

Kharif-Maize Stabilisation Programme

7th -8th May 2009

Collective for Integrated Livelihood Initiative (CInI)

Background:

CInI started the pilot on maize stabilisation programme for this year. It selected three organisations located in the “maize belt” of Eastern Gujarat, Southern Rajasthan and Western Madhya Pradesh. To establish a common vision for the programme a two day residential workshop was designed for vision convergence and action planning with partner organizations, maize scientists and practitioners and representatives of farmer organizations.



Agenda of the Workshop: The workshop was opened by Mr. Aditya, who laid down the



agenda for the workshop and its deliberation. It was expected that in this workshop all the regional partners would share their ideas and experiences around maize and maize based tribal livelihood system, in their respective areas. Expectation from the scientific community was to share their national or international experiences around maize. Eventually,

based on these and further focussed discussion Visioning and Action Planning of for Kharif season 2009 was to be done. |

Presentations and Discussions:

Mr. Ganesh initiated by highlighting the issues of Tribals of Central India and CInI's thematic focuses to address those issues. He shared the broad vision and some highlights of each of the themes. Subsequently presentations were given by regional partners, based on the gap analyses study conducted in consultation with CInI on the existing maize cultivation practices and suggestive approaches for KMS. The Partners also shared their expectations from KMS. This was followed by presentation of CInI on maize on the national, regional

analyses and experiences. The issues related to grounding a programme on KMS within the tribal community and their farming practices. The Presentation highlighted the socio-cultural, socio- economic, biotic and a-biotic constraints of KMS in strategising for yield enhancement. This was followed by a session that was devoted to the farmers, who are chairman of the lift irrigation cooperative in Limkheda, he shared in details the perception amongst the farmers on increasing maize productivity, he highlighted that Hybrid is though more productive but locals don't like it as it does not match with their taste.

Presentations were made by national (main Maize Research Centre A.A.U) and international (CIMMYT) research organisation sharing their learning of previous programs. One important experience shared by CIMMYT was that of Mother baby Trial for participatory varietal evaluation.

Action Planning

Second day was fully devoted for action planning and in it first some priority topics like which seed variety should be taken? , What is the sustainable method of technology extension etc were discussed in detail. Later exercise of listing major activities under KMS and freezing dates and point person for communication was done. Highlights are



- High emphasis on seed replacement
- Trials of two to three best performed Composite seed varieties in clusters
- Three cluster with each team, each cluster 20 farmers
- High emphasis on plant population by maintaining spacing row to row (50 cm) plant to plant (20 to 30 cm)
- Promoting N₂ fixing and erosion resistant intercrop of pigeon pea, black gram etc
- Idea incubation of agri mechanisation for mechanised sowing to maintain spacing.
- Idea incubation of focussed review and facilitation on filed through service provider model equipped with specialised field tools of monitoring.
- Periodic review by CInI and resource person
- Long term perspective of seed production. Activity to be taken in Rabi.