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## ***RKVY Farmer FIRST Project in Maharashtra - An Overview***

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Farmer's recent technological and institutional needs are not being adequately met, according to a rising impression. Furthermore, the research system frequently does not receive appropriate response to plan and conduct demand driven research, resulting in large disparity between the quality of research output required at the farm level and that being created. It is also believed that the research system should be pro-active approach in reaching out to the farmers to acquire first-hand information, farmer perception and feedback on existing technologies, as well as develop new, more relevant procedures, methodologies and technologies for diverse environments. To overcome these problems MPKV, Rahuri University introduced Farmer FIRST Project proposed under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. This article attempts first-hand information about the project.

### **INTRODUCTION**

National Development Council observed that there is a need to be introduced special scheme for ensuring integral development of agriculture and allied sectors by taking into account agro-ecological situation, natural resources and technology. With the help of this observations and consultation of the Planning Commission, Dept. of Agriculture and Co-operation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, launched RKVY since 2007-08. The NCF (National Commission on Farmers) has mainly focused on the knowledge shortage, which is the big hurdle for agricultural productivity. To successfully deal with this problem, the farmers will need best crop development practices and so effective extension contact with Universities.

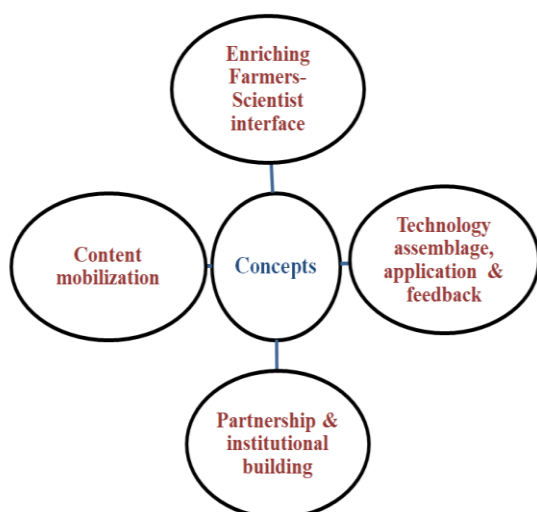
The proposed project entitled Farmer FIRST under RKVY is an initiative of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Ahmednagar and aim of this project is not only focus on production and productivity

**Table 1. Interventions under RKVY Farmer FIRST Project**

Sl. No.	Interventions	District
1	Sugarcane+ Vegetable intercropping	Pune, Ahmednagar, Satara, Sangli & Kolhapur
2	Bacterial blight disease management in Pomegranate	Nasik & Solapur
3	Gram based production technology	Dhule
4	Groundnut based production technology	Jalgaon
5	Cotton based production technology	Dhule, Nandurbar & Jalgaon
6	Cigatoka disease management of Banana	Jalgaon
7	Onion set planting	Nasik, Ahmednagar & Pune
8	Mole plough technology for ill drained soil	Satara, Sangli & Kolhapur
9	Animal component a. Feed support, b. Health care and mineral support c. Artificial insemination in cows for up grading d. Supply of fodder grasses sets e. Back yard poultry farm	Pune & Ahmednagar

but finding solution for the complex, diverse and risk prone realities of majority of the farmers from different agro-climatic zones through enriching the farmers-scientists contact. In Maharashtra four agricultural universities were established up to the year 1972. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri is one of them established in 1968 for the Western Maharashtra. 10 districts come under the jurisdiction of this university i.e. Pune, Ahmednagar, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Solapur, Nasik, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Dhule. Project period was three years since 2015-16 to 2017-18. And implementing agency was Directorate of Extension Education, MPKV, Rahuri. Project was operated in all ten districts of Western Maharashtra as mentioned above.

### CONCEPTS OF PROJECT



**Figure 1. Concepts of RKVY Farmer FIRST Project**

### CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

1. To enhance the production, productivity and income through technology development.
2. To assess the socio-economic, environmental, and technical impact of the project for development of the database of MPKV technologies.
3. To develop entrepreneurial activities, this should be accepted by the society and economically viable as models of enhanced earning to the farmers in different agro-ecological situation.
4. To develop commodity specific technology for knowledge sharing among farming community utilize the strength of institution.

### DEMONSTRATIONS/INTERVENTIONS UNDER PROJECT

There are total nine interventions taken under this project and these interventions decided according to need based approach of different agro-climatic zones (Table 1).

Total 6550 number of farmers was covered under this project in three years of project.

### CONCLUSION

Several varieties, technologies and recommendations have been developed by MPKV University. And objective behind these were to reach these technologies up to farmers. These RKVY Farmer FIRST Project became great platform for transfer of technologies through on spot visits, on the spot guidance, exhibitions, use of mass media (publications, leaflets, etc.) and capacity building of farmers especially of villages which were distant from university research stations. Hence this project was implemented.