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Cover Story

Space Technology Applications in Rural Development

The most effective means of depicting events or phenomena over space, time and relationship between different objects on ground is through spatial representation. Satellite Remote Sensing, Global positioning system, and advances in Space Technology, computing, communication technologies and digital cartography, have revolutionised the visualisation and perspective of looking at earth features. Geo-Informatics Technology has got huge implications in terms of development potential in areas related to rural development.



Wasteland Atlas, Watershed Delineation, Rural Drinking Water Source, National Disaster Support Centre, Forest Fire Monitoring, Bhuvan, Space based information System for Decentralised Planning(SIS-DIP) have been implemented and provided vital inputs in different sectors, mainly in rural development sector. The Tsunami Warning System, fishing advisory, coastal zone management, environmental monitoring, crop acreage and production estimation are some of the critical activities of Space Technology applications in the country. The ongoing GIS application in rural development sector largely caters to MoRD Flagship Programmes like IWMP, Drinking Water, MGNREGA, PMGSY, NLRM, etc.

GIS is used widely in the watershed delineation, planning, monitoring and impact assessment of watersheds, which has brought in a sea change in the improvement of water levels and vegetation in the country.

The Rajiv Gandhi Technological Mission on Drinking Water, has also evolved water quality surveillance and drinking water prospecting, with the help of remote sensing and GIS, brought in visible impact on improving the provision of safe drinking water in the country, by appropriately locating source finding, accessibility by people, tapping appropriate sources and augmenting existing sources to better managing drinking water situations in a region.

Satellite remote sensing is facilitating the monitoring of assets

generated under MGNREGS and also facilitates convergence with other development programmes, in an area. Space Technology of both Satellite Remote Sensing and Global Navigation are used for work location, assets capturing, monitoring, and to avoid duplication of works. GIS is also used in updation of the rural roads core network, incorporating all intervening developments such as roads constructed under new connectivity and upgradation under PMGSY, as well as those constructed with resources of State under different schemes, with type and condition of surface of the road to prepare routine maintenance priority list for effective maintenance & management of rural roads. GIS also utilised National Land Records

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Modernisation Programme (NLRMP) in August 2008, to modernise management of land records and minimise scope of land/property disputes and to enhance transparency in land records maintenance system in the country. In addition to above, with Space Technology Applications, planning and monitoring of schemes, accounting, Panchayat's Assets Management, land use and land cover, change detection, environmental monitoring, erosion and wasteland estimation, settlement and infrastructure patterns, etc., could be effectively managed at Panchayat level.

The Centre for Geo-Informatics (C-GARD) Faculty Centre under the School of Science, Technology and Knowledge System, NIRD&PR has developed many customised Geoinformatics applications, notable of which is appropriate identification of watershed treatment structures using Geo-Hydrology Model, E-DPR preparation for Watershed Programmes, developed Customised Estimation Software with local language interface on Watershed, a web based SDSS for convergence of Watershed and other RD Programmes, Agro Climatic Planning & Information Bank (APIB) with 18 layers of data, plot-wise at 1:10,000 scale, a Mobile based Farmers' Advisory system, Gram Panchayat GIS, Rural Energy Balance. As part of capacity building, the centre designs specific customised training programmes with support of technology applications in areas related to planning, monitoring, modeling, and decision support systems on Watershed, MGNREGS, Agriculture Development, Environmental Assessment, Conservation Practices, Resources planning, Infrastructure Development and Village Planning, etc. Seven CGARD Centres were established in India and two being implemented at CIRDAP and Madagascar to train and hand hold the field functionaries engaged in rural development. NIRD&PR is in the process of establishing Rural Technology Parks in five African countries, namely, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Congo, Cote-de-Ivoire and South Sudan in a phased manner under India-Africa Forum Summit-II (IAFS) of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Besides, the Centre conducts academic programmes like PGC-GARD and PGD-GARD distance learning programmes, and assist all State Governments, Ministries and Line Departments in the application of Geo-informatics in rural development sector.

VISIT OF PARLIAMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE LED BY THE HON'BLE UNION MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH CHAUDHARY - TO NIRD&PR ON 18.11.2015



THE HON'BLE UNION MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SHRI BIRENDER SINGH CHAUDHARY WATCHING LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF CSE BLOCKS, RTP



THE HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE) IN CONVERSATION WITH THE ARTISANS ON THE STRENGTH OF CSE BLOCKS



THE HON'BLE UNION MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SHRI BIRENDER SINGH CHAUDHARY DISCUSSING THE SCOPE FOR PROMOTION OF CSE BLOCKS UNDER MGNREGS WITH SHRI S M VIJAYANAND, SECRETARY, PANCHAYATI RAJ AND DIRECTOR GENERAL, NIRD&PR

Regional Training Programme on Geo-Spatial Technologies for Planning and Management of Watershed Projects

A Regional Training Programme on Geo-Spatial Technologies for Planning and Management of Watershed Projects was held during 27-30, January 2016 at SIRD,

Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The programme was attended by 32 participants from different State Government Departments such as Watershed, Soil and Water

Conservation and MGNREGA. The thrust of training programme was to introduce concepts of Geo-Spatial Technologies (GIS, Remote Sensing and GPS Systems), and potential

applications in Watershed Planning and Management. The programme was aimed at familiarising participants with the use of various Geo-Spatial Technologies related to Planning and Management of Watershed Projects.

The Programme was inaugurated by Shri Saroj Kumar Dash, Deputy Director, SIRD. Shri Dash stressed on need to acquire knowledge and exchange Best Practices of Geo-informatics for better implementation of watershed development programmes in Odisha.

Various Innovative and Best Practices in thematic areas namely, Geo-Informatics in Agriculture, Land and Water Resources, Micro level planning, Social Sector development, Decision Support Implemented in the Odisha State, were imparted by CGARD Faculty and experts from various scientific institutes like Odisha State Application Centre (ORSAC), Odisha Watershed Development Mission (OWDM), etc.

The programme broadly covered GIS concepts, Remote Sensing, GPS and details of Quantum GIS Software and data relating to Watersheds. The



operating methodologies were taught and various inbuilt features were covered, for enhancing technical skills of participants for application of Geo-Spatial Technologies in Watershed Planning and Management.

The Digital Image Processing of Satellite data, Integration of various thematic layers, extraction of information and handholding of GPS systems were demonstrated to participants. Various inbuilt features of open source GIS software were

exposed, which could be extensively used in Watershed Planning and Management. The Operation of Geo-hydrology model for Planning of Suitable Soil and Water Conservation Structure Locations and E-DPR were demonstrated to participants along with new guidelines of PMKSY.

The training programme was coordinated by Shri T.Phanindra Kumar and Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi from CGARD, NIRD&PR and Shri Manoranjan Patnaik, Faculty, SIRD, Bhubaneswar.

CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Geo-Informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices

CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on "Geo-Informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices" was held during 4-13 January, 2016 at CGARD, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

Sixteen delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, LaoPDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the programme. The thrust of the programme was to expose delegates to various best and innovative practices on Geo-informatics applications in Rural Development sector in India.

The Programme was inaugurated by Smt. Chanda Pandit, Registrar and Director (Admin), NIRD&PR. Dr.Cecep Effendi, Director General, CIRDAP gave a Keynote Address. He stressed on need to acquire knowledge and exchange Best Practices of Geoinformatics for better implementation of Rural

development Programmes in CIRDAP Member Countries.

In the programme, various Innovative and Best Practices in thematic areas namely, Geo-Informatics in agriculture, land and water resources, forest resource management, micro-level planning, social sector development, decision support and disaster management in CIRDAP region, were imparted by CGARD Faculty and Experts from NRSC, INCOIS, State Remote Sensing Application Centre, etc.

Participants visited INCOIS-Disaster Tsunami Support Centre for exposure on role of Remote Sensing & GIS for Disaster Management and Mitigation, Potential Fishing Zone Advisory and Satellite data reception and were shown the contribution and support system available for Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean. A visit was arranged to Telangana State Remote Sensing Centre (TRAC) to expose to applications of Spatial Technologies at the grassroots level.

As a part of the Programme, a Study Tour to Bengaluru and Mysuru for exposure on Pilot and Demonstrative Projects on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications in Rural Development,



was organised. Delegates visited NBSS & LUP, Bengaluru, Karnataka State Remote Sensing Agency at Mysuru, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, Bengaluru, SATCOM facility for Training at Panchayats at Mysuru and the premier Engineering Institute of the Country, the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bengaluru. Delegates acquired knowledge and exchanged their views on utilising GIS applications during interaction with officials and stakeholders in Study Tour.

The CIRDAP Training Programme was well received for its inputs, best Geo-informatics applications, and innovative practices that were carried out in similar lines, by the initiatives of delegates in CIRDAP Member Countries.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. V Madhava Rao, Dr. P Kesava Rao, Shri D S R Murthy, Shri T Phanindra Kumar, Shri H K Solanki and Dr. P Rajkumar from CGARD, NIRD&PR and Dr. (Mrs.) Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (Training & CRD) from CIRDAP.

Orientation Workshop for Institutional National Level Monitors

One-day workshop for Institutional National Level Monitors was held on 11 January, 2016 in New Delhi at the Scope Complex. The workshop was coordinated by NIRD&PR, Hyderabad in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Persons from 48 Institutions, which include Gandhigram Rural Institute, Tamil Nadu, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Telangana, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Uttar Pradesh, Lal Bahadur Shastri





National Academy of Administration, Uttarakhand participated in the workshop. Welcome address was delivered by Shri B.D.Virdi, Economic Adviser of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, who elucidated the importance of organising the workshop. Resource persons who addressed the august gathering were Shri P Manoj Kumar, Director (Rural Connectivity/PMGSY), Shri S M Vijayanand, Secretary (Panchayati

Raj), Smt. Rashmi Shukla Sharma, Additional Secretary (Panchayati Raj), Shri Hukum Singh Meena, Joint Secretary (DILRMP) and Shri Surinder Singh, Economic Adviser, (DILRMP). All of them explained the importance of schemes and monitoring indicators with facts and figures. Presentations were made for PMGSY and DILRMP schemes. Resource persons of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj discussed about the format for report of NLM visit with

reference to Gram Panchayat and its development plan, and the schedule was focused on PESA areas. Smt. Bhawna Singh, Director (Monitoring) of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) Government of India, offered a vote of thanks. From NIRD&PR, Dr Shankar Chatterjee, Professor & Head (CPME) and Dr K.P. Kumaran, Consultant coordinated the workshop. Shri Shekhar Srivastava, Assistant Director was the coordinator from MoRD.

Training Programme on Implementation Strategies & Institutional Mechanisms for NRLM

A training programme on “Implementation Strategies & Institutional Mechanisms for NRLM” for implementing officials of SRLMs, DRDAs and Bankers was held during January 12-15, 2016 at DDU-SIRD, Lucknow. 33 officers across the State comprising Government officers, who are Block Managers, ADOs, and Sr. Trainers, attended the programme. Among 33 officers, 10 of them were Block Managers, 10 were ADOs, and 7 were Sr. Trainers. The mission of NRLM is to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to

access self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in increase in their income, on a sustainable basis through building strong grassroots institutions for poor. These institutions enable and empower poor households to build their human, social, financial and other resources, solidarity, voice and bargaining power. They, in turn, enable them to access their rights, entitlements and opportunities.

Objectives of the training programme were to orient participants on values,

beliefs and various thematic areas of NRLM and to expose participants to field implementation strategies of NRLM. The programme content included objectives, values and beliefs of NRLM, organisation of rural poor into SHGs, capacity building under NRLM, institution building, financial inclusion and livelihood promotion.

Few guest speakers covered and delivered pertinent subjects on SHG-Bank Linkage, Skills under DDU-GKY, Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran

Pariyojana(MKSP), R-SETI's for Sustainable Development, Micro-Credit Plan Strategy, Community Resource Person Strategy, etc. Along with Dr.N.V.Madhuri, the course coordinator, Dr. Rakesh Ranjan, team member from DDU-SIRD, Lucknow threw light on poverty and its relevance to NRLM. Participants enjoyed the training programme as interaction was in Hindi. The programme was coordinated by Dr N.V.Madhuri (CSERE), NIRD&PR and Dr.Rakesh Ranjan, (DDU-SIRD), Lucknow.

Training Programme on Implementation Strategies & Institutional Mechanisms for NRLM

Date : 12-15 January, 2016

D D U State Institute of Rural Development, Bakshi Ka Talab, LUCKNOW



Regional Workshop on Water Use Efficiency, Equity through Participatory Irrigation Management

Regional Workshop on "Water Use Efficiency, Equity through Participatory Irrigation Management" sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) under National Water Mission (NWM) was organised during 29 – 30 January, 2016 at NERC, NIRD&PR, Guwahati. 27 participants attended the programme. The workshop focussed on improving water use efficiency, equity and performance of irrigation systems, reducing pressure on government finance and enhancing farmer's role in equity ownership. The workshop was divided into three broad themes.

- Focus on Surface irrigation and Water use Efficiency.
- Groundwater Management: Conservation, Development.
- Institutional Mechanism: Equity through PIM and WUAs Delegation of Powers and Sustenance.



The outcome of the workshop are:

- i) Recognition of the importance of social instruments in Water Resource Management.
- ii) Attempt to reduce conflicts/ social tensions through collective effort.

- iii) Bringing efficiency right from basin to field through Governance, Management and involvement of various stakeholders.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Siddayya, Associate Professor (CWLR) and Dr. U H Kumar, Associate Professor (CFL), NIRD& PR.

Regional Training Programme on Sustainable Production and Income Generation under IWMP

A Training Programme on “Sustainable Production and Income Generation under IWMP” was organised during January 18 – 22, 2016 at YASHADA, Pune. 24 participants attended the programme. The objectives of the programme were to restore confidence in rainfed agriculture by creating sustainable employment opportunities and income, through farm technologies and cultivation practices; and to know the effectiveness of watershed for ecological balance in degraded and fragile rainfed ecosystems. Deliberations covered various themes like IWMP Concepts and Scaling-out Community Watershed Management for Multiple Benefits in Sustainable Agriculture and IFS; Carrying Capacity of Indian Agriculture; Realising the Potential for Rainfed Agriculture; Opportunities for Integrated Farming System for Sustainable Agriculture, Water



Harvest, Supplemental Irrigation; Natural Resource Management and Rainfed Farming.

The programme provided hands-on-sessions to participants on various topics viz. Scaling-out Community Watershed Management for Multiple Benefits, Carrying Capacity for Indian

Agriculture, Realising the Potential of Rainfed Agriculture in India and opportunities for Water Harvesting and Supplemental Irrigation.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Siddayya, Associate Professor (CNRM) and Dr. T. Phanindra Kumar, Assistant Professor (C-GARD), NIRD&PR.

Participation in Indian Science Congress Exhibition: Pride of India

The 103rd Indian Science Congress was held in Mysuru during 3-7 January, 2016. As a part of the ISC, an exhibition was organised under the banner of “Pride of India” – ‘Frontier Science & Technologies Mega Expo’.

NIRD&PR was associated with the event as Co-Sponsor and a major exhibitor. Accordingly, NIRD&PR represented by Rural Technology





Park (RTP), Centre for Geo-Informatics Applications in Rural Development (C-GARD), Centre for Development Documentation and Communication (CDC), exhibited the RTP technologies apart from

NIRD&PR publications and demonstration of Geo-Informatics Applications.

The highlight of the exhibition was live demonstration of Compressed

Stabilised Earthen Blocks (CSEB) by a group of masons who received training from RTP, NIRD&PR. Dr P SivaRam, Prof. & Head (CRI) and Dr Madhava Rao, Prof. & Head (C-GARD) also participated in the event.

Rural Credit Delivery & Recovery Management for Rural Bankers

The captioned programme was conducted from 18 to 21 January 2016 at Utkal Grameen Bank located in Bolangir, Odisha. The programme was attended by 25 participants who are Managers working in rural branches of Utkal Grameen Bank, Head office at Bolangir.

Topics covered and delivered in the training programme include innovative ways for delivering rural credit, identification of appropriate micro-enterprises based on utilisation of local natural resources, marketing strategies for micro-enterprise products, rehabilitation of sick micro-enterprises units and other relevant topics on growth of agricultural credit in rural sector. Dr.B.K.Swain, Professor & Head (CRCDB), NIRD&PR covered strategies to manage micro-enterprises and resource persons covered other



aspects, like recovery of NPAs under micro-credit in rural sector, a daunting task in banks. Recovery strategies and procedures were explained through slides, power-point presentations and relevant

movies documenting success stories from outside States. Participants were motivated to work in their rural branches to initiate major breakthrough in further disbursement of rural credit for agri - enterprises under NRLM initiatives and to

recover debts in Odisha. Guest lectures were taken up by senior officials of Utkal Grameen Bank, sponsored by State Bank of India (SBI). Mr. Trinath Panigrahi, Training Manager UGB, deliberated on credit

sanction process and documentation on non-farm and farm related activities and entrepreneurship development.

The programme was coordinated by Dr.B.K.Swain, Professor and Head of

the Centre for Rural Credit and Development Banking (CRCDB), NIRD&PR and Mr. Trinath Panigrahi, Manager Training, Utkal Grameen Bank, Bolangir.

Training Programme on Investment Credit and Appraisal of Agriculture Term Loan Proposals for Officers of Dena Bank

The captioned programme was organised with an aim to improve Investment Credit to agriculture & allied activities. Dena Bank sponsored 27 agriculture officers to participate in the training programme.

As part of the programme, field visit was arranged to Mahila Bank at Ibrahimpatnam in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana State where the participants interacted with members of Sneha Mandal Mahila Samakhya and understood the process of lending to SHG Federation. Participants appreciated the contents and coverage of the training. The programme was coordinated by Shri R.Koteswara Rao, Consultant (CRCDB).



Training of Differently Abled Persons on Assembling of Solar Lights (Mini)

A group of twelve Differently Abled Persons have expressed their interest in pursuing their livelihood through assembling of solar lights. Accordingly, the District Collector, Medak district, Telangana State approached Rural Technology Park for an exposure followed by training and the same has been taken up during 11-14 January, 2016. Both men and women with disability

showed interest in learning skills to assemble Solar Mini Lights and could successfully complete the training in four days. They proved capability to understand, identify and assemble solar lights and gained confidence that they can make and market with initial support of District Collector, Medak. The programme was coordinated under the supervision of Shri Krishna

Aditya, IAS, Trainee Collector, Medak.

The District Collector facilitated the group to start the solar assembling Unit at Sanga Reddy with technical support of M/s.Thrive Energy Pvt Ltd., a Unit partner of RTP. It is learnt that they are able to make solar lights of good quality and able to market with the help of Department of Differently Abled Persons.

Success Story of Koduru Village, Trainees of Visakhapatnam District, AP

On the representation of the Amma Social Welfare Association and the MPTC of Anakapalli Mandal, RTP, NIRD&PR agreed to adopt Koduru village under the Village Adoption Scheme being monitored by RTP in February, 2015. Thereafter, after interacting with the villagers, it was observed that there was a need for creating rural livelihoods by upgrading the skills of the farming community and others.

In order to create an awareness among the farmers, 20 villagers were invited to RTP, NIRD&PR for an exposure visit to the rural technologies at RTP and they were given orientation towards the village



development skill development programmes, besides exposing them to the various rural technologies available at RTP.

The villagers were accompanied by Shri Murali Krishna, an elderly person from the village who has been a driving force for the villagers towards the self-development. Based on the interest evinced by the villagers, three training programmes were organised at RTP on the following technologies:

1. Leaf Plate Making – 28-30 October, 2015
2. Compressed Mud Blocks Making – 16-19 November, 2015
3. Solar Lights Assembling-30 November, 2015–14 December, 2015



Thereafter, seeing the entrepreneurial nature of the villagers based on the certification by RTP, NIRD&PR with regard to their skills, State Bank of India had come forward and extended the financial assistance to the successful trainees under 'Mudra' Scheme of Government of India and sanctioned

loans of ₹ 25,000 each for starting of the units under the activity in which they were trained at RTP.

As a follow-up of post-training at the request of the villagers, Shri Sateesh Kumar, Junior Engineer (Civil) from RTP was sent to Koduru village on 6.2.2016 for study of the activities

being carried out and to provide necessary guidance to the trainees.

The trainees are now successfully carrying out the above three activities in the village and this has created interest and confidence among the adjacent villagers and they are also in touch with RTP for skill development programmes.

Sensitisation on Sexual Harassment for Women Elected Representatives of PRI's

The Centre for Human Resource Development, NIRD&PR organised a national level training programme on Sensitisation on Sexual Harassment for Women Elected Representatives of PRI's during 26 October to 31 October, 2015. The main objectives of the programme were (1) To sensitise the participants on gender issues at the work places, (2) To create awareness on sexual harassment at the work place including types of harassment, (3) To impart a nuanced understanding of the various provisions of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prohibition, Prevention and Redressal) Act, 2013.



In all, 22 participants from States like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana attended the programme. The participants were Elected Women Representatives of PRI's at the district level.

The six-day deliberations were spread over several sessions in order to fulfill the objectives of the programme. Besides NIRD&PR faculty, eminent speakers from University of Hyderabad, and Nirnaya shared their expertise and experiences with the participants. To set the tone for the programme, a detailed understanding was given on the concepts of gender and other similar social constructs which have a bearing on the life of a woman and which impact women and men differently. Gender socialisation and concepts like masculinity and femininity were discussed, along with gendered nature of violence to understand the various subtle and blatant ways of gender violence and its implications on women. The sessions also included role play and participatory exercises.

Detailed discussion was held on International Conventions (CEDAW) with regards to violence against women. Key outcomes of the Vishakha Judgment were also discussed, in order to create awareness and spread knowledge about women rights issues at the workplace. Participants were encouraged to interact and express their opinions and share their experiences. The various provisions of the Sexual Harassment ACT 2013 was discussed and elaborated upon. This session witnessed meaningful discussions on the issue of sexual harassment of women at the workplace. The documentary film "Bawandar" based on the real life story of Bhanwari Devi, a victim of sexual harassment at workplace was screened to bring home the complex interplay between caste, class and gender. This film evoked a lot of interest among the participants. In order to make it a holistic learning process, a session on "Motivation and Interpersonal Relationships" was conducted, followed by an exposure visit to "Shanti Sarovar" where a

session was conducted on women leadership and stress management.

The programme received an overwhelming response and a very positive feedback from the participants. All the sessions were highly interactive and participatory. On the concluding day of the programme a panel discussion on the "Role of Elected Representatives in Spreading Awareness on Sexual Harassment and Ways for its Prevention" helped the participants in creating a workable policy for prevention of sexual harassment at their workplaces. The participants went back with a greater understanding and awareness on how sexual harassment constitutes a denial of women's right to constitutional equality and the need to take proactive measures to make the workplace a safe and dignified space.

The programme was coordinated by Dr Sucharita Pujari, Assistant Professor, CHRD and Dr Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, CHRD.

NIRD&PR PGDRDM Batch-9 : Convocation

Diploma Awarding Ceremony of NIRD&PR PGDRDM Batch-9, 2015 was held on 9 January 2016. Shri J. Raymond Peter, Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Shri S.M.Vijayanand, Director General & Chairman, Academic Committee, NIRD&PR PGDRDM presided over the function.



Shri J. Raymond Peter appreciated the efforts of NIRD&PR in building the human capital to bridge the gap between demand and supply. He advised the students to have optimism in addressing the needs and demands of rural people. Services that would be rendered by these students will be noteworthy as they deal with people who badly require support in true sense.

Shri S. M. Vijayanand appraised different strategies of NIRD&PR in building the human capital to bridge the gap of need for rural development professionals in the country and also said that the students, passed out are performing very well in Rural Development. Further, he said that Rural Development profession is different. It is more service demanded compared to other professions. Thus, he emphasised the passing out students to have passion for working in the Rural Development.



Director General, NIRD & PR administered Rural Development oath by students. Shri J. Raymond Peter, IAS awarded Diplomas to students.

Three best performing students were awarded with Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Mr. Krishna Uppuluri was conferred with Gold Medal, Mr. Dinesh Sharma was

awarded with Silver Medal and Mr. Athul Nath M S was awarded with Bronze Medal.

Dr. C. S. Singhal, Professor & Head, Centre for Post Graduate Studies (CPGS) shared Programme objectives, progress of Programme, internship and placement status of students of PGDRDM Batch-9.

Study Visit of Officials of NIPAM, Government of Republic of Namibia to NIRD&PR

A team consisting of Governing Council Members, faculty of Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) and officials had a benchmark visit to India from 27 January to 9 February 2016. A Centre for Rural Government which is part of NIPAM is in the process of designing new courses in rural development for Namibian Public Servants and looks for academic support from training institutions in India. With a view to carrying out

learning from different institutions of India, three members of the team accompanied by Dr. Vishwas Saxena, Indian Advisor to NIPAM visited NIRD&PR on 28.1.2016. Members were briefed on research and training activities of the Institute in general and international training programmes in particular. In this regard, feedback received from the international participants on training programmes and the opportunities they had for exposure to new initiatives in rural development and

local governance in India was shared. Briefing was followed by a visit to Rural Technology Park (RTP) of the Institute. Delegates visited various units in RTP and were exposed to different rural technologies. The team appreciated the programmes and new initiatives of the Institute and indicated their interest in collaboration with NIRD&PR. The visit was coordinated by Dr V.K. Reddy, Adjunct Faculty (CRTCN).

Training Programme on Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Micro-enterprises for SHGs

In view of the importance of self-employment activities for generating income for improving quality of life of rural people, a training programme on Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Micro-enterprises for SHGs was held during 18-22 January 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. 42 participants across the country, comprising Government officers-State Civil Service officers and an IAS officer, Bank Officers and faculty from academic institutions attended the programme. Important objectives of the programme inter alia, were to equip participants with knowledge to organise rural poor into self-help group, to impart basic knowledge about planning and implementation of income generation projects for SHGs, to share innovative experiences and strategies in managing SHG based micro-enterprises and to equip participants with skill of M&E of SHG projects.

Various topics such as capacity building, PRA and Participatory Identification of Poor, social



mobilisation, capacity building, poverty issues, innovative project identification, monitoring and evaluation, gender issues, marketing aspects, etc., were included. Further, topics like application of ICT and GIS in income generation activities were also incorporated. Field based cases on income generation projects of SHGs were also shared with participants through film shows.

Further, half-a-day field visit was organised, to Himayatsagar village of Ranga Reddy district, where participants interacted with women villagers who were from SHG.

Participants enjoyed the training programme as reflected in evaluation. The programme was conducted by Dr. Shankar Chatterjee, Professor and Head (CPME), and Dr (Mrs.) N. Kalpalatha.

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