

Construction of new proposed farm women hostel building at SDAU Sardarkrushinagar- Gujarat

Background and Objectives

In India women play an important role in agriculture because this sector employs 80% of economically active women in agriculture. They comprise 33% of agriculture labour force and 48 % of the self employed farmers. Along with agriculture they are also the power on the interface of livestock keeping with farming. Despite their major role in agriculture and allied fields they do not have equal access to agricultural information, agricultural technology and even the infrastructural facilities. Economic Survey of the year 2017-18 reported that with growing rural to urban migration by men, there is 'feminisation' of agriculture sector, with increasing number of women in multiple roles as cultivators, entrepreneurs, and labourers.

Therefore, to complete the dream of empowerment of rural women it is necessary to provide them access to agricultural information, agricultural technology and even the infrastructural facilities at the place of their training.



Figure 1 Farm Women Hostel Building

There was no separate hostel for farm women at SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar campus for providing accommodation facilities to rural women, especially during their on campus training programmes organized by the different extension centres of SDAU for transfer of agricultural and allied technologies. They were usually accommodated in girls' hostels resulting in frequent disturbances, adjustments and inconvenience to the students. Sometimes space crunch was also realized for women participants in various seminars, meetings, workshops, training programmes, inter-university tournaments and cultural programmes organized by

SDAU. Therefore, for fulfilling the gap of infrastructural facilities at SDAU campus, the project on construction of farm women hostel at SDAU was proposed under RKVY scheme.

Intervention:

Department of Extension and Communication Management under Faculty of Home Science took initiative to create such infrastructural facility exclusively for women at SDAU Campus because an extension scheme namely "Establishment of Centre for Training and Empowerment of Rural Women at SDAU campus is being run by HECM Department, major objective of which is empowerment of rural women by organizing skill development and awareness oriented training programmes at SDAU campus and at village levels in collaboration of various faculties of SDAU. Hence, need for establishment of Farm Women hostel was accentuated and discussions regarding same were held with concerned higher authorities and the project was prepared and was submitted to the Director of Research for further necessary action. Director of Research has cooperated in getting the Administrative Approval of the project from Government of Gujarat and in sending all queries related to project asked by Government at different times. Project was approved during the financial year 2012-13 as per the letter No SDAU/DR/RKVY/ 6742-45 of dated 2/6/2012. Being a

construction project grant of project was allotted under the disposal of executive engineer of SDAU as per office order No SDAU/Account officer cum Comptroller / Budget/ T.2/ AA/ 6531-42/ dated 3/7/2012. Further all the activities related to the project like preparing the estimates, inviting tenders, appointing architect and executing the project in all respects were carried out by the Department of executive engineer of SDAU, SK Nagar. Building of farm women hostel was handed over to the ASPEE College of Home Science during the year 2015 after completing all electric and water facilities.

Outcome



Kitchen in Farm Women Hostel

A good infrastructure facility has been developed at SDAU campus exclusively for farm women with all boarding and lodging facilities.

A well equipped kitchen with modern cooking provisions and dining halls with the capacity of serving food to fifty trainees at a time is available.



Dining Hall in Farm Women Hostel

Besides the from above facilities hostel has other facilities like well-furnished living rooms with cupboards, chairs and tables and separate bathrooms and toilets blocks for trainees.T.V hall, training hall along with storage areas, exhibition hall, rooms for demonstration, rooms for training in charge, staff and for training experts are also available in addition to the electric room and approach road.

Currently the farm women hostel building is being used by the SDAU for providing accommodation facilities to the women beneficiaries.



Now, long term and on campus training programmes are organized by the different extension centers of SDAU for the farm women without any crunch boarding and lodging facilities.