SEMINAR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The recommendations that came out through the two day seminar were:

- **Identification and Scientific Testing of ITK’s** - Modern farming technology that may be having its roots in farmer practiced old technologies is the base for sustainable agricultural development. Saurashtra region is rich in people’s traditional knowledge (IK), locally appropriate and adapted for local conditions, few of which recognized worldwide but there is immediate need to explore, identify, document and also scientific testing of these IK’s for knowing scientific rationale and preserving and protecting them. A special campaign should be carried out for the purpose.

- **Developing Micro Level Integrated farming System Model** - Considering importance of related enterprises with agriculture as a basis for livelihood security of rural people and emphasis given on Research on Sustainable Rural livelihood Security in component 3 of NAIP, University Scientists with the help of Extension Functionaries and Line Department should develop Integrated farming System Model consisting two or more income generating activities at micro level for area under the jurisdiction of this University. The model should be encompassing location specific, low input high yielding technologies for resource poor farmers, Horticulture production, Livestock, Reduce, Reuse and Recycling of resources, promoting energy security through *in situ* production biogas, solar energy, excess of which can be traded and Value addition of farm and livestock production. Farmers should be mobilized towards establishing SHG for getting financial support.

- **Web based Farmer-Scientists Forum** - Large coverage and easy access towards social media by the farmers can be effectively harnessed by the extension functionaries; a group (sort of online Farmer-Scientists Forum) ought to be formed primarily incorporating SMS of various disciplines, officials from Line Department and Progressive farmers from the region who seeks information from university. Which can be helpful both for farmers and scientists in a way an effective, accurate and cost effective communication between researcher, extension workers and progressive farmers.
Short duration IT based training programme/vocational certificate courses for rural youth, farmers and stakeholders - Online trading, input services, access to weather updates, MIS etc.

Awareness campaign - It was noticed that farmers and grass root extension workers are not aware of the new technologies and policies of the government being implemented. Without their awareness it would be difficult to successfully implement extension activities in the field. Therefore, efforts should be undertaken to create awareness among the farmers and the frontline extension workers regarding the objectives, goals and benefits of extension programs and activities.

GO-NGO linkage - GO-NGO linkage is one of the objective areas that need major modification. The experience of the public extension providers in this case is that they do not get expected responses from the NGOs regarding program implementation. There have been indifference and lack of co-operation on the part of the NGOs in implementing government programs. The NGOs on the other hand claim that there should be change in the attitudes of the government extension organisations towards the status of the NGO workers. Considering all these, it seems that there is a visible conflict of status and accountability between the GOs and NGOs. Therefore, specific policy should be augmented regarding the nature of linkage, accountability and specific roles of the partners in case of linkage programs.

Credit has been a major problem in involving farmers in the extension activities of the government organisations. Only NGO groups mostly deal with giving credit to the farmers. Organisation of farmer groups by the government extension providers get hampered since they cannot provide any monetary incentive to them. Therefore, credit should be included as a component to overcome this problem.

Women involvement in extension program has not been satisfactory. The grassroots level extension workers in most cases fail to reach the rural women. This is partly because of inadequate female extension worker. There should be necessary policy initiatives to recruit more female extension workers to provide better extension services to rural women.