

Drought Mitigating Interventions of Krishi Vigyan Kendras



ZONAL PROJECT DIRECTORATE, ZONE-IV
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
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Foreword

Indian Agriculture recently faced critical challenges due to erratic and deficient behavior of monsoon 2009 there by posing serious problems in sowing of Kharif crops. For instance, rice production was adversely affected and sowing of 60 lakh ha less area was estimated. Long period average of rainfall indicates shortage of 28% of rainfall this year for the period June to August. Only 9 meteorological sub-divisions of the country received normal or excess rainfall out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions. Western Uttar Pradesh and Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh were worst hit with 50% of deficiency.

At all India level, 299 districts of 12 states were declared drought. To respond to the challenging scenario, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) established in drought hit districts took up the challenge of mitigating drought by undertaking various activities and providing technological inputs like seeds, planting materials, bio-fertilizers, bio-agents and byproducts and through awareness and skill development programmes. Specific technical interventions have been made by KVKs by introducing drought tolerant crops and varieties of oilseeds (soybean, groundnut, toria, etc.), pulses (pigeonpea, urd, moong, etc.) and cereals, vegetables, fruit crops, fodder crops, etc. Livestock related activities (animal health, fodder crops, trainings, etc.) were also taken up on large scale. Major emphasis was given on resource conservation technologies like direct seeded rice, system of rice intensification, drum seeder, ridge and furrow method, etc. Thrust was given on large scale adoption of short duration varieties particularly of paddy (NDR-97, PRH-10 etc.).

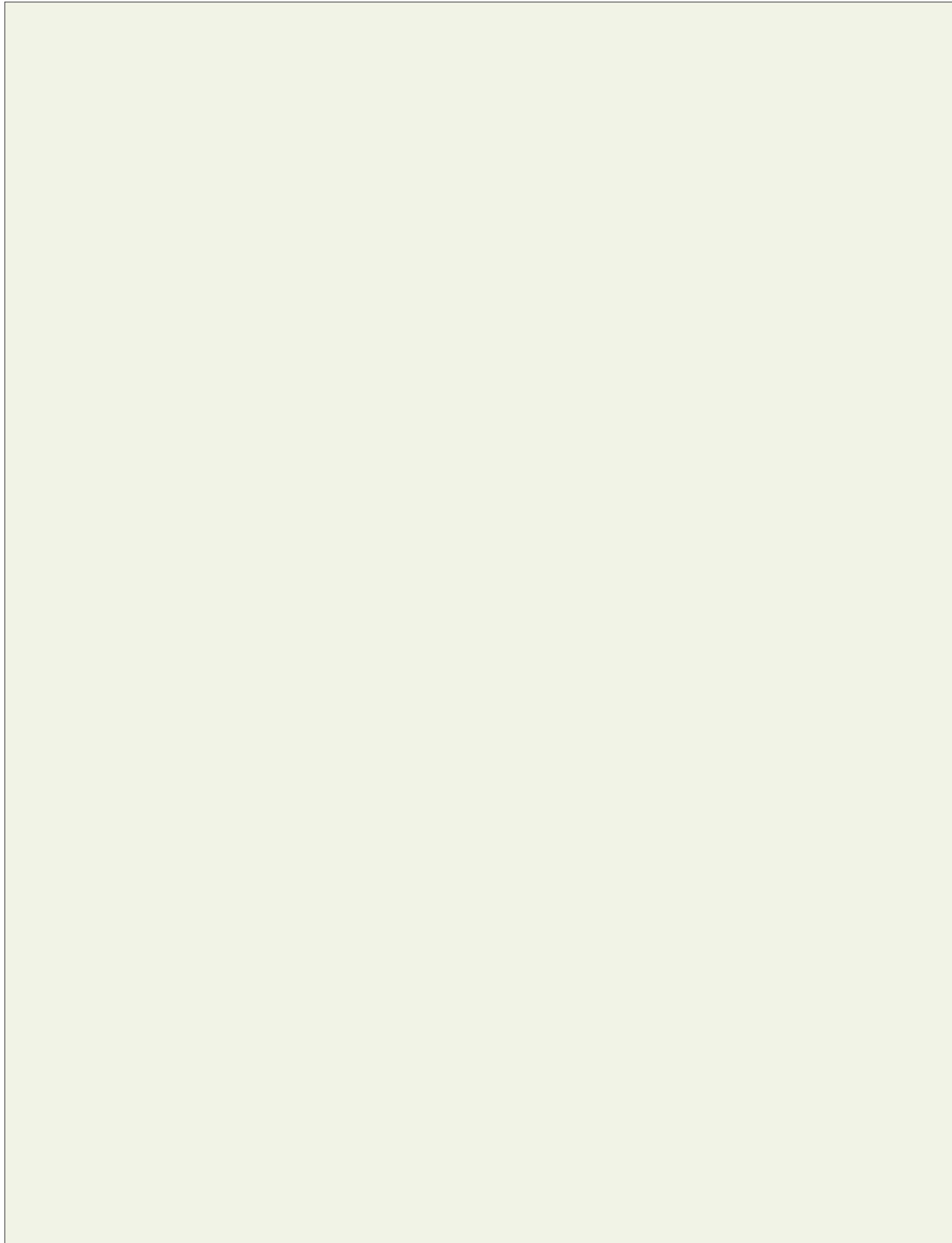
For creating mass awareness, print and electronic media were extensively used. Bringing out relevant publications, updating websites on regular basis and dissemination of information through different channels including mobile SMSs were practiced by the KVKs of drought districts.

In this context, an effort has been made to bring out this publication "*Drought Mitigating Interventions of Krishi Vigyan Kendras*" encompassing the relevant interventions and contingent plan developed and promoted by the KVKs. I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues in bringing out this publication in short period of time.

I am sure this publication will prove to be a guiding material for wide range of stakeholders in National Agricultural Research and Extension System for effectively and proactively addressing drought situations thereby accelerating agricultural growth in this country.

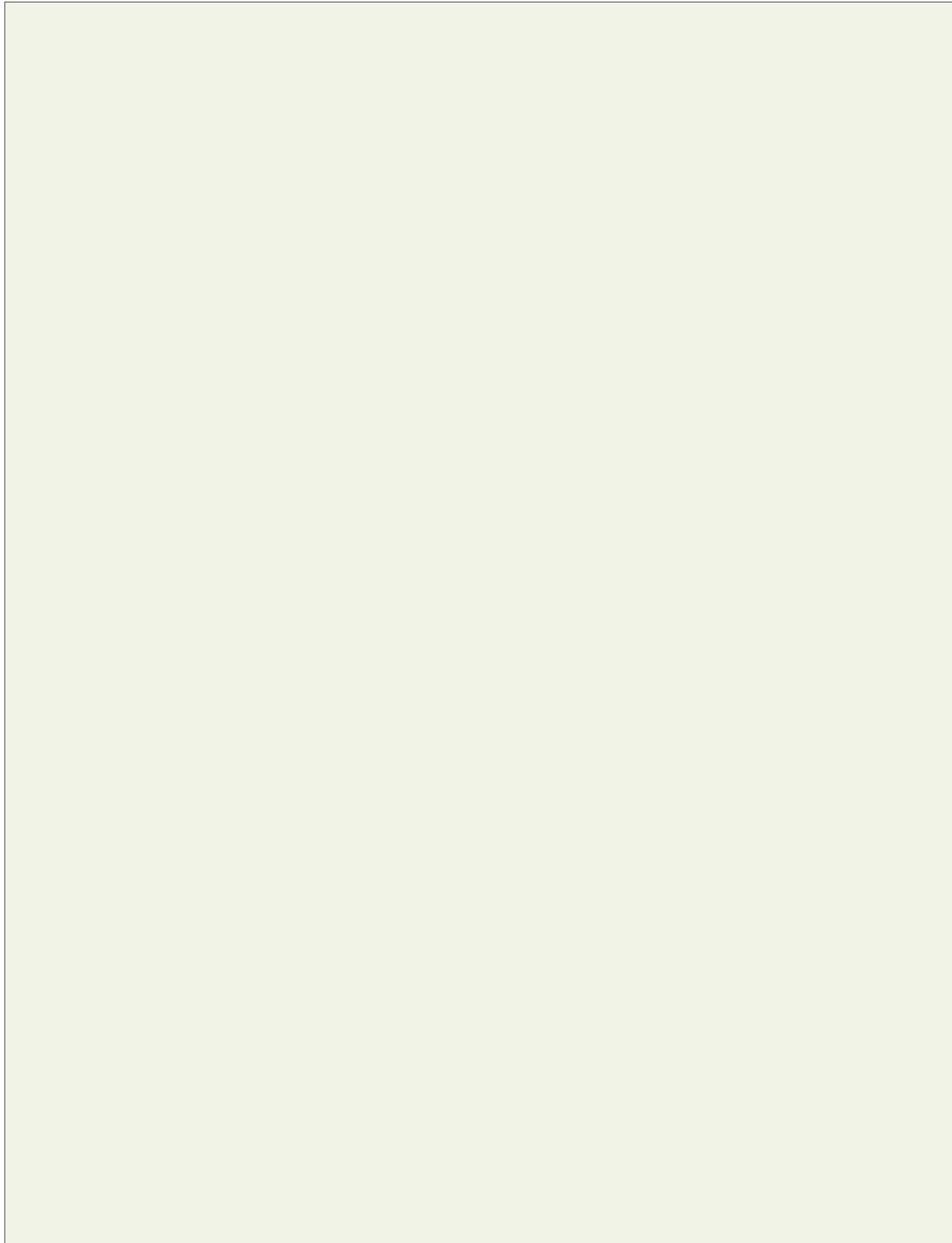
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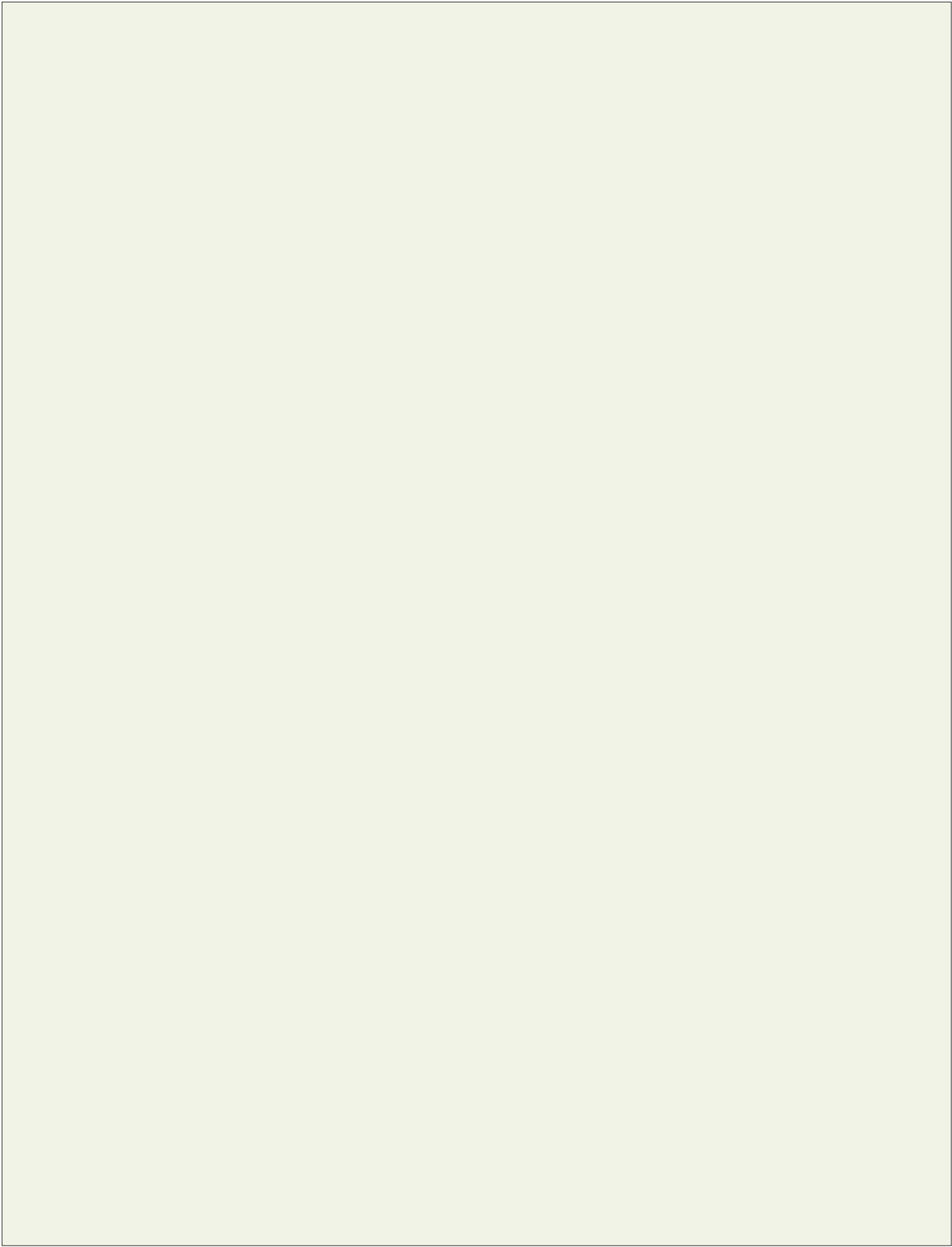
Deputy Director General (Agril Extn)



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