

BHOOCHETANA

The Government of Karnataka has initiated a novel mission mode project 'Bhoochetana' from the year 2009-10 with the mission goal of increasing average productivity of selected rainfed crops by 20%. The consortium partners of the project are Karnataka State Department of Agriculture, Watershed Development Department, UAS, Bangalore/ Dharwad/Raichur and ICRISAT, Hyderabad are the technical consultants.

Main strategies: Soil test based nutrient management with major thrust to micronutrients, distribution of inputs at 50% subsidy at cluster village level, services of farmer facilitators for Transfer of Technology, Farmer field schools, wide publicity through wall writings, posters, village meetings & mass media, effective project monitoring and feedback.

Project implementation started during Kharif 2009-10 in 6 districts covering 2.25 lakh hectares, 1440 villages and 2 lakh farmers. The rabi area coverage during 2009-10 was 0.59 lakh Ha. An enhancement in yields of 33-45% is observed in the treated areas.

The project was extended to 16 districts during 2010-11 covering 12.00 lakh hectares during kharif season, 5030 villages and 8.50 lakh farmers. The rabi area coverage during 2010-11 was 3.32 lakh Ha. An enhancement in yields of 21-41% is observed in the treated areas.

During 2011-12 Kharif, Bhoochetana programme was implemented in all 30 districts covering 25.4 lakh hectares in 13800 villages covering 20 lakh farmers. The rabi area coverage during 2011-12 was 5.40 lakh Ha. An enhancement in yields of 29-41% is observed in the treated areas.

The programme was extended to 50 lakh ha of dryland area and 5 lakh ha of irrigated area during 2012-13. By the fourth year, the project reach was to 26000 villages covering 42 lakh farmers. There was a considerable area coverage during rabi season also i.e., 27 lakh ha during 2012-13. An enhancement in yields of 11- 37% is observed in the treated areas.

With this background, Bhoochetana phase 2 is approved for implementation for five years (2013-14 to 2017-18).

The objectives of the second phase of Bhoochetana are:

1. To strengthen the Bhoochetana consortium for increasing the crop (irrigated and rain-fed) yields by 20 per cent over the first phase of Bhoochetana in five years.
2. To strengthen the institutional mechanisms such as seed villages, village seed banks, inputs supply, farm extension through farm facilitators and communication systems.

3. To assess the impact of climate change in different agro-eco regions the state in terms of anticipated shifts in the crop growing periods, water availability, major crop yields, and evaluate adaptation strategies for developing climate resilient farming systems.

Progress of Bhoochetana-2 during 2013-14:

- The target area for 2013-14 under the programme is 83.00 lakh ha dryland & irrigated area .An area of 74.00 lakh ha is sown.
- 12490 Farmer facilitators (FFø) have been appointed for transfer of technology under this programme.
- 11000 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) have been organized through farmer facilitators.
- Capacity building:
 - Institutional Training: Five days training is organized for farmer facilitators at KVK & DATC's. No. of trainings conducted are 177 batches and 11700 farmer facilitators are trained during kharif and rabi during 2013-14.
 - Hobli level & village level training for the farmers.
2013-14: No. of Hobli Level trainings :962
No. of Village Level trainings: 8441
- Input distribution

Input	Quantity in tonnes
Gypsum	114910
Zinc	14394
Boron	4951

GOK-CGIAR” Initiative for improving the Rural Livelihoods in Karnataka” (Bhoochetana Plus) scheme

Introduction:

In order to ensure that our farmers are protected from frequent drought conditions, steps have been taken to formulate special action plans in collaboration with international level scientific institutions such as International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, International Rice Research Institute, Maize and Wheat Research Institute, International Animal Husbandry Research Institute and International Food Policy Research Institute. Right strategies designed with the assistance from these institutes will be implemented on pilot basis in four districts, which will then be extended to other areas.

Objectives:

- To form action oriented consortium of CGIAR institutions to operationalize action research scaling-up model in partnership with Agriculture and line Departments viz; Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Watershed Development, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, etc in the State to increase crop yields by 20% and farmers income by 25% over a period of four years.
- To establish four sites of learning on pilot basis, scaling-up approach integrated participatory research for development to benefit small and marginal farmers in irrigated and rain fed agriculture areas representing the revenue divisions of the state

Implementation:

- The Scheme implementation is planned for a period of four years (2013-14 to 2016-17)
- The Scheme is in implementation in four districts viz., Bijapur, Chikamagalur, Raichur and Tumkur on pilot basis in an area of 10000 ha in each district by converging ongoing schemes of Agriculture & allied departments.