



RESEARCH ARTICLE : **Gain in knowledge of Krishak Mitra through training**

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In view of recent advancement in the agricultural technologies and more and more involvement of Krishak Mitra in agriculture, the role of Krishak Mitra is not just to educate the Krishak Mitra regarding agriculture technologies but they have to pay equal attention towards dissemination of agro-based technologies for the socio-economic upliftment of the rural families. For this, it is imperative that the women functionaries should have through knowledge in agriculture and allied areas. Keeping this in view a 5 days training on agricultural technology for Krishak Mitra was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Barmer in collaboration with ATMA, Barmer.

The concept of Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) was introduced in 1999 as an autonomous organization under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) by providing flexible working environment with objective of integrating research, extension and all other stake holders at the district level to support the farmer's needs and interest through an integrated approach of strategic plan. ATMA is a society of key stake holders involved in

agricultural activities for sustainable agricultural development in the district. Involvement of farmers can be achieved at the village level through farmer's interest group (FIGs), at block level as a member of farmer's advisory committee (FAC) and at district level as the member of ATMA governing board. The concept of ATMA envisages paradigm shift from "top down" to "bottom up" in the planning and implementation of agriculture development programmes.

There is a need of a person who acts as extension worker in a village, so a farmer's friend from the same village is selected under ATMA schemes for this purpose through the Gram Sabha of Gram Panchayat and locally known as "Krishak Mitras". The Krishak Mitra will serve as a vital link between extension system and farmers at village level (one for every two villages). The Krishak Mitra will be available in the village to advice on agriculture and allied activities. The Krishak Mitra will mobilize farmers groups and facilitate dissemination of information to such groups, individual farmers and farm

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