

The review of Doubling farmers' income (KISAN MITrA) project of Bundelkhand region of U.P. by Sh. Surya Pratap Shahi, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Agriculture Education and Agriculture Research, Government of UP

A KISAN MITrA project on Doubling Farmers' Income in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh is being implemented at pilot sites in seven districts of Bundelkhand Region UP in Central India covering about 40,000 ha area. The project is being implemented in 22 villages covering about one lakh population. The project is supported by Government of Uttar Pradesh and is being implemented by ICRISAT, ICAR-CAFRI and other consortium partners. The project was initiated during 2018. The participation of ICAR-CAFRI as consortium partner, started during 2019.

To establish pilot sites (5000 ha in cluster of villages per district) as “sites of learning” by integrating science-led interventions for increasing productivity, affordable food and nutrition security; enhancing crop intensification and diversification through various natural resource management and agroforestry interventions and to build capacity of the stakeholders in the target districts for doubling the farmers' income through scaling-up of integrated science-led approach are the main project objectives. The ICAR-CAFRI is working with the main focus on to enhance water resource availability and restore ecological balance through construction of cost-effective rainwater harvesting structures (e.g., *Haveli* renovation, check dams, groundwater recharge units, farm ponds, field bunding, etc.); to improve and optimize crop and livestock productivity through various agroforestry interventions and to develop model site of learning in Bundelkhand region of UP. In this project efforts have been made towards rainwater harvesting, agroforestry plantation, productivity enhancement, livestock based interventions and capacity building in all eight pilot sites of Bundelkhand region.

Shri Surya Pratap Shahi ji, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Agriculture Education and Agriculture Research, Government of Uttar Pradesh, reviewed the progress of the DFI project at Banda University of Agriculture and Technology (BUAT), Banda on 3rd July, 2020 (Plate 1). Dr. Ramesh Singh, Principal Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad and Dr. Inder Dev, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CAFRI, Jhansi briefed the progress made so far on various aspects of the project activities. Hon'ble Minister appreciated the efforts made by ICRISAT, ICAR-CAFRI and other consortium partners. During the review meeting Sh. Sahi ji suggested BUAT faculty to orient themselves in the similar lines to create the larger impact in the region. The Hon'ble Minister also suggested to make appropriate efforts to scale up such initiatives in the Bundelkhand region.



Plate 1: Review meeting of KISAN MITrA project and activities of BUAT, Banda on 3rd July 2020

Shri Surya Pratap Shahi ji, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Agriculture Education and Agriculture Research, Government of Uttar Pradesh, alongwith Sh. Upadhaya ji (Minister of State for Public Works, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Local MLA, Chitrakoot) and State government officials visited next day (on 4th July, 2020) one of the project sites of DFI (Rauli-Kalyanpur village) in Chitrakoot district. He visited the *Haveli* (traditional rainwater harvesting structure). The *haveli* was filled with water with the recent monsoon showers recently (**Plate 2**). During the visit Dr. Ramesh Singh, ICRISAT explained about the various interventions related to insitu and exsitu rain water harvesting, while Dr Inder Dev explained about the activities being taken up regarding agroforestry plantations, crop productivity enhancement, livestock productivity enhancement and capacity building. The Hon'ble Minister was also briefed that ICAR-CAFRI has planned to plant about 1,33,000 agroforestry plantation at the farmers' fields under this project.



Plate 2: Visit of Sh. Surya Pratap Sahi ji Hon'ble Minsiter for Agriculture, Agriculture Education and Agriculture Research, Govt. of UP at the *Haveli* site, Rauli Kalyanpur village, in Chitrakoot district, Uttar Pradesh