

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON DIGITAL APPLICATIONS for the Scientists of DAATTCs and KVKs, PJTSAU.

Technology has powered Indian agriculture time and again by helping overcome productivity stagnation, strengthening market linkages and enhancing farm management.

At the pre-harvest stage, digital technology can recommend crop and input selection and assist in obtaining credit and insurance. At the on-farm stage, there is need for weather advisories and disease and pest related assistance; and at the post-harvest stage, real-time data on both domestic and export markets is needed. The growth of competitive markets and demand for consistent food quality is making the adoption of such tech-based solutions imperative for the Indian farmer. Much of the scope for application and innovation remains to be exploited.

Keeping this in view, a 3 day training programme on Digital applications was organized by EEI, Rajendranagar to train Extension scientists of PJTSAU under the directions of Directorate of Extension, PJTSAU and with the funding received from ATARI, Zone 10, Hyderabad.

Speaking in the inaugural address, Dr. D. Rajireddy, Director of Extension, PJTSAU instructed all the participants to make use of digital technologies while working with farmers. Dr. K. Madhubabu, Director, EEI suggested participants to practically implement all the skills learnt in the programme back home.

All the sessions in the programme are practical oriented and a special focus was given for hands on training.

As a part of the training two mobile apps were newly developed by AEGIS technologies, Hyderabad and administered to participants to facilitate data documentation during their field visits to OFTs, FLDs and Minikits and also for documentation of feed back received from AKPS farmers.

Participants were motivated to make farmers aware of Kalgudi platform developed by ICRISAT to access many benefits like weather forecasts, market prices, buyer-seller platforms, pest and disease management etc.

In the session on PLANTIX, a mobile app developed by ICRISAT, skill training was given to participants on taking photos of pest and disease affected parts of plants for better diagnosis and solution.

On the last day, hands on training was given to participants on development of short films in their mobiles, which is very useful for them at their back home for documentation of success stories and uploading into youtube channel of PJTSAU. Two videos on RAWE Programme, one video on farmers innovation, another one on seed mela and last one on success story on paddy

minikit were developed by participants. Finally a session on statistical tests was conducted to train participants on data analysis.

Participants felt that the programme is very useful to them as they learnt about many new and user friendly ICTs in the programme. They opined that use of digital tools both in their office and field visits will save time. Participants also assured that they will make use of newly developed data documentation mobile apps, Kalgudi and PLANTIX apps while working with the farmers. They further requested EEI to organize many such trainings on Digital initiatives as it is the need of the hour.

Dr. I. Sreenivasa Rao, Professor and University Head and Dr. R. Vasantha, Professor, EEI coordinated the programme.

	
<p>Dr. D. Raji Reddy, Director Extension, PJTSAU addressing the participants during the inaugural function</p>	<p>Skill teaching on usage of PLANTIX app for pest diagnosis by participants</p>
	
<p>Participants developing Short films in Android phones</p>	<p>Dr. I. Sreenivasa Rao, Professor and University Head distributing certificates to participants.</p>

DIRECTOR, EEI