare & Agriculture Development,
 4th floor, Vindhychal Bhawan, Bhopal
 Phone :- 0755-2559722, Mobile No - 09926464057