Indian Fertilizer Industry in Service of Farmers

A. Roy
Marketing Director
Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited
Email: aroy@iffco.in

IFA-FAI National Seminar on Sustainable Fertiliser Management for Soil Health, March 16-17, 2015, New Delhi

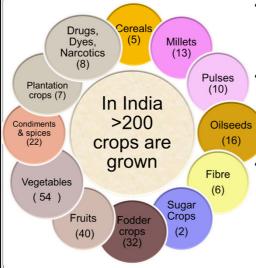


MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- Shrinking Agri Resources
- Plateauing agricultural production
- Access to agro inputs
- Balanced and integrated nutrient use
- Increasing multi-nutrient deficiency
- Declining crop response to nutrients
- Access to agro technology Role of extension agencies
- Reaching the Unreached



Indian Agriculture - Opportunities



- Follow BMP's for crops as addressed by ICAR institutes / SAU's
- Major focus confined to Rice, Wheat, Cotton, Sugarcane, explore potential of other crops.
- or Of late the focus is broadening to horticulture (Fruits and Vegetables), medicinal and aromatic crops and other high value crops.



Farmers' Plight – Some Issues

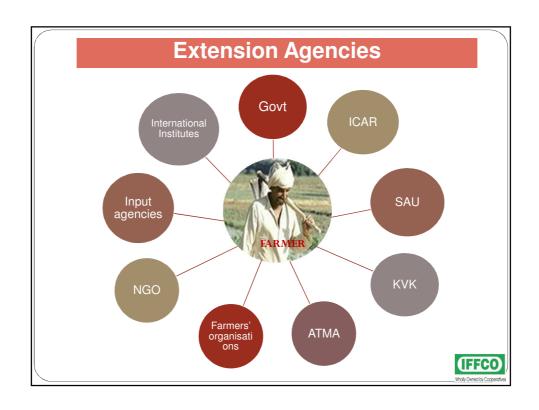
- Inherited agriculture; Farming practice knowledge transferred through generations
- Marginalization of land holding due to Family system
- Farming is a compulsion for sustenance and not a choice
- Limited literacy prevents access to information; inadequate access to ICT
- Significant contribution of Women in farming; less communication due to traditional barriers

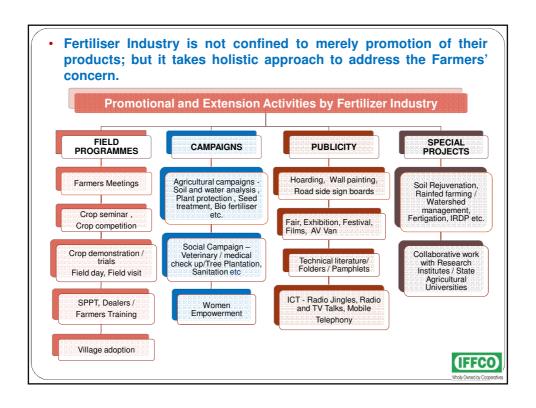


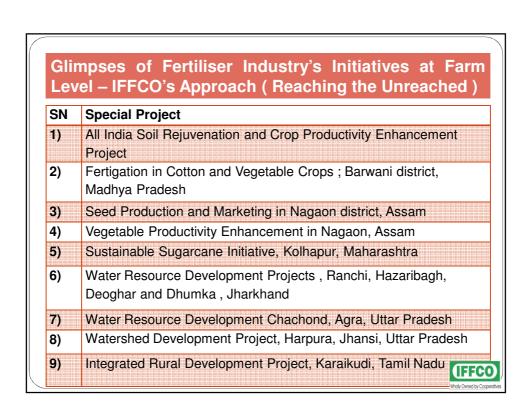
Farmers' Plight – Some Issues

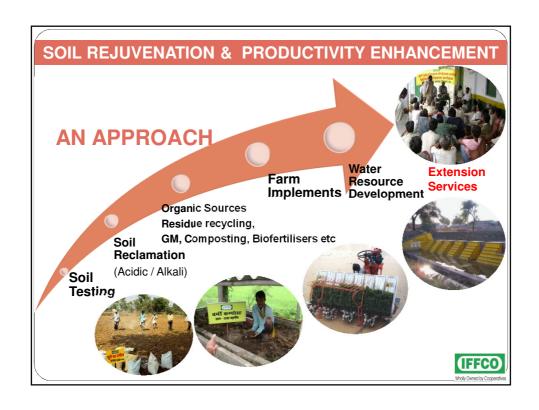
- Un remunerative agriculture resulting in frustration; younger generation are unwilling to participate
- Migration from rural to urban areas for livelihood security
- Facing harsh and uncertain weather conditions
- Access to essential resources (water, energy, agro inputs, farm implements, credit, storage, transport, agro technology etc.)

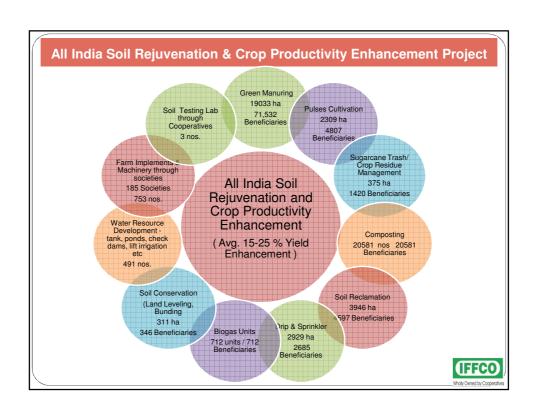










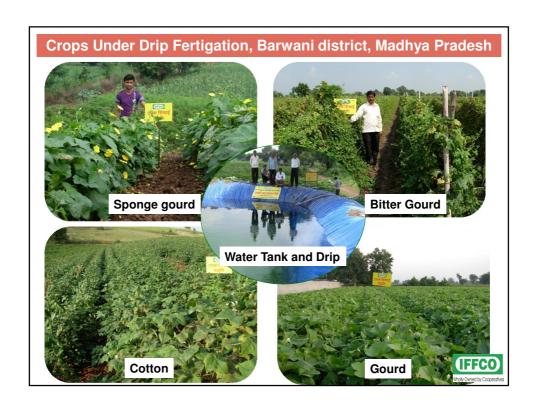


Fertigation in Cotton and Vegetable Crops Barwani district, Madhya Pradesh





- Cotton yield increased from 1.5 MT/ha to 3.5 MT/ha (169 % increase) while green chillies yield increased from 20 MT/ha to 62.5 MT/ha (213 % increase)
- Increased area under irrigation from 170.5 ha to 595 ha (250% increase)
- Crop diversification as the farmers are able to take other crops like turmeric, ginger, papaya, maize etc.



Seed Production and Marketing in Assam

- Collaborators: IFFCO / AAU / Duarbagori Cooperative Society Ltd., District Nagaon
- Project initiation:
 - Mustard: Rabi 2013-14: Variety: TS 36; Breeder seed procured: 150 kg; Area: 18.67 ha; Foundation seed produced: 198 q (raw seed 202 q); Cooperative society was involved; Value: Rs 8.91 lakhs
 - Mustard: Rabi 2014-15: Area: 89.2 ha (cooperative (18.67 ha) + 3 villages (70.53 ha; Farmers: 43); Expected production of certified seed: 1500 q;
 - Green gram: 2014-15: Variety: Pratap; Breeder seed procured: 50 kg; Area: 2 ha; Expected production of foundation seed: 24 q; Cooperative society was involved;

Seed Production and Marketing in Assam

- Involvement of farmers in transfer of technology process
- Area under seed production will be increased during 2015-16: rice, mustard, green gram and black gram
- Seed processing unit will be operative by May 2015 in collaboration with NABARD and GOI



IFFCOs Field: vield 1500 - 1875 kg / ha



armer's Field: yield 450 – 600 kg / ha

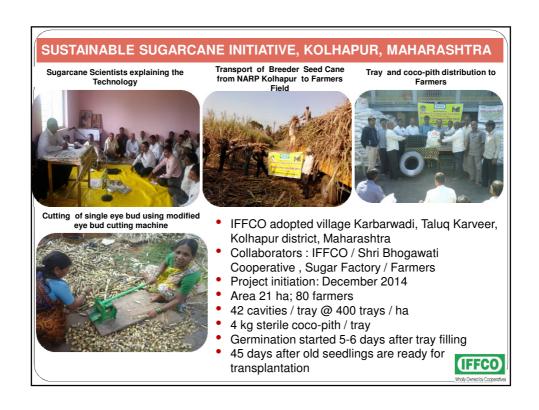
Enhancement in Vegetable productivity - Nagaon, Assam

- Village: Lakhanabandha; Project initiation: July 2012; 2.5 acre fallow land was leveled and brought under cultivation; Installed shallow tube well with diesel pump set;
- Initiatives
 - Watermelon was grown during a) 2012-13 (2.5 acre); b) 2013-14 (5 acre); c) 2014-15 (14 acre); d) 2015-16 (26 acre planned).
 - Poly mulching (capsicum, sugarcane, watermelon, bottle gourd, cucumber, ridge gourd, tomato)
 - Straw mulch (Pointed gourd)
 - Relay cropping and intercropping
 - On farm production of organic manure
 - Productivity of crop increased by over 50% over traditional practices.
- 7 Farmers group are operational in the area
- · Linkages with market for direct sale of produce











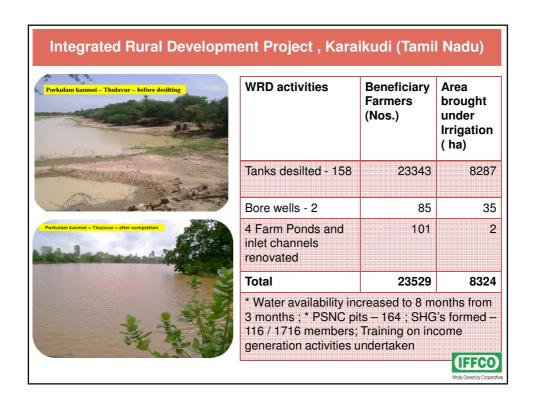


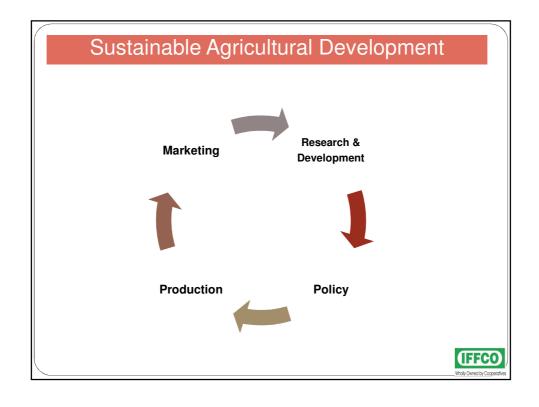


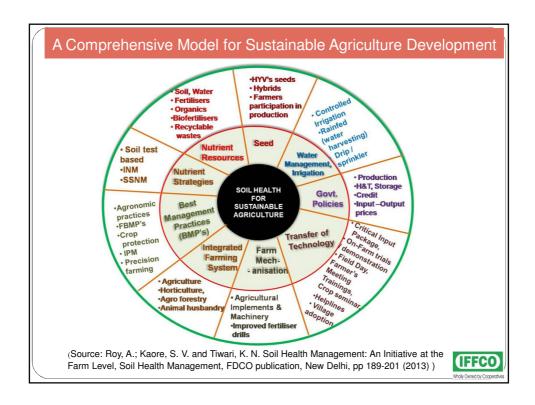
Water Resource Development Projects, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Deoghar and Dhumka, Jharkhand Lift irrigation village: Pachhiyarikothia, Deoghar ;Tomato and Brinjal Cultivation - Village Manatu Area Vill : Manatu - Ranchi Beneficiary SN Location (acre) 104 to 115 Cropping 1 Manatu - Ranchi 75 70 Intensity %(increase) 122 Romi - Hazaribagh 170 2 Fertiliser use (kg 43 to 80 kg/ /ha) ha 3 Jeruwadih - Dhumka 82 132 Paddy yield 18 to 40 q/ ha Pachhiyarikothia -4 56 51 Deoghar **IFFCO** Total 385 373











Road Map – Service to Farmers'

- > Efficient management of available natural resources.
- > Ensure last mile delivery of agro inputs
- ➤ Emphasize productivity enhancement beyond rice, wheat, cotton, sugarcane
- > Transfer of technology from Lab to Land on continuum basis
- Rejuvenation of soil health and water resources for sustainable development
- Exploit hidden potential of rainfed agriculture through scientific intervention
- Integration of efforts of like minded organizations in the national interest
- Efforts of fertilizer industry needs to be replicated
- Delivery system has to be revitalized for reaching the outcome of research and policy initiatives to 'Reach the Unreached'



