

Status Report on Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI)

Public Extension System alone is not adequate to address the issues faced by the farming sector. To meet the emerging challenges, emphasis has been given for multi-agency extension services such as Private Agri Input Companies, Farmers' Organizations, Agripreneurs, Cooperatives and other agencies in the Non-governmental sector, including practicing Input Dealers in Farm Advisory Services. Among these agencies, Agri-Input dealers is one of the important information source for the farmers as they are first contact point and available at any time. There are around 3.0 lakh practicing input dealers in the Country. However, most of these input dealers do not have formal agricultural education. If these input dealers can be shaped as para-extension professionals by providing requisite knowledge, they can professionalize extension services and contribute to bring a paradigm shift in Indian Agriculture.

It is in this context, the National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE) has designed one year Diploma and launched as "Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers (DAESI)" in 2003, in order to impart relevant agricultural knowledge to the dealers to transform them into para-extension professionals and enable them to address the field level problems of farmers. Realizing the importance of the program, Govt. of India has made DAESI as Central Sector Plan Scheme since October, 2015.

Program Objectives

- To orient the input dealers on location-specific crop production technologies.
- To build capacity of input dealers in efficient handling of inputs.
- To impart knowledge about laws pertaining to regulation of agricultural inputs.
- To make input dealers an effective source of farm information at the village level (one stop shop) for the farmers.

Methodology

DAESI has been designed in such a way that the input dealer can pursue the program without adversely affecting his day-to-day business. The program is spread over a period of 48 weeks, with 40 classroom sessions and 8 Field visits to various institutions and farmers' fields. The classroom sessions and field visits are conducted on Sundays or local market holidays. The field visits are intended to

acquaint the input dealers with location-specific field problems and expose them to relevant technologies. They are trained to identify pests, diseases and nutritional disorders. Study material is provided in local language and multi-media instructional devices are used in the classrooms.

Eligibility Criteria for Candidates

The course is open to all the practicing input dealers of 10th standard and to candidates sponsored by the input agencies/agri business companies/agri cooperatives etc.

Course Content & Coverage:

To make the dealers technically more competent, the course curriculum is made into 12 modules such as 1) Agro Ecological Situations 2) Soil Health Management 3) Rainfed Farming 4) Seed and Seed Production 5) Irrigation Techniques and their Management 6) Weed Management 7) Farm Implements and Machinery 8) Pest and disease control in Agriculture 9) Crop Production Technology of major local crops 10) Acts, Rules and Regulations related to Agricultural inputs 11) schemes related to Agriculture sector 12) Extension approaches and Methods 13) Other Few topics on importance are covered to have holistic knowledge on agriculture.

MANAGE has developed a course content with the help of experts covering all topics in 12 Modules and brought out a book as Study Material to the participants/input dealers of DAESI Program. Copy of the book was sent to all the States for translation in their Local Language and use as Study Material in DAESI program. In addition to this, minimum 30% of the location specific course materials is prepared by the Facilitator with the help of Resource persons.

Course Fee:

Initially, MANAGE has launched the program on self-financing basis with a course fee of Rs.20,000/- per input dealer. After DAESI became Central Sector Plan Scheme, the course fee course fee is subsidized to the extent of Rs.10,000/- per input dealer out of Rs.20,000/-. Few states have mobilized funds from RKVY. However, where, Agri business companies are involved, the company will contribute Rs.10,000/- and the balance Rs.10,000/- will be contributed equally by DAC & FW and the Input Dealer @ Rs.5,000/- each. Course fee for prospective dealer is Rs.20,000/- has to be borne by the candidate. Wherever, the demand for DAESI program is more than the budget allocated, even the input dealers also pursuing the course on self-finance mode by paying entire course fee of Rs.20,000/-.

Program Implementation:

MANAGE is Implementing the program with the help of SAMETIs. In turn, SAMETI organize the program through various Nodal Training Institutes such as Agricultural Colleges, KVKs, ATMAs and NGOs etc. at District Level with the help of resource persons drawn from the Universities, Research organizations, departments and free lancers.

Evaluation:

The performance of the input dealers is evaluated based on bi-monthly quizzes, half-yearly and annual examinations and a final practical examination comprising of skill demonstration, identification of specimens of pests, diseases and nutritional disorders followed by a viva-voce. In order to qualify for the diploma, the candidate should have minimum 80 per cent attendance and secure minimum 40 per cent marks.

Orientation Training to the Facilitators :

Training program to the Facilitators on operationalization of DAESI was organized for 249 Facilitators in seven batches at MANAGE. The trained facilitators are organizing DAESI programs at District level.

Progress

Since inception of the program a total of 9800 input dealers have been successfully completed DAESI program. Currently a total of 9560 Input dealers are undergoing DAESI course in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. During 2018-19 states like Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab and Uttarakhand are also coming forward to conduct DAESI programs.

State wise physical progress of DAESI since inception of program is given in Annexure – I and Financial Progress since inception of Central Sector Plan Scheme is given in Annexure – II.

Annexure - I					
Physical Progress of DAESI programs since inception (2003-04 to 2018-19 upto 31.5.2018)					
Sl. No.	STATE	Programs Completed		Programs Under progress	
		No. of programs	No. of candidates	No. of Programs	No. of candidates
1	Andhra Pradesh	80	3094	20	800
2	Bihar	5	194	8	320
3	Chhattisgarh	6	233	10	400
4	Himachal Pradesh	1	38	6	240
5	Jharkhand	14	520	15	600
6	Karnataka	48	1919	63	2520
7	Madhya Pradesh	4	154	17	680
8	Maharashtra	6	191	9	360
9	Orissa	31	1059	15	600
10	Rajasthan	7	270	12	480
11	Tamil Nadu	17	645	6	240
12	Telangana	13	533	16	640
13	Uttar Pradesh	11	432	17	680
14	West Bengal	13	518	25	1000
	Total	256	9800	239	9560

Annexure -II

**Financial Progress since inception (2015-16) of Central Sector Plan Scheme (CSPS)
Physical : No. of programs @ 40 candidates per program Financial : Rupees in lakhs**

Sl. No.	STATE	2015-16					2016-17					2017-18					2018-19			
		Programs Organized				Budget released under CSPS	Programs Organized				Budget released under CSPS	Programs Organized				Budget released under CSPS	Allotment under CSPS			
		CSPS	RKVY	Total			Organized under			Total		Organized under			Total		Physical (no. of programs)	Financial (Rs in lakhs)		
				No. of Programs	No. of Candidates		CSPS	RKVY	Self-finance	No. of Programs		No. of Candidates	CSPS	RKVY	Self-finance				No. of Programs	No. of Candidates
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	-	3	120	12.00	6	-	-	6	240	24.00	12	-	7	19	760	48.00	13	52.00
2	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	160	15.00	9	-	-	9	360	36.00	22	88.00
3	Chattisgarh	1	-	1	40	4.00	5	-	-	5	200	20.00	8	-	1	9	360	32.00	10	40.00
4	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	16.00
5	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	40	4.00	6	-	-	6	240	23.60	7	28.00
6	Jharkhand	1	-	1	43	4.30	4	-	-	4	160	16.00	12	-	10	22	880	48.00	18	72.00
7	Karnataka	8	-	8	320	32.00	13	-	32	45	1890	54.00	28	-	30	58	2320	111.80	30	120.00
8	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	32.00
9	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	160	16.00	13	-	4	17	680	52.00	20	80.00
10	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	160	16.00	9	-	-	9	360	36.00	9	36.00
11	Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	6	12	-	18	720	24.00	13	-	-	13	520	52.00	15	60.00
12	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8.00
13	Rajasthan	3	-	3	120	12.00	4	-	-	4	160	15.20	9	3	-	12	480	35.20	10	40.00
14	Tamil Nadu	3	1	4	170	12.00	2	-	-	2	80	8.00	4	-	2	6	240	16.00	3	12.00
15	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	8	320	28.00	9	-	5	14	560	36.00	26	104.00
16	Uttar Pradesh	5	-	5	200	20.00	4	-	-	4	160	16.00	12	-	7	19	760	48.00	49	196.00
17	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8.00
18	West Bengal	2	-	2	82	8.20	4	-	2	6	240	16.00	5	-	21	26	1040	20.00	2	8.00
Total		26	1	27	1095	104.50	68	12	35	115	4690	272.20	149	3	87	239	9560	594.60	250	1000.00