

Background :

Dryland agriculture has its distinct importance in the sphere of agricultural production. In India 85% of coarse cereals, 83% in pulses, 42% in rice, 70% in oilseeds and 65% in cotton are still cultivated as rainfed. Figures are higher in Maharashtra state being a predominantly rainfed farming state with hardly 18% irrigated area. About 52% of area of the state is classified as drought prone, while 40% of land under plough is light and shallow. In Vidarbha approximately 87% of cultivated area is rainfed, and agricultural performance is significantly influenced by the monsoon. As such population growth, poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation are problems hounding the dryland agriculture today. Increasing agricultural production in these areas always encompasses spectrum of issues which include water, soils, pests, crop-livestock integration, health and nutrition, post harvest technology, and others. Projections are also the worst in terms of water scarcity in the coming decades. Climate variability further could put an additional stress on the ecological and socioeconomic systems. Overall the delicate balance between natural resources and agricultural production is always threatened.

Among the many policy initiatives, recently the Government of Maharashtra has launched Dry Land Farming Mission from 2013-14 for 3 years across 347 villages selected under 347 tehsils in the state. The main emphasis has been laid on improving productivity and income for economic

stability of farmers, In-situ rain water conservation, runoff harvest and chain of check dams in the drainage lines for protective irrigation, use of micro irrigation systems for improving irrigation efficiency, mechanization for soil moisture conservation and minimizing production cost, extension education of dryland technologies through on-farm demonstrations, controlled farming, primary agro-processing and marketing facilities for better price to farm produce and human resource development through training, schooling and study tours.

The four agricultural universities in the state have been playing a major role in development of agriculture in the respective state regions through education, research and technology advancements thus making a visible impact on the agriculture improvement in the region.

In general, dryland agriculture today is often failing to meet the required needs of the producers due to numerous challenges and stresses of food insecurity, scarce and degrading resources, climate variability coupled with many market, policy and socio-economic issues. These challenges also differ in complexity and scale than before. Accordingly, introspecting and fine tuning the available technologies, identifying the present priorities and concurrent technological and development needs with a long-term strategic approach is required to overcome the intractable problems in the fragile dryland ecosystems for achieving greater sustainability of agriculture in the region.

With this preamble in view, two days seminar is being jointly organized by the All India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture, Dr. PDKV, Akola and Vidarbha Association for Research, Technology and Development in Agricultural and Rural Sectors (VART-DARS), providing an opportunity for the agricultural scientists and other stakeholders to introspect and plan for greater sustainability in dryland agriculture of the region.

Themes :

The overall theme of the seminar is Dryland Agriculture in Vidarbha: Priorities and Development Issues. The seminar will focus on the following sub themes:

- Rainwater Management
- Smallholder Farming Systems
- Enhancing Soil Fertility and Health
- Crop Varieties and Diversification
- Small Farm Mechanization
- Sustainable Crop Protection
- Protected Agriculture
- Organic Farming in Rainfed Agriculture
- Rainfed Livestock systems
- Agro-Processing
- Markets and Value Chains
- Non-farm Enterprises
- Technology Transfer and Adoption
- Climate Change and Variability
- Crop Insurance
- Capacity Building
- Policy Issues

**VART-DARS & AICRP for Dryland
Agriculture, Dr. PDKV, Akola
(Maharashtra)**

**National Seminar
on
DRYLAND AGRICULTURE IN
VIDARBHA : PRIORITIES AND
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

March 3-4, 2015

REGISTRATION FORM

(To be sent on or before 15.02.2015)

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Designation & Institution

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Phone/Mobile No.:

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Title of the Paper

Details of registration fee paid.....

Signature

(Photocopies of the registration form will be accepted)

Call for Abstracts/Papers

Intending authors are requested to submit their abstracts (300 words) through email by 15th January, 2015 at vartdars@gmail.com

Abstract specification: MS word, A4 page, paragraph spacing single, font Arial 11 with full title. Name of the author(s), affiliation (if any), mailing address, phone number. Authors are requested to submit the full paper by 31st January 2015. The full paper must be submitted in both soft and hard copy.

Registration fee

Registration fee : Rs. 2000/-
For VART-DARS Members : Rs. 1000/-
Research Scholars/Students : Rs. 500/-

DD should be drawn in favour of "The Organizing Secretary" payable at Akola.

TA/DA will not be paid

Organizing Committee

Patron :

Dr. BG Bathkal

President, VART-DARS &
Former Vice Chancellor, Dr. PDKV, Akola

Organizing Secretary :

Prof. MB Nagdeve

Chief Scientist,
AICRPDA, Dr. PDKV, Akola

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**Silver Jubilee
NATIONAL SEMINAR**

ON

**DRYLAND AGRICULTURE IN
VIDARBHA : PRIORITIES AND
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

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Organized by



**Vidarbha Association for Research, Technology and
Development in Agricultural and Rural Sectors
(VART-DARS)**



In Collaboration with

**All India Coordinated Research Project
for Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA)
Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth,
Akola (Maharashtra) - 444 104**



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