

Fodder seed production through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) in Uttar Pradesh

Introduction:

Department of Animal Husbandry promotes breed improvement activities and fodder seed cultivation in Varanasi, Jalaun, Hapur, Jhansi, Lucknow, Barabanki, Seetapur, Lalitpur, Meerut and Lakhimpur districts. The department has been facing multiple problems in upkeep of its facilities and promoting fodder seed production due to paucity of funds. The area taken up for fodder seed production was limited and land available with department was degrading, reducing productivity and was converting into wastelands. This affected the department's operations and overall supply of good quality fodder seeds in the State. The lack of good quality fodder was also department's breed improvement programme as department provides good quality green fodder to farmers for breeding and conception.

Intervention:

Rs 172.3 crores were allocated for 2008-2009 to 2016-2017 for promoting fodder seed production and associated activities. The funds were spent on initiatives including land restoration, strengthening of irrigation facilities, and rejuvenation of existing infrastructure for rearing animals etc. The fodder crops promoted were Jwar, Barseem, Jai and Lobia

Impact:

- RKVY scheme provided much needed financial aid to the department for strengthening its operations, rejuvenation and restoration of land as well as infrastructure for upkeep of animals.
- Total area under fodder seed production increased by 473.26 Hectares in 2018-19
- Led to increased fodder seed production of 45.86 Lakh Quintals in 12216 Hectares
- The overall green fodder production increased by nearly 4 times in 10 years as a result of increase in area and improved production
- The green fodder production is sufficient for meeting daily green fodder need of 62,820 animals (@ 20kg per day per animal)

Improved availability of green fodder is seen as critical for breed improvement, health and productivity of milch animals, better availability of green fodder thus provided direct and indirect benefits to livestock farmers.

Source: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Success stories uploaded by State, 2019, retrieved from <https://rkvy.nic.in/Uploads/SuccessStory on 01st June 2020>