

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

WHAT THIS INSTITUTION IS

A Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) is a farm science centre that tests improved agricultural practices under local conditions and trains farmers to adopt them. Technologies developed by ICAR research institutes and agricultural universities are taken to farmers' fields by KVKs through On-Farm Testing (On-Farm Trial (OFT)), Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs), training programmes and extension activities. There is one KVK in almost every district – over 730 across India. Each KVK is funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) but operated by a "host institution" such as a state agricultural university, an ICAR research institute, or an NGO. If your family farms or you are interested in agriculture-based livelihoods, the KVK is the closest government-backed institution connecting agricultural research to what happens in the field.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

If you want to learn a new farming technique, get your soil tested, access improved seeds, or explore agriculture-based enterprise training (mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, food processing), the KVK provides these services free of charge.

GOVERNANCE

LAW / POLICY	SCOPE
ICAR Guidelines for KVKs	Establishes KVKs as district-level farm science centres under NARS
National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM, renamed from NFSM in 2024-25)	Funds front-line demonstrations on pulses, oilseeds, cereals through KVKs
Soil Health Card (now a component of RKVY since 2022-23)	KVKs collect samples and distribute soil health cards
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Crop insurance – KVKs support awareness and documentation

- **Centre:** Ministry of Agriculture (DARE) → ICAR → Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI) (11 zonal institutes; coordinate and monitor KVKs in their zone)
- **State:** Host institutions are State Agricultural Universities and the Central Agricultural University (the largest share), ICAR research institutes, NGOs, State Governments and other educational institutions
- **District:** Programme Coordinator (PC) heads the KVK
- **Field:** Six Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) covering crop science, horticulture, animal husbandry, home science, agricultural engineering, and fisheries
- **Funding:** 100% ICAR (central); host institution may provide land and supplementary support
- At the time of establishment, an MoU/MoA is signed between ICAR and the host organisation, setting out salary, equipment and recurring-cost assistance



KEY POSITIONS

POSITION	RESPONSIBILITY
Senior Scientist & Head (also called Programme Coordinator)	Head of the KVK; manages annual action plan, coordinates with ATARI
Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) – 6 posts	Each covers a discipline; conducts trainings, demonstrations, and farm visits
Programme Assistants	Support field work, record-keeping, and logistics

Sanctioned staff has both technical posts (Senior Scientist & Head, Subject Matter Specialists across disciplines such as agronomy, plant breeding, livestock production, horticulture, home science, agricultural engineering, fisheries, soil science, plant protection, agro-forestry, agricultural extension) and non-technical office and support staff.

MANDATED SERVICES

- Conduct Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) of improved technologies on farmers' fields
- Run training programmes for farmers, farm women, and rural youth on crop production, animal husbandry, food processing, and off-farm enterprises
- Test whether new varieties and techniques work under local soil and climate conditions before wider promotion
- Produce and distribute seeds, planting material, fingerlings, and livestock strains
- Operate or facilitate soil testing and distribute Soil Health Cards
- Provide weather, pest, and market advisories
- Run the ARYA (Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture) programme for rural youth in agriculture-based enterprises
- Identify and document selected farm innovations and converge with ongoing schemes and programmes within the mandate of KVK

LINKED SCHEMES

- **Soil Health Card Scheme** – free soil testing and nutrient recommendations for all farmers
- **NFSNM (formerly NFSM)** – funds front-line demonstrations on pulses, oilseeds, and cereals in targeted districts
- **ARYA** – agriculture-based enterprise training for rural youth aged 18-35; KVK is the implementing agency
- **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** – organic farming cluster development with KVK training support
- **Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC)** – trains agriculture graduates to start agri-enterprises; KVK serves as nodal training centre in some districts
- **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)–KVK–Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Collaboration** (April 2023, with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog) – links Atal Tinkering Labs in schools with one KVK in each of the 11 ATARI zones (about 55 ATs in the pilot) so that school students can engage with farm innovation; KVKs provide technology backstopping, planting material, and knowledge-sharing

HOW TO LOCATE

Portal: kvk.icar.gov.in – search by state and district for KVK name, host institution, address, and contact



Primary: KVK Telephone Directory 2020 (icar.org.in/.../KVK-TELEPHONE-Directory-2020.pdf). Current district KVK contacts also available on the per-zone ATARI websites (11 zones).

Also: Ask the District Agriculture Officer, or search "[district name] KVK" on Google Maps

KEY FACILITIES

A functioning KVK should have: a demonstration farm (typically 10-20 acres) with crop plots, nursery, and livestock units; training halls and a hostel for residential programmes; a soil testing laboratory or access to one; and IT infrastructure for weather advisories and data reporting.

WHAT A FUNCTIONING KVK LOOKS LIKE

- The demonstration farm is maintained and actively cultivated
- Farmers are present at the KVK on a working day
- Training calendar shows programmes conducted in the last 3 months with participant records
- Frontline Demonstration (FLD) records show demonstrations conducted in actual villages with documented results
- Soil Testing Lab is operational with a turnaround time under 4 weeks
- Young people (under 30) have been trained through ARYA or enterprise programmes in the last year

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

During service delivery. The first point of contact is the Programme Coordinator (PC) of the KVK. The Subject Matter Specialist handling the specific discipline (crop, livestock, horticulture, home science, fisheries, agricultural engineering) is a parallel front-line responder.

After service. Escalation is to the host institution (state agricultural university / ICAR research institute / implementing NGO) and ATARI (the ICAR zonal office). ICAR headquarters in Delhi has supervisory authority.

External. ICAR runs a grievance portal at icar.gov.in. The Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE) accepts complaints via Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) (pgportal.gov.in). For PMFBY (crop insurance) issues, the PMFBY portal and the state Krishi Bhavan have dedicated grievance channels. Soil Health Card disputes go through soilhealth.dac.gov.in.
