

ii. *Developing farmers for technology transformation*

The system of transfer of technology and production oriented messages to the field level has been envisaged as key components in transforming agriculture as a vibrant sector in Assam. A paradigm shift in the perspective on transfer of technology and dissemination of value-added information for agrarian prosperity is the need of the hour. *A holistic rural extension, which integrates farm and non-farm enterprises, would bring about the much desired pace of growth in the agriculture sector and rural development.* This could be done under three stages. For this purpose, generation of technology by the university scientists and researchers would be crucial. These are being done on an on-going basis by the Regional Agricultural Research Stations [RARS] and Field Trial Stations [FTSs]. Dissemination of the research findings and on farm trials in farmers' fields would create greater awareness among the farmers to adopt such technologies which are more advantageous to them. Once the field trials are completed successfully, the technology transmission to the field of the farmers would require specific initiatives. Using Subject Matter Specialists (SMS), in-service training research, extension linkage, production and getting feed back from the field could be done through workshops drawing resource persons from RARS / universities and FTSs. By SMS updating and upgrading professional skills, review of farmers' reactions, the agricultural extension officers and village level extension workers could be trained. Thereafter, the Village Level Extension Workers [VLEWs] would have regular interface with the FMCs/ SHGs and disseminate the technology to the farmers on an on-going basis. ***It should aim at disseminating information needs of the farming communities to take informed decisions on various issues.***

Here, the use of Information, Communication and Technology [ICT] would greatly quicken the pace of learning and adoption by the farmers. A chart depicting the three stage operations of transfer of technology from the research level to the farmers' level is given in Exhibits-4 & 5. With farm mechanization and use of appropriate technology in place, the farmers in Assam will be greatly benefited.