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Success Stories

Vikshit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at Pakyong District of Sikkim in Kharif Season

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ABSTRACT

From 29th May to 12th June, 2025, a nationwide Vikshit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (Kharif) was organized to realize Prime Minister's vision of "Lab to Land". This campaign was organised in more than 700 districts to reach out to 1.5 Crore (15 million) farmers across the country and communicate with them directly. About 731 KVKs, 113 ICAR institutes, state level departments and officials of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and innovative farmers were involved throughout the India in this campaign. In this program, 2 teams had been formed for Pakyong district of Sikkim, which include officers from ICAR institutes, KVK's, SAU's and Departments like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries etc., scientists and innovative farmers. The main objectives of the campaign were awareness among farmers on improved and modern techniques relevant to Kharif season, disseminating information on Govt. Policies and Schemes, promotion on use of Soil Health Cards for decision about crop and input choices, emphasis on 'Good Agricultural Practices' and capturing feedback and grassroots innovations/ creativity from farmers to shape future research.

Key words: Modern techniques, soil health card, government schemes, researchable issues

INTRODUCTION

From 29th May to 12th June, 2025, a nationwide developed Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (Kharif) was organized to realize Prime Minister Modi's vision of "Lab to Land". With agriculture being the backbone of the Indian economy contributing 18% to the GDP and sustaining nearly half of the population the campaign aimed to bridge the gap between scientific research and farming practices. Delivering his remarks on the occasion, he remarked that the launch of the Viksit

Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) as a significant initiative for farmers and a unique effort to support agricultural development. The Prime Minister highlighted that as the monsoon approaches and preparations for the Kharif season begin, over the next 12 to 15 days, 2000 teams consisting of scientists, experts, officials, and progressive farmers would travel across 700+ districts and reach millions of farmers across villages. This campaign resolves to make Indian agriculture the mainstay of Viksit Bharat; India must not only fulfil its own needs but also emerge as a global food supplier. Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan will open new avenues of progress for farmers driving modernization in agriculture *https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-addresses-the-viksit-krishi-sankalp-abhiyan*).

The objectives of the program were Awareness among farmers on improved and modern techniques relevant to Kharif season, disseminating information on Govt. Policies and Schemes, Promotion on use of Soil Health Cards for decision about crop and input choices, Emphasis on 'Good Agricultural Practices' and Capturing feedback and grassroots innovations/ creativity from farmers to shape future research.

METHODS

The nationwide campaign began on 29th May 2025 in Odisha. Over the 15-day period, Union Minister of Agriculture, Government of India conducted extensive farmer outreach through Kisan Chaupals, conferences, and padyatras across Odisha, Jammu, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Delhi, and Gujarat. This campaign was organised in more than 700 districts to reach out to 1.5 Crore (15 million) farmers across the country and communicate with them directly. About 731 KVKs, 113 ICAR institutes, state level departments and officials of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and innovative farmers were involved throughout the India in this campaign. In this program, 2 teams had been formed for Pakyong district of Sikkim, which include officers from ICAR institutes, KVK's, SAU's and Departments like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries etc., scientists and innovative farmers and from 29th May, 2025 to 12th June, 2025 on everyday programs were organized at Gram Panchayat levels with orientation, briefing, expert talks, feedback mechanisms and interaction sessions. The following blocks (Panchayats) of this district were covered under the 15 Day's program.

1. Regu (Lingtam & Premlakha), 2. Rhenock (Aritar and Dalapchand), 3. Pakyong (Chalamthung & Amba), 4. Namcheybong (Sumin Lingzey & Assam Lingzey), 5. Parakha

(Latuk & Linkey), 6. Duga (West Pendam & Central Pendam), 7. Duga (Budang Kamarey & East Pendam), 8. Rhenock (Tarpin & Rhenock), 9. Pakyong (Yakten & Namcheybong), 10. Regu (Rongli & Sudunglakha), 11. Regu (Regu & Chujachen) and 12. Pakyong (Taza & Bering).

IMPACT

Throughout India, 2,170 teams of 16,000 agricultural scientists were constituted. These teams reached villages to directly engage with farmers, sharing the latest research and practical knowledge. Advice was given based on local climatic conditions and soil requirements (https://www.icar.org.in/en/formal-conclusion-15-day-viksit-krishi-sankalp-abhiyan). Farmers were educated on balanced use of fertilizers and pesticides, and their feedback was also used to guide future research directions. The campaign's significant achievements were interaction with over 1.12 crore farmers, outreach to more than 1 lakh villages and over 55,000 farmer engagement programmes conducted. Awareness programs amongst farmers were conducted on implementation of several Government schemes such as PM-AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan), Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Subsidies for polyhouses and greenhouses, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Schemes for new orchard development, rejuvenation of old orchards, establishment of nurseries, agricultural machinery subsidies, and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (crop insurance) (https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2135848). At Sikkim, total 31370 farmers participated in VKSA program from 635 villages (Table 1).

Table1. Participants of farmers from Sikkim at Vikshit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan

Districts	Village covered	Male	Female	Total
East Sikkim	124	4391	3388	7779
North Sikkim	69	4652	3540	8192
West Sikkim	332	5384	2271	7655
South Sikkim	110	5402	2342	7744
Total	635	19829	11541	31370

RESEARCHABLE ISSUES FROM VKSA

Varietal Improvement and Genetic Resource Management:

- **Development of superior orchid hybrids:** Research is needed to develop new orchid hybrids that are high-yielding, disease-resistant, heat tolerant and suitable for commercial cultivation in Sikkim's diverse agro-climatic zones.
- **Breeding for disease and climate resilience:** Develop disease-resistant and climate-resilient varieties of orchids, large cardamom, maize, and ginger, specifically adapted to Sikkim's unique environmental challenges (e.g., erratic rainfall, specific pest and disease pressures).
- **Development of cost-effective, quality, disease-free planting materials:** Research into efficient and scalable methods for mass production of certified, disease-free planting material for orchids, large cardamom, and bulbous ornamentals.
- **Organic seed and planting materials production:** Research into developing sustainable and efficient methods for organic seed and planting material production for fruits, vegetables, and flowers, aligning with Sikkim's organic state status.

II. Integrated Crop Management and Production Technologies:

- **Optimizing controlled-release fertilizer formulations for Sikkim's organic context:** Botanical based nutrient solutions or slow-release organic nutrient solution for cultivation of horticultural crops
- **Soil test-based pH and nutrient management:** Conduct comprehensive research to develop specific soil test-based pH and nutrient management recommendations for different crops cultivated in Sikkim, considering the acidic nature of Sikkim soils and the challenges of organic nutrient management.
- **Integrated pest and disease management (IPM) for key crops:** Develop effective and environmentally sound IPM strategies for orchids, Fall Armyworm in maize, and viral diseases in large cardamom, and fruit fall in round chilli crucial for organic cultivation.
- **Protected cultivation technologies:** Research into optimizing protected cultivation techniques (e.g., polyhouses) for orchids, carnation, anthurium, rose, and gerbera, considering Sikkim's specific climatic conditions and resource availability.

- **Rainfed floriculture with bulbous ornamentals:** Research to identify suitable bulbous ornamental varieties and develop appropriate cultivation practices for rainfed floriculture in Sikkim, promoting diversification.
- **Improved cropping systems for enhanced cropping intensity:** Research on developing and evaluating improved cropping systems that can enhance cropping intensity and overall farm productivity in Sikkim, considering the unique landholding patterns.
- **Farming Systems Research approaches:** Conduct comprehensive farming systems research to integrate agriculture, horticulture, and allied sectors, focusing on sustainable and economically viable models for Sikkim's diverse agro-ecological situations.

III. Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition:

- **Value addition and post-harvest technologies:** Research on developing and implementing effective value addition and post-harvest technologies for orchids, Dalle Chilli, turmeric, and cardamom to reduce post-harvest losses and enhance market value.
- **Development of cost-effective and appropriate processing technologies:** Focus on technologies suitable for small-scale farmers and the organic context, ensuring quality and extending shelf life.

IV. Marketing, Policy, and Socio-Economic Aspects:

- **Market linkage, branding, and certification for organic produce:** Research into establishing robust market linkages, developing strong branding strategies, and streamlining certification processes for orchids, Dalle chilli, and large cardamom, crucial for accessing premium markets.
- **Sensitization and training programs for diversified orchid farming and marketing:** Develop and evaluate effective training modules and support programs for farmers to enhance their knowledge of diversified orchid farming and proper marketing strategies.
- **Accessibility of modern technologies:** Research on effective extension methodologies and policy interventions to ensure the accessibility and adoption of modern technologies by farmers to improve production.

- **Policy research on human-wildlife conflict mitigation:** Conduct policy research on wildlife-related crop damage, community fencing models, and effective crop insurance mechanisms to support affected farmers.
- **Socio-economic impact assessment of new technologies:** Research on the socio-economic impact of adopting new technologies and farming practices on farmers' livelihoods in Sikkim.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL GAPS IDENTIFIED

- Crop damages due to wild animals
- Water scarcity during winter season
- Lack of availability of seeds and quality planting materials in time
- Crop damages due to climatic uncertainties
- Fruit drop problems in vegetables
- Dieback problems in fruit crops
- Farming System Research concept
- Marketing channel

KEY LEARNING FROM VKSA

- Problems identification at farmer's field
- Understanding and proper solutions of farmers problems on the spot
- Good interaction among Farmers, KVK, Line Departments and Scientists on one platform
- Application of different Government schemes for benefit of farmers
- A huge participation of farmers at village level due to collaborative efforts of State Departments, KVK's, Panchayat and ICAR institute.

CONCLUSIONS

Ranking of farmers problems can be prepared based on priority, utilization of different Government schemes can be made in a fast -track mode, a large number of Training and Demonstration can be carried out on good agricultural practices, production of quality seeds

and planting materials of commercially important crops can be done on organic mode, SHC for every progressive growers of each district could be completed, preparation of district contingency plan can be made based upon farmers priority, speed up formation of FPO and enhancement of membership for opening avenues for production and marketing can be initiated, distribution of organic inputs among farmers in time in each season can be practiced and proper water conservation management can be taken up in time.

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