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पंचायती राज संस्थान
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DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India



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**Promoting appropriate technologies and entrepreneurship in rural areas:
initiatives of the Rural Technology Park, NIRDPR**



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The entrance of RTP, NIRDPR

Promoting appropriate technologies and entrepreneurship in rural areas: initiatives of the Rural Technology Park, NIRDPR

Globally, the role of science, technology and innovations is being considered as a vital component for promoting national growth. In India, use of science and technology for addressing the developmental issues was actively considered with the introduction of science policy framework brought out by the government in 1958. Over the years, several steps have been introduced by the government in furthering this goal. One of the recent steps in this direction is the declaration of this decade as the 'Decade of Innovation (2010-2020)'. The Government of India has made further pronouncements of its vision by introducing the 'Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, 2013' which underlines the importance of promoting social good and economic wealth among people at the outcome level. In order to translate this important goal into reality, it is important that R&D institutions actively engage in identifying issues, especially those plaguing development of people in rural India, and also utilise the scientific solutions developed for

promoting better entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood of the common man.

One of the major challenges is to address the issues in the sectors such as energy, environment, food, nutrition, water, sanitation, habitat and affordable healthcare affecting people in rural India. The other important aspect which needs greater attention is the issue of unemployment. Despite India's sustained average growth

and sustainable technologies with a specific focus to address the problems being faced by people in rural India. At the same time, strategies such as upgrading skills and capabilities; supporting micro-enterprise and self-employment; and creating new models for social protection must be taken- up urgently to address these challenges of unemployment. Taking these aspects into consideration, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad established the Rural Technology Park (RTP) in 2003 to undertake capacity building initiatives for promoting sustainable livelihood and entrepreneurship among people from rural areas.

The impact of promoting appropriate technology and entrepreneurship by NIRDPR through the Rural Technology Park has been well recognised and appreciated by various stakeholders associated with rural development

Initiatives of NIRDPR in promoting appropriate technology and entrepreneurship

a) Rural Technology Park and technology units

In order to achieve these objectives, a wide range of appropriate and affordable rural technologies have been identified and promoted through various technology units established

in the recent years, the avenues for providing adequate employment generation potential have not grown proportionately. These critical issues can be addressed effectively by involving R&D institutions to develop appropriate



An aerial view of RTP, NIRDPR

at the RTP. For this purpose, NIRDPR has developed a unique partnership approach with dynamic technology development agencies, entrepreneurs and non-governmental organisations for realising this objective. As part of this important activity, NIRDPR has been identifying appropriate and path-breaking innovations being developed by R&D institutions which can be utilised to promote entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood for the benefit of people from rural areas. Over 20 technology units have been established for providing entrepreneurship development training programmes, and discussions with numerous potential agencies are being carried out. In addition, recently, the Career-cum-Guidance Centre of CAPART in Vaishali has been taken over by RTP, NIRDPR and training programmes have been initiated.

Another important entity established at the RTP is the National Rural Building Centre (NRBC), which brings together a range of cost-effective and eco-friendly construction technologies using a

variety of materials and technologies, blending both the traditional and modern materials and techniques. These structures are chiefly constructed utilising locally available materials and skills of the people. The cost of construction of these structures is around 25 per cent to 50 per cent less than that of the conventional construction cost depending on the variations in soil type and local availability of materials. Over 100 technologies are depicted in the 20 different typology buildings demonstrated in this centre.

Every year, nearly 100 training programmes involving about 3,000 people on various technologies are conducted. This initiative has successfully led to the establishment of entrepreneurial activities by a large number of SHGs and youth in rural areas. Some of the entrepreneurial initiatives started by them include manufacturing of home-based products, mushroom cultivation, sustainable housing technologies, mud block making, solar equipment production, leaf plate making, honey production and processing,

vermicomposting, manufacturing of handmade paper, herbal products, neem oil and cake processing, natural dyeing, soya and millet processing, aromatic oil extraction, etc. In addition, the RTP also conducts several exposure-cum-orientation programmes to rural people, officials, college and school students regularly.

b) Rural Technology and Crafts Mela

The RTP has been organising the 'Rural Technology and Crafts Melas' as a part of NIRDPR's Foundation Day celebrations since 2003. Over the years, several rural innovators, artisans, self-help group members and entrepreneurs from various parts of the country participated in the mela displaying an amazing range of products. Every year, rural innovators, self-help groups, artisans, handloom weavers and rural entrepreneurs across the country participate in the mela. The products displayed and sold include handicrafts, handlooms, khadi and village industries products, medicinal and aromatic products, leather goods, wooden toys, decorative items,

processed traditional food items, coir products, wood carvings, brassware, jute and cloth products, fashion and tribal jewelry, solar energy- based applications/ products, etc., which attract huge number of visitors. Primarily, the mela is conducted to showcase and promote sale of products, scope for creating market linkages and exchange of knowledge on entrepreneurship, dissemination of rural technologies and innovations which are developed by different organisations/ individuals that are useful to the people at one place, and to create awareness and linkages between consumers and entrepreneurs/technologists.

Continuing the tradition, the 16th Rural Technology and Crafts Mela was organised from 29th November to 3rd December, 2018 with the theme as 'People's Planning: A Decentralised Strategy for Sustainable Development.' Over 220 stalls were under display by the participants from 20 States which include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh

and West Bengal. As a special event, the 'National Fish Festival,' sponsored by the National Fisheries Development Board was conducted to popularise fish consumption in the country and to create awareness among the people on the health benefits of fish. Fish stalls had served various exotic fish cuisines for the visitors. Over 50,000 people visited the mela during this five-day long event. The event was well appreciated by entrepreneurs, visitors and officials of various institutions. The mela is even being compared with the large SARAS melas conducted by the government annually in the State capitals across the country for its grandeur and successful outreach.

c) Rural Innovators Start-up Conclave

In the memory of late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam who championed the cause of innovations, NIRDPR has initiated the Rural Innovators Start-up Conclave (RISC) in the year 2017 for promoting innovations and creating an ecosystem for accelerating innovations, start-ups/rural technologies towards rural development and to encourage/muster the support for

rural innovators. The event functions as a platform to an array of rural innovators and budding start-ups to showcase their products, ideas/technologies and to connect with mentors and investors. Through this event, NIRDPR aims to connect innovators/start-ups with appropriate institutions, incubators, investors and financial institutions for their development, scaling up and commercialisation of their technologies/ innovations. Keeping in view the good response and encouraging feedback, the event is being conducted annually. The second edition of RISC was organised for two days during 30th – 31st August, 2018 at NIRDPR. Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the exhibition organised to showcase the work of innovators and start-ups. Over 150 stalls were on display during the event. The dignitaries interacted with the participants about their technologies and encouraged them with their words of wisdom.

The RISC 2018 was organised on seven themes namely, agriculture & Allied Activities, Green Energy, Waste to Wealth, Sustainable Housing, Health & Elderly Care, Drinking Water & Sanitation, and Sustainable Livelihood. In addition, a sub-event titled 'Rural Innovation and Design (RiDe) Challenge' for students from schools and colleges, and the general public was organised to provide an opportunity to come up with solutions to problems being faced in rural areas on the themes specified for RISC 2018. Around 300 innovators, start-ups and students from 23 States across the country attended the event in which 71 innovations, 30 start-ups and 63 ideas under RiDe Challenge were displayed. Besides, premier government institutions such as the National Research Development Cooperation, Indian Institute of Packaging and National



Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India addressing the gathering on the occasion of the inaugural of RISC-2018

Small Industries Cooperation, etc., also displayed their technologies for the benefit of the participants. The State Councils of Science and Technologies of different States and the MS Swaminathan Foundation actively associated and supported the efforts for identifying innovators and start-ups across the country. A proceeding based on the entries received from the innovators, start-ups and students has been brought out for sharing the ideas with wider audience.

Awards for innovators and startups under each theme of the RISC event (totally 14 in number) equivalent to Rs.1.20 lakh and Rs.2.40 lakh for innovators and start-ups, respectively, were presented. For the participants of RIDe, three awards i.e., Ist - Rs.10,000, IInd - Rs.5,000 and IIIrd - Rs.3,000 for each category of the participants (i.e. school students, college students and general public) in all seven themes of the RISC event were awarded. The event is being considered as an important platform to

promote rural innovations in the country. Many innovators identified through the platform are being recognised and have successfully scaled-up their work as result of the support and recognition gained from this event. Apart from this, the finalists are being provided exposure on packaging, marketing and design through custom-made workshops organised by NIRDPR from time to time. The third edition of RISC will be held in the month of August, 2019.

d) Institutional collaborations and joint initiatives

Many a times, the technologies developed by various institutions and laboratories which develop these and the same does not reach the people who can get benefitted by its application. The expertise of some of the Government Institutions such as Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Hyderabad and National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, etc., are available to big industries and the same, though highly appropriate

and relevant for the products developed/ manufactured by the rural artisan, entrepreneurs, SHGs, are not accessible to the said rural entrepreneurs. NIRDPR, with its mandate of connecting with the rural communities and transfer of technology, is playing vital role in creating a platform for the S&T institutions to showcase the innovations/products relevant to rural areas. Many a times, the scientific and technological institutions may not be equipped with the social dynamics of rural landscape and application of these technologies at grassroots level do not take off in view of issues of relevance, technical feasibility, practical applicability and financial viability for which NIRDPR can facilitate the demonstration and feedback so as to fine tune the innovations/technology for its ultimate scale-up.

In this direction, recently NIRDPR entered into collaboration with the Indian Institute of Packaging for utilising their expertise of improving the packaging/ labeling of the products of SHGs across the country. Two programmes have been conducted so far and the impact generated by the programmes among SHGs and rural entrepreneurs has been tremendous. Initiatives are being taken up, including collaborations with government institutions such as DRDO Labs, NFDB, CITD, etc., and industries. In the recent discussions held with the representatives of Principal Scientific Advisor's Office (PSA) and RuTAG-IITs, it was felt that engagement with the larger scientific community of the country could provide greater synergy to the initiatives already being taken up at NIRDPR. Based on the above, a consultation workshop with S&T institutions such as CSIR, DST, DRDO, IIT RuTAGs and other R&D institutions was conducted to explore the potential areas of collaboration at

FRAMEWORK OF RURAL TECHNOLOGY PARK

SECTORS & ACTIVITIES



STAKEHOLDERS & SERVICES



A participant demonstrates his innovation at Rural start-up conclave -2018

NIRDPR, Hyderabad. In addition, a joint workshop with institutions working on fisheries technology development was held in collaboration with the National Fisheries Development Board.

Some of the recommendations which emerged from the consultations are:

- A collaborative platform of S&T institutions for promoting technological solutions for entrepreneurship development in rural areas is needed.
- S&T institutions can undertake model village development initiative and undertake action research projects on critical issues wherever possible.
- Develop mechanisms for scaling up innovations developed by RuTAG-IITs for demonstration and entrepreneurship promotion.
- Technologies already developed by respective S&T institutions such as CSIR, DST, DRDO, etc., which are having big impact potential can be identified and promoted.
- Conducting entrepreneurial training programmes on mature and market-ready technologies either at NIRDPR or on the premises of S&T

institution on an annual calendar basis.

- Organising an 'Annual S&T Conclave' to demonstrate some of the new and emerging technologies developed by government S&T institutions relevant for rural entrepreneurs.
- Creation of a knowledge management entity for promoting rural technologies through newsletter/online website/social media.

Consultancies and technical assistance

The RTP has also been actively undertaking consultancies and technical assistance for various clients including government bodies and private entities for promoting appropriate technologies. Some of the areas in which such services offered are: in sustainable housing, fisheries development, renewable energy, food processing, preservation, etc. Several projects have been serviced by RTP with the help of technology partner units and direct interventions. The activities undertaken in the sustainable housing technology promotion include designing buildings, mud block making and supply, on-site supervision and guidance, training of masons and engineers, etc.

Some of the notable works executed are construction of Medical Sub-centre in Chhattisgarh, design of houses for families displaced by Polavaram dam project, design and construction of model anganwadis for NATCO Foundation, testing and establishing mud block construction project for Pragati Resorts, technical support and supply of mud blocks for numerous urban residences in Hyderabad, etc.

In the fisheries sector, projects such as establishing eco-hatcheries, supply of ice block making machines, deboning machines, solar refrigerators, and dehydrators for dry fish are being taken-up. The agencies which availed the services include National Fisheries Development Board, West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission, West Bengal State Cooperatives, State Fisheries Department of Punjab, Telangana, etc. In the front of renewable energy, projects which are related to wind, solar, bio-gas, etc., are being taken up. Notable works carried out include installations of hybrid wind and solar mills on fishing boats in Lakshadweep, installation of cage culture with hybrid solar and wind mills in Jharkhand, solar lighting solutions for hatcheries in Bhubaneswar, solar lighting and cooling systems for schools in Telangana, etc.

This unique approach of incubating successful entrepreneurs to mentor large number of budding entrepreneurs is a path breaking initiative on many grounds. The State Livelihoods Missions can adopt this model to scale-up entrepreneurship promotion in rural areas for covering large number of beneficiaries.

Dr. Ramesh Sakthivel

Associate Professor & Head, CIAT
Coverpage Design: **Shri V G Bhat**

Convergence meeting on POSHAN Abhiyaan implementation in Telangana to make Telangana malnutrition-free



Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS Director General, NIRDPR greeting Ms. Meital Rusdia, Chief, Unicef, HFO during the convergence meeting at NIRDPR

A high-level convergence meeting was organised by Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, CGGPA, and Communication Resource Unit (CRU) team on 18th July, 2019 at National Institute of Rural Development Panchayat Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad with key line departments to augment the efforts to achieve nutritional outcomes in the State of Telangana. This meeting was attended by Secretaries, Head of the Departments (HoDs) and officials from Women and Child Development, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Health, Education, Tribal Welfare, SERP, and UNICEF. The meeting was chaired by Dr. W. R. Reddy, Director General, NIRDPR, and the participants deliberated on the convergent actions required by the line departments, programmes and schemes to achieve the POSHAN Abhiyaan targets set for 2022.

During her welcome remarks, Dr. Gyanmudra Professor & Head, Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, NIRDPR briefly introduced the Communication Resource Unit (CRU) at NIRDPR and its work along with a presentation on POSHAN Abhiyaan, its components and how each department can contribute towards achieving the targets of POSHAN for Telangana by 2022. Role of different departments

was presented using issues and related behaviours around life-cycle approach.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR emphasised that the efforts of the State government and partners should be towards 100 per cent achievement of the targets. An advancing state like Telangana with its progressive administration, infrastructure and good health indicators such as high percentage of institutional deliveries, must strive to make every child and woman healthy. The target is to make Telangana a malnutrition-free State by 2022. This can be achieved by good cross linkages at the Gram Panchayat level, motivation of PRIs, community structures like SHGs, and other local leaders for their active involvement. He suggested to integrate a capsule on health and nutrition issues in PRI trainings, which can start in Telangana as a model.

“Addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls with appropriate interventions is the need of the hour,” said Mr. M. Jagdeeswhar, Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development. Adding to this, he emphasised on the need for quality data to prioritise the most needed interventions to address the issue of malnutrition.

Other departments shared the work that is being done in the area of nutrition. Commissioner, Tribal Welfare shared their efforts in implementing Giri Poshana programme, which focuses on how diverse food items improve the nutritional status of women and children in tribal areas. The Commissioner, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj suggested to integrate a capsule on health and nutrition in the upcoming trainings of PRIs and village secretaries at district and mandal levels. With smaller GPs, PRIs can play an important role in achieving the health and nutritional outcomes at GP level and can provide leadership for convergence. CEO, SERP, shared details about the behaviour change programme that they were doing with the women in self-help groups on issues of health, nutrition, sanitation and gender. Director, School Education updated about the process of co-locating 13,500 AWCs on the school premises. He also raised concerns regarding gap in the continuum between pre-school and primary school education. He also emphasised on the need for certification of Aanganwadi teachers on early childhood education quality.

Ms. Mietal Rusodia, Chief of UNICEF Field Office for Andhra Pradesh,

Telangana and Karnataka appreciated the efforts of NIRDPR for organising the meeting and assured of UNICEF's support to POSHAN Abhiyaan in devising strategies, data analysis, monitoring and SBCC. She emphasised that consistency in messaging across the programmes is

important to drive the behaviour change.

Shri Jagadeeshwar, IAS, Principal Secretary, DWCD, Shri Vijaya Kumar, Director, School Education, Smt. Neetu Prasad, Commissioner, Panchayati Raj, Dr. Christina Z. Chongthu, Commissioner Tribal Welfare, Smt. Pasumi Basu, CEO,

SERP, Ms. Viziendira Boyi, Director, WCD, Telangana, senior officials from Health department Ms. Meital Rusdia, Chief, UNICEF, Ms. Seema Kumar, C4D and Ms. Khyati, Nutrition Specialist from UNICEF, Hyderabad and others specialists from UNICEF participated in the meeting.

ToT programme on Promoting Better Livelihoods through Livestock



Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR (1st row, 4th from left) and Dr. Ramana Reddy, Professor & Head, CFL (1st row, 5th from left) with the participants of the programme

A National level Training of Trainers (TOT) repeat programme on 'Promoting Better Livelihoods through Livestock' was organised by the Center for Livelihoods (CFL), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Ministry of Rural Development from 22nd to 25th July, 2019 at NIRDPR, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. Thirty six nominations were received from different State governments for the training

programme out of which 25 attended it. Five participants registered for the training programme were District Programme Managers (DPM), nominated by the Skills Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department, Karnataka. The training programme comprised of twelve in-house lectures (including one on Art of Living), two case studies, a local visit (Directorate of Poultry Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad) and a field

visit to Mulkanoor Women Cooperative Dairy Union, Mulkanoor, Warangal (urban) district. During the training programme, the participants were enlightened on current scenario of livestock farming in India, their role in rural livelihoods and how we can make better the lives of small holder farmers through livestock keeping in view of the demand for animal-sourced foods and future changes that are going to take place in India.

Five-day regional training programme on Geo-Spatial Technologies for Planning and Management of PMGSY Roads



Dr. M. V. Ravibabu, Associate Professor, CGARD (4th from right) with the participants of the training programme

Centre for Geoinformatics Applications in Rural Development (CGARD) organised a five-day regional training programme on 'Geo-Spatial Technologies for Planning and Management of PMGSY Roads' from 22nd-26th, July 2019 at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar in collaboration with SIRD-Gujarat.

On the first day, Dr. M. V. Ravibabu, Associate Professor (CGARD) and

Programme Director highlighted the five-day programme schedule and objectives for the five-day programme. Topics like concepts of geoinformatics, mobile applications for asset mapping, analysing the GIS data layers for planning and management of rural roads were dealt. Dr. Kiran Jalem, Assistant Professor (CRCTN) and Co-director of the programme outlined the key-points of using GIS-based tools in the spatial planning. Participants had a hands-on practical approach with field data collection from nearby PMGSY roads using mobile-based applications. A total of 31 officials of PMGSY/PWD/RR

engineers attended the training.

A field visit along with SIRD Programme Coordinator, Shri Dhaval Parikh was organised in the venue campus for data collection using mobile GPS. All participants were divided into teams and collected various assets, especially roads and their conditions, while collecting data from the field. The participants visualised and experienced the field conditions.

During the last day, in concluding session Shri Victor Macwan, IAS, Special Director, SIRD Gujarat, delivered his valedictory address and interacted with all the participants. He highlighted the

importance of geo-spatial Technology for infrastructure development, transparency and accountability while monitoring various rural development programmes. He also stated that this technology is not to be limited at PMGSY roads, and can be extended to other field functionaries and suggested to use the technology in day-to-day official activities on the field. Finally, he congratulated all the participants and collected their valuable feedback, while distributing the certificates. All the participants felt that the training programme was useful to prepare their road information system in the form of spatial planning.

CFIE organises an awareness programme on Financial Literacy



Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor & Head, CFIE interacting with students at TIME school, Bandlaguda campus

The Centre for Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship (CFIE) conducted awareness programmes on 'Financial Literacy' at Bharathiya Vidhya Bhavan (BVB), NIRDPR, on July 06, 2019 and at T.I.M.E School, Bandlaguda Campus, on July 20, 2019. Students from classes 6 to 10 attended the programme. The session was handled by Dr. R. V. Prasad, Financial Literacy Counsellor of State Bank of India, RSETI - Chilukuru.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Ravi Kiran, Principal of Bharathiya Vidhya Bhavan School, NIRDPR campus and facilitated by Smt. Aruna Jyothi, a senior faculty BVB, NIRDPR campus. The programme at TIME school was

inaugurated by Smt. Vijaya Lakshmi, Principal, TIME Bandlaguda and expressed gratitude to NIRDPR for arranging such educative programmes for the children.

During the interaction, Dr. R.V. Prasad explained various aspects of financial literacy, savings habit, thrift deposits, basic needs of human beings linked with finance, and banking facilities that are relevant to students. He emphasised that after certain stage in life, money should work for people and not vice-versa. He mentioned that it is safe to save with banks because of safety, liquidity and returns. He also gave a brief note on types of accounts, types of cards, types of loans available, schemes, etc. Dr. Prasad elaborated advantages of the banking habits inculcated during the early phase

of one's life.

The valedictory functions were presided by Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor & Head, CFIE, he narrated an anecdote to make students understand the value of money. The programmes were very well received and appreciated by the students as well as faculty of both the schools. They promised to share key takeaways with their parents and neighbours as part of the financial inclusion drive.

A team from CFIE, viz., Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor & Head, Dr. A. Bhavani, Project Consultant, Shri G. Anjaneyulu, Project Consultant and Smt. A. Sirisha Reddy, Manager, Training, co-ordinated these programmes.

Mid-career training programme of Senior Officers of Madhya Pradesh State Administrative Service



Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR (1st row, 4th from left) and Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, CGG&PA (1st row, 2nd from right) with the participants of the programme

Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, CGG&PA, National Institute of Rural Development Panchayat Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad has organised a two day 'Mid-Career Training programme for senior officers of Madhya Pradesh State Administrative Service' on July 15th, 16th, 2019 at NIRDPR. There were a total of 22 officials holding responsibilities various categories like Zilla Parishad CEOs, Deputy Commissioners and Additional District magistrate. etc. that attended the programme. Major objectives of the training programme were to refresh the knowledge of the officers on various developmental programmes along with social initiatives, recent rural initiatives and to motivate them with the skills to use their full potential for the welfare of the people of the State.

Dr. Gyanmudra formally invited everyone and took a session on the overview of the two-day training and gave a brief introduction about NIRDPR and its various initiatives. Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS Director General, NIRDPR inaugurated the programme and explained the essence and advantage of this training

programme and requested everyone to utilise the opportunity.

Dr. Amitava Mukherjee, Ex. Senior Adviser, Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, NRLM, New Delhi handled a session on 'Transforming India through Social Initiatives' and ignited the minds of the participants. Dr. V. Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.), took a session on 'Understanding the Administrative System and Its Functioning Style; Accountability & Transparency.' He emphasised on various challenges that one could encounter during their tenure and gave them insights as to how these problems could be addressed with utmost commitment and transparency. Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, CGG&PA took a session on 'Rural Development – Recent Initiatives.' Various recent initiatives of Government of India were covered which include POSHAN Abhiyaan, Swachh Bharath Abhiyaan, DAY–NRLM, Aayushman Bharath etc. and emphasising on the role of district-level officials in discharging these welfare programmes. All the participants were taken on a visit to the Rural Technology

Park(RTP) to have an exposure to the various initiatives taken-up by RTP in uplifting rural people in the areas of capacity building by means like affordable construction technologies introduced, rural employment generation and livelihood.

Mr. Somesh Kumar, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Revenue (CT & Ex), took an inspiring session on 'Improving District Administration Through Innovations and Improvisation.' He motivated all the officers to utilise the issues of crisis as base to innovate and improvise things. Shri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, took a session on 'Importance of Social Mobilisation for Empowering Rural Poor.' Ms. Sumita Dawara, IAS, presently on deputation to UNICEF-Delhi, took a session on 'Child-friendly Interventions in Governance.'

The training programme was concluded with the valedictory session by Ms. Sumita Dawara, IAS and awarded all the participants with course certificates. Dr. Gyanmudra thanked all the participants and wished learning out of the programme will hopefully help the officers in discharging their duties.

Training Programme on Geospatial Technologies for Planning and Management of PMGSY Roads

An off-campus training programme on 'Geospatial Technologies for Planning and Management of PMGSY Roads' was organised during 15-19 July, 2019 at SIRD, Himachal Pradesh. The programme was sponsored by NRRDA, MoRD, GoI.

A total of 24 engineers from Public Works Department of the State government of Himachal Pradesh attended the course.

In the initial session, basic concepts of training, monitoring, evaluation and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPD) were discussed. Further, sessions dealt with introduction to geo-spatial technology and various open source GIS tools and the mobile mapping app, in a theoretical and practical approach. Various GIS operations, data creation and editing processes, relevant to road features were demonstrated during lab sessions.

Participants were introduced to PMGSY National GIS portal, Geospatial Rural Road Information System (GRRIS) during the exposure visit and class.

In total, three software tools and mobile app namely QGIS, Google Earth

and OSMAND were used for hands-on learning experience.

Field visit

A half-day field visit was organised on the fourth day of training to track and test mobile mapping application in terrain conditions of Himachal Pradesh on a nearby PMGSY road. Three kilometres of the 'Sadhoda to Kyarkot (Mohanpur) link road', was tracked. Later, the data in the mobiles were exported by them through emails and downloaded on PC the next day during classroom exercises. Overlaying of the data was done in QGIS and Google Earth. All the participants were satisfied with the quality of data for planning and monitoring purposes.

In the second half of the same day, an exposure visit was made to Aryabhata Geospatial & Space Application Center (AGiSAC), Shimla, a nodal centre of the State government for all GIS-related operations, to have interactions and exposure with the scientists. Participants interacted and were exposed to key aspects on PMGSY and PWD road projects in particular and major GIS projects associated with AGiSAC.

Course material was provided

through Google drive. Participants were introduced to many online knowledge platforms, and YouTube channel (dedicatedly created for the GIS-related material).

Feedback and evaluation

During the valediction, senior officers from PWD departments working as nodal officers in PMGSY scheme were invited to interact with participants. Participants discussed all aspects of the training and the way forward. Participants put-forth that they will be able to manage all GIS operations directly from office/site and, need for coming to the State headquarter and AGiSAC for GIS-related works will be reduced.

Participants indicated a need for renovation and maintenance of SIRD hostel, which was duly noted by SIRD officials. Online feedback of training was taken on the Training Management Portal.

Shri H. K. Solanki, Sr. Assistant Professor, CGARD, NIRDPR coordinated the course. From SIRD, Himachal Pradesh Sh. Pravesh Kumar, Core Faculty Member, SIRD, coordinated the course.



Shri H. K. Solanki, Sr. Assistant Professor, CGARD (7th from right) with the participants of the training programme

NIRDPR off-campus training programme on Research and Training Methodology for Rural Development Professionals



Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, CHR D (1st row, 5th from left) and Dr. O. P. Pandey, Additional Director, SIRD, Lucknow (1st row, 6th from left) with the participants of the training programme

The Centre for Human Resource Development has organised an off-campus training programme on 'Methodology and Techniques of Social Science Research' at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh during 27-31 May, 2019. This programme was designed and developed based on the feedback and demand by the participants of last year's programme titled 'Methodology and Techniques of Social Sciences Research' which was held at SIRD, Lucknow during 28-31, August 2018. The programme was appreciated by the participants and a programme specifically on basics of research and training methodology for officials of District Institute of Rural Development and Regional Institute of Rural Development was demanded. Keeping in view the above, this training programme conceived and proposed to build the capacities of the faculty who are working in the institutes of rural development. The objectives of the training programme were (1) to orient the

participants on knowledge of research and training methodology to address the developmental issues, (2) to enable the participants to learn appropriate training methods for designing and organising trainings, (3) to make the participants learn the basics of research methodology and statistical methods for carrying research, and (4) to equip the participants on skills to prepare the research design.

A total of 31 participants working as, District Training Officers, Extension Training officers, Senior Instructors, Instructor of District Institute of Rural Development and Regional Institute of Rural Development attended this programme. In addition to faculty from NIRDPR, eminent resource persons Prof. B. K. Bajpai, Director, and Dr. Animesh Roy, from Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, Prof. Madhulika Dube, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow and Dr. Vivek Kumar, District Training Officer were invited to take sessions on concepts of social science research. The programme began with a short film on NIRDPR.

To achieve the set objectives of the programme, the content and its sessions were structured in such a way that it covered the basic concepts of research and training methodology. The contents of the programme covered were research methodology for trainers, concept of social science research, principles of adult learning, identification of and defining of research problem, writing research proposal, sample and sampling methodology, data analysis: descriptive and inferential statistics, tools for research, skill to use SPSS for data analysis, group exercise and research design followed by presentation and inputs by course coordinators, systematic approach to training, identification of training needs, designing of training programme, training methods, and exercise on formulation of training programme. In addition, a half-day local visit was also arranged for the participants. Training methodologies used in training were in accordance with content of the programme. Mostly, participant-oriented such as lecture-cum discussion, group

exercises, presentations by participants, and hands-on experience made the programme more effective.

At the end of the programme, the course team invited Dr. D. C. Upadhyaya, Additional Director, DDUSIRD, Lucknow to interact with participants about the course and learnings from it. The programme was well received by the participants and demanded more programmes on this subject in future. At the end, the programme was evaluated by the participants and reported that there is improvement in all the three

domains of a trainee i.e., knowledge (94 per cent), skill (88 per cent) and attitude (90) after attending this programme. Overall effectiveness of the programme was 87 per cent. While interacting with participants during the training period, majority of the participants expressed that they are not utilised at maximum of their capabilities in conducting training and research work. The course team has encouraged all the participants to utilise the research fund of NIRDPR which is especially kept for the faculty of ETCs/DIRDs/RIRDs to carry out small scale

research work. The course team has also come forward to extend their help to all faculties in preparing research proposals. Many of participants have shown their interest in developing research proposals.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Lakhani Singh, Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development, Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Equity and Social Development, NIRDPR Dr. D. C. Upadhyaya, Additional Director, DDUSIRD, Lucknow was the local coordinator for this programme.

Regional ToT programme on Strategies for E-Governance for Better Service Delivery



Dr. K. Prabhakar, Assistant Professor, CGGPA (1st row, 3rd from left) with the participants of the ToT

A regional ToT programme on 'Strategies for E-Governance for Better Service Delivery' was organised by the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGGPA) during 2-4, July 2019 at SIRDPR, Karfector, Jorethang, Sikkim.

The Strategies for e-Governance for Better Service Delivery training programme aims at addressing the following objectives:

- To discuss the need and concept of e-Governance in service delivery

- To draw inferences from the best practices of e-Governance initiative
- To generate knowledge and skills about the role of e-Governance for better governance goal achievements
- To make the participants to adopt e-Governance initiatives for better service delivery

The training programmes focused to cover the following four modules:

- Module 1:** Good Governance: A disciplinary transformative concepts
- Module 2:** E- Governance: A significant

transformative in contemporary society

Module 3: E- Governance is leading to best practices like transparency, accountability and better service delivery

Module 4: Strategies for E-Governance as an empirical factors of State performance

The training programme contents were delivered through a judicious mix of lecture- cum discussion; role playing; debate; exposure visits, group exercises; mock panchayats; presentation in groups, individual and report submission.

This programme was planned to cover different topics like aspects of

e-Governance in India, good governance -Indian perspectives and significance of e-Governance in rural development, e-Governance Strategies by NIC Sikkim, e-Governance, ICT in agriculture and rural development, PANCHA TANTRA Grama Panchayat Online System - ZP Mysuru- Case of Karnataka, Aadhaar-Enabled Public Distribution System-successful e-Governance service delivery initiative by State of Andhra Pradesh, governance in MGNREGA programme – specifically on Sikkim State, e-Governance strategies for better service delivery- NIRDPR experiences (E-office) and Smart Meeting System (SMS), Online Paddy Management System – an e-Governance initiative by Telangana State Civil Supplies and successful cases for discussion and group work activities.

On the third day, participants were taken to 25- Lungchok Kamerey GPU to interact with GP President and members, and all the participants shared their learning on e-Governance ToT knowledge and experiences with panchayat PRIs and elected representatives. Participants also suggested some good e-Governance initiatives and practices by different States like AePDS by Andhra Pradesh State, Panchatantra by Karnataka State as best e- Governance models to the GP members to replicate in Sikkim State as well.

On the final day, participants were divided into four groups and each group made a presentation on their ToT and field visit learning. Each team made two different group activities and presentations i.e., first presentation on

one identified, relevant and good e-Governance learning practise from the ToT and attempted the SWOT analysis on how it could be replicated in Sikkim State and second presentation was on field visit i.e., during the interaction with the GP and PRIs, and elected representatives each group identified e-Governance gaps in the visited GP and suggested suitable e-Governance initiatives from the ToT learnings to bring more transparency and accountability in the GP's day-to-day activities.

A total of 32 people took part in the programme from various backgrounds Dr. K. Prabhakar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Good Governance & Policy Analysis (CGGPA) organised the off-campus regional ToT programme.

Training Programme on MGNREGS and DAY – NRLM: Promoting Labour Mobility and Social Audit with CBO Participation



Dr. Jyothis Sathyapalan, Professor & Head, CWE (1st row, 5th from left), Dr. D. Suresh Babu, Associate Professor, CCC&DMDM (1st row, 4th from left), Dr. Neeraj Mishra, Associate Professor, CWE (1st row, 1st from right) and Dr. P. Anuradha, Assistant Professor, CWE (1st row, 5th from right) with the participants of the programme

The Centre for Wage Employment, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organised a five-day training programme on 'MGNREGS and DAY–NRLM: Promoting Labour Mobility and Social Audit with CBO Participation' from July 8-12, 2019 at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

A total number of 29 participants from 14 States participated in the

programme i.e., from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana and West Bengal. The participants were senior and middle level officials from State rural development, panchayati raj and other line departments dealing with MGNREGS.

The broad objectives of the

programme:

- To build the capacities of the participants in mobilising the women SHGs for active participation in IPPE process and preparation of labour budget, GPDP, social audit and Rozgar Diwas
- To create awareness on sustainable livelihoods through MGNREGS

- To identify the importance of involvement of SHGs in labour Budget preparation and in social audit process

- To familiarise the participants with the successful cases/best practices in convergence between MGNREGS and NRLM

Contents of the programme:

- Status of women participation in MGNREGA

- Rozgar Diwas to address the demand from the vulnerable women and empowering them

- Convergence between MGNREGS and DAY-NRLM

- Best practices on women participation

As a part of the programme a field study was organised for the participants. They visited Ibrahimpur model village, Siddipet mandal, Medak district. The impact created by model village was increasing the livelihood opportunities of wage seekers by providing employment under MGNREGS that is groundwater recharge works through water harvesting structures and plantation works by convergence with line- departments. In the village SHG members are participating in different semi-skilled

or skilled works in convergence with MGNREGS. Interestingly, Ibrahimpur was also declared Telangana’s first mosquito-free village in 2015.

Participants expressed their views that they were content with the field visit; it helped them gain practical knowledge in dealing with issues and how well things could be managed by forming a model village like Ibrahimpur.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. P. Anuradha, Assistant Professor, CWE, and Dr. Jyothis Sathyapalan, Professor & Head, CWE and Dr. Neeraj Mishra, Associate Professor, CWE, NIRDPR.

Programme for bankers on Credit Management in Agriculture & MSME Sectors



Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR (1st row, 5th from left) and Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor & Head, CFIE (1st row, 3rd from left) with the participants of the programme

MSME sector plays an important role in Indian economy. Its contribution to sectors like manufacturing, exports and employment generation is prominent. The growth in this sector is likely to reduce the unemployment problem in India. Agriculture sector is also equally important since the major chunk of the population, who reside in rural areas, depend on agriculture and allied activities. Agriculture sector is undergoing tremendous modernisation which calls for updating of the existing

knowledge by bank officials. Therefore, financing both these sectors is vital for the country’s economic development. Considering these aspects, CFIE designed a five-day training programme on ‘Credit Management in Agriculture & MSME Sectors’ to enhance the appraisal skills of the bank officers like SMEs and Agricultural Credit Officers, Managers of Rural and Semi-urban Bank branches, newly recruited/promoted officers, officers involved in monitoring and follow up of rural credit/MSME loan portfolio, officials

in Risk Management department, etc. The said on-campus training programme was organised during July 22-26, 2019 at NIRDPR, Hyderabad. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor and Head-CFIE welcomed the participants, gave a brief overview of the programme and spelt out its objectives.

Contents of the programme

- Financing of MSME and agriculture: status and overview & priority sector lending norms

Field Exposure Visits

With a view to impart practical knowledge and help the participants consolidate the learning made in the classroom, the following field visits were organised.

(a) Rural Technology Park (RTP), NIRDPR: *On the second day of the training programme, the participants were taken to Rural Technological Park (RTP) in the NIRDPR campus. Shri Md. Khan, Senior Consultant, Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technology, interacted with the participants. He explained to them about RTP and its importance in promoting frugal innovations in a big way and helping the rural entrepreneurs to establish the unit, skilling and help in achieving sustainability. He also discussed about the role played by RTP in uplifting the rural people in all aspects of life such as capacity building, rural employment generation, livelihoods, etc. Later on, the participants visited various stalls to learn practical aspects, which included making eco-friendly building blocks material, vermi-compost unit, waste paper recycling unit, leaf plate making, etc.*

(b) Directorate of Poultry Research (DPR): *On Day-2 of the programme (July 23, 2019), the participants were taken to DPR, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. Dr. U. Rajkumar, Principal Scientist-Genetics & Breeding, with the help of a short video film, enlightened the banker-trainees*

about the Institute's activities and offered clarifications to their specific queries. The latter appreciated the Institute's unique intervention viz., backyard poultry (types of birds: vanaraja and gramapriya), which has been helping rural livelihoods to have supplemental income. The trainees also had an opportunity to visit a small commercial poultry unit attached to the Institute where they could see the birds and interact with the technical staff for a comprehensive understanding of their activities.

(c) *On day-4 of the training programme, the participants were taken to a farm, established by Shri. Venkateswara Reddy, a retired AGM of State Bank of India, near Veldurthi, Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. The farm has been established in a 10 acre dry land. The highlight of the farm is that water from Handri Niva Srujala Sravanthi(HNSS), a back water canal from Srisailam reservoir is pumped into farm through lift irrigation. The farm also has two farm ponds with a total capacity of one crore litres and the source of water for these ponds is rain water harvesting and water lifted and pumped from HNSS canal. The farm also has a Poly house built over one acre. Mr. Reddy is practicing mixed farming by maintaining a dairy unit of 10 animals in the same farm. He is also growing napier grass in one acre which is used as fodder for milch animals.*

- Microfinance and SHG bank linkage. Ways and means to increase the coverage
- Credit appraisal of agri-business projects using financial tools with case studies
- Financing dairy and poultry projects with case studies
- Credit assessment of SME units with special reference to MUDRA loans
- Emerging areas in agriculture finance – structured financing models in agriculture finance/ contract Farming – supply and value chain management
- Horticultural projects – fruits and vegetables
- Risk management in agriculture and allied activities
- NPA and recovery management with case study

Eight officials from two banks namely Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank

participated in the programme.

CFIE's in-house faculty members and selected guest faculty, who are subject matter specialists-cum-practitioners contributed for the programme.

A range of training methodologies, as shown below, were used during the programme, duly keeping in view the broad and specific objectives of the programme, duration and expectations of the participants.

- Lectures and Interactive sessions (PPTs)
- Case studies on various topics
- Video clips and discussions
- Individual and group activities/ exercises including quizzes
- Field visits/exposure to - poultry (institutional visit) and irrigation systems etc.
- Recap sessions

Feedback and evaluation

Participants' feedback, which is very important to evaluate the programme and to improve the training process, was collected using the online training portal.

The programme was a success, as per the verbal and written feedback received from the participants. The participants attributed the success of the programme to serene training ambience, clean and hygienic surroundings and very good infrastructural facilities in addition to effective programme-design with good mix of classroom sessions and field visits and meticulous programme-execution.

Under the overall guidance of Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor and Centre Head-CFIE, the programme was co-ordinated by Mr. Gangineni Anjaneyulu, Project Consultant at CFIE.

Library Talks: Unknown perils of table-salt revealed



Dr. Surender Reddy Nervatla delivering the lecture on the ill-effects of table salt

Dr. Surender Reddy Nervatla, prominent Surgeon from Ohio, USA delivered a lecture at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on the ill-effects of table-salt on the human body. He graduated from Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad.

He was welcomed by Dr. Javed Khan, Medical officer, working at the NIRDPR health centre. Mr. Reddy revealed that the main cause of heart issues is high blood-pressure, which in turn is caused by consuming table salt. Second cause was consuming tobacco and the third

were happier, less depressed and less dependent on analgesics. Dr. Reddy opined that salt retains water in the body, which is not good for health. Dr. Reddy remarked about an aboriginal tribe in the USA, who never consume salt in their whole life. Their blood- pressure stands at 80/60.

“Instead of table-salt, one could use tamarind, ginger, garlic, and coriander to achieve a similar taste” added, Mr. Reddy. He said that people, who stop consuming salt can lose two kgs within two weeks. He also highlighted that one can stop taking medication for blood pressure, if they quit consuming table salt. The study observed that the participants

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director-General, NIRDPR thanked Dr. Surender Reddy for an eye-opening lecture on the ills caused by table-salt. Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director-General was also present at the event.

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राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं
पंचायती राज संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030
Phone: (040) 24008473, Fax: (040) 24008473
E-mail: cdc.nird@gov.in, Website: www.nirdpr.org.in

Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR
Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR

Asst. Editors: Krishna Raj K.S.
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