

Objectives

- ❑ To analyze the present scenario in rainfed areas with particular reference to emerging farmers' crisis
- ❑ To analyze the present framework of support systems and incentives in rainfed areas and assessing the need for a differentiated support systems.
- ❑ To arrive at a new developmental paradigm emerging through formal and informal R&D which has a positive bearing on the existing crisis among rainfed farmers
- ❑ To assess what type of new support systems should be created to upscale the above experiences
- ❑ To understand the significance of CBOs in institutionalizing the new paradigm and facilitating greater degree of self-reliance in the overall development
- ❑ To assess the scope of policy reforms, opportunity for convergence with ongoing schemes and identify and explore new schemes / projects for up scaling of alternate paradigm

National Workshop on

New Paradigm for Rainfed Farming

Redesigning Support Systems and Incentives



27th-29th September 2007

NASC Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg
Opp. Todapur Village, PUSA, New Delhi

For details please contact

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New Paradigm for Rainfed Farming

Redesigning Support Systems and Incentives

The serious crisis in Rainfed Farming warranted the Prime Minister to announce a relief package for acute distress areas. The rainfed areas, constituting the major *poverty geography* of the country, faced a historical neglect and discrimination in terms of receiving public support and investments. The rainfed-farmer is facing the brunt of this neglect. The crisis is no longer an issue of increasing agriculture productivity; it has now become a livelihood issue affecting millions of farmers.

Support in terms of public investments and subsidies in fertilizers and other inputs, (electricity, micro irrigation, horticulture, irrigation water supply, credit and price support etc;) are used mostly by farmers in the 'irrigated areas' and by those having access to irrigation water. These support systems fostered the paradigm of green-revolution in the resource endowed areas, but are bypassing the major poverty stricken rainfed areas.

Recognizing the need for restructuring the public policy/ support systems and incentives available for rainfed farming, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) and Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA) are jointly organising a national workshop entitled "New paradigm for rainfed farming - redesigning support systems and incentives."

On the basis of the scattered field experiences and research outputs across the country, the workshop intends to deliberate and evolve a framework for establishing appropriate support systems and incentives for reinvigorating sustainable rainfed farming systems and livelihoods in rainfed areas. It is also envisaged that the workshop would bring-out a concrete agenda for action-research, piloting new initiatives, upscaling successful experiences, networking and policy analysis/ influence.

Participants

The workshop would be attended by a cross-section of invitees and representatives from Planning Commission, National Rainfed Area Authority, Senior officials from various Ministries of Central and State Governments, ICRISAT, ICAR and other Research Institutes, researchers, NABARD, funding organisations, NGOs, and activists.

Design of the Workshop

A series of thematic presentations followed by discussions will set the stage for group-work. The group work on the 2nd day brings forth the essentials of a new framework. A session with funding organisations is also scheduled to provide an interface and to promote dialogue on the subject. The concluding session recaps the proceedings and flags the follow-up actions.

The workshop deliberations will be published and the emerging agenda will be followed up.

Session schedule

1st Day : 27th September 2007

Inaugural session

Session – II : Analysis of existing scenario in rainfed areas

Session – III : New paradigm for rainfed farming

2nd Day : 28th September 2007

Session – IV : Critical support systems for upscaling successful experiences on 6 major themes associated with rainfed farming (in two parallel sessions

Theme – I : Enhancement of organic matter in soils

Theme – II : Separate policy for water resource in rainfed areas

Theme – III : Self reliant development of small ruminants with resource poor families

Theme – IV : Pest management through non pesticidal methods

Theme – V : Seeds in the hands of the community

Theme – VI : Self reliant development through sustainable community based organizations and reforms in management of institutional credit

Session – V : Group work on support systems and incentives with respect to each of the above 6 themes

3rd Day : 29th September 2007

Session – V : Group work (contd.)

Session – VI : Plenary session about highlights of group work

Session – VII : Interaction session with National and International Funding / Support Agencies

Valedictory session