

Newsletter



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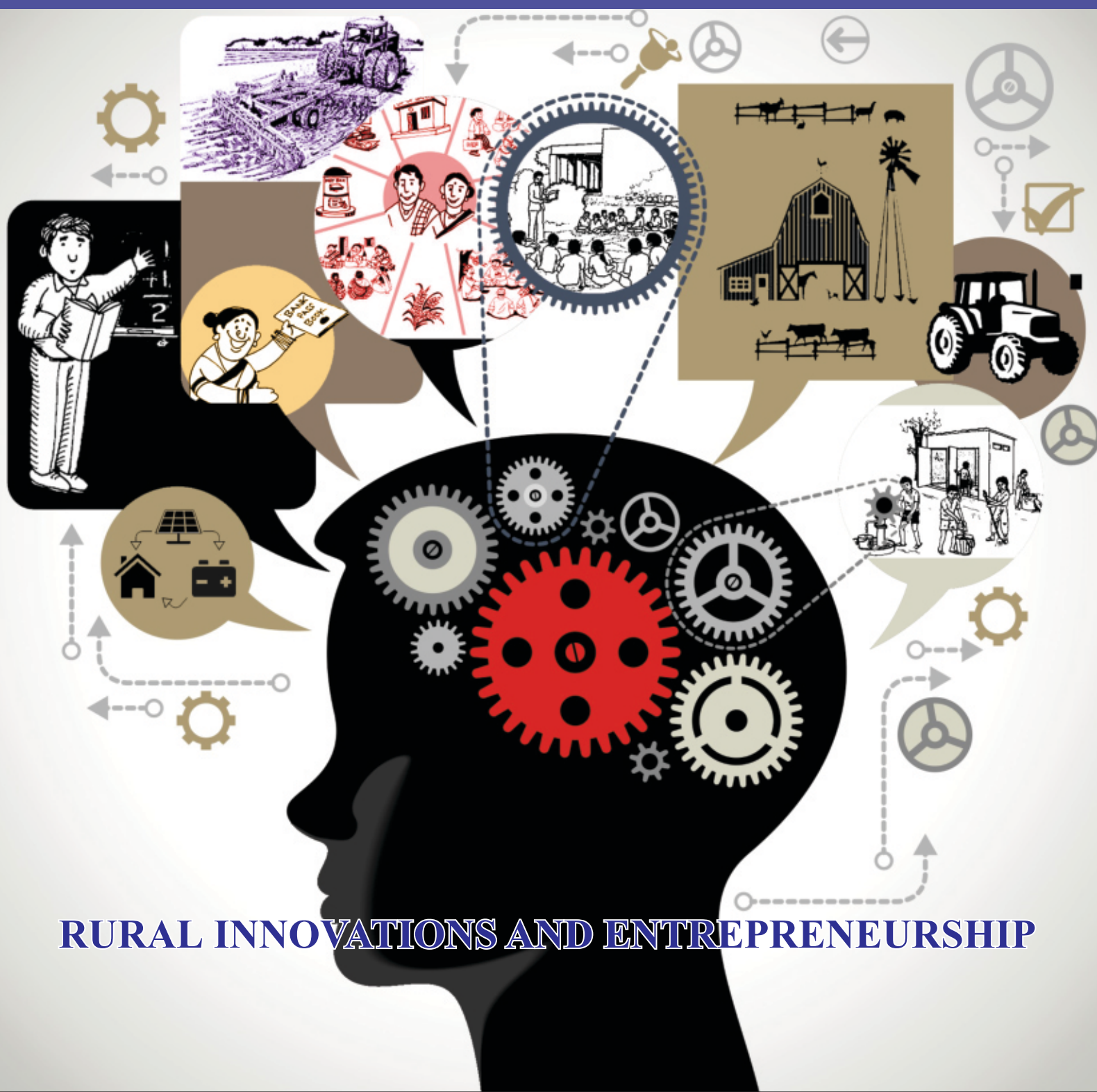


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RURAL INNOVATIONS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Frugal Innovations: NIRD&PR's Role in Promoting Innovations and Entrepreneurship in Rural Areas

Innovation has been identified as an important parameter for achieving growth and development. In simple terms, the innovation can be explained as an essential component of technological advancement which can help achieving more with less. 'Frugal Engineering' refers to the process in which resources are used economically to create efficient products and services at low cost, whereas the overall outcome which results in the development of such robust and low-cost products or services is called as 'Frugal Innovations'. As the markets in developing countries are becoming a hub of manufacturing, there is a need for manufacturers to move away from imitating foreign ideas to adopt innovations of their own. Also, the region-specific consumer requirements and lack of proper infrastructure deems necessary for manufacturers to adopt frugal innovation principles. Therefore, even multinational companies, which normally spend on resource-intensive R&D programmes are forced to adopt frugal innovation principles to maintain their competitive position. As a result, we are witnessing the launch of many successful products and services in the markets which adopt the principles of frugal innovations.



Characteristics of Frugal Innovation

Reduced overall cost of ownership: It is not just the price point at the time of purchase, which is a crucial success factor for frugal innovations. Rather, it is the significantly reduced total cost of ownership that is achieved by the low costs of usage, maintenance and repair from acquisition till disposal.

Robustness: Frugal innovations are often targeted at customers living in rural and semi-urban areas in developing economies. The products need to cope with various infrastructural shortcomings such as voltage fluctuation, abrupt power-cuts, dust, and extreme temperatures. Practices of planned obsolescence that seek to intentionally limit the life-span of a product are incompatible with frugal innovations.



User friendliness: Many (potential) buyers of frugal products have no prior, first-hand experience of using similar products. Companies cannot presume a significant level of familiarity on the consumer's side in dealing with their products. Frugal products therefore need to be easy to use and fault resistant.

Economies of scale: The need for significant cost-reduction, and the thin profit margins almost necessarily associated with frugal products necessitate access to voluminous business to reduce unit costs of development and production.

(Source: Tiwari, R. and Herstatt, C. (2012) Frugal Innovation: A Global Networks' Perspective, *Die Unternehmung*, 66, 3, 245-274.)

Innovations are happening across the country, irrespective of educational qualifications of the innovators, mainly ignited by an urge to solve a local problem or improving the efficiency of a service using locally available tools and resources. Such innovations are not dependent on huge research and development investments, but on frugal resources and support mechanisms. However, most of such frugal innovations, due to lack of scaling up capabilities and support, remain as prototype or idea. Many a time such innovations fail to take off due to inadequate design improvement and material efficiency. There is an urgent need to create organised platform to support such frugal innovations. There is also a need to rope in voluntary effort in terms of

mentoring support for taking such innovative ideas into a final usable product or service so that these are made technically feasible, economically viable and socially acceptable.

India, to become an innovation-rich country, it needs to build vibrant policy level interventions backed by host of systemic cultural reforms at both the levels of Institutions and individuals. This includes building people's attitudes towards experimentation, risk-taking behaviour and the ability to face potential failures if there are any. Indian companies are gradually adopting strategies towards innovation and internalising these in workplaces. The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (2013) of Government of India recognises the need for focussing on innovation as it forms the pivot for all developmental goals of the nation. The policy lays strong emphasis on developing a strong and viable science, research and innovation system for high technology-led path for India. The government declared 2010-20 as the 'Decade of Innovations', and the National Innovation Council was formed as step forward in this direction. The National Skill Development Council was established to oversee worker education and vocational training as there is a strong link between innovation and skilled manpower. The 'Make in India' initiative was launched to transform India into a global design and manufacturing hub as part of a wider set of nation-building initiatives of the present government. The ecosystem for entrepreneurs is also becoming congenial with initiatives such as the 'Startup India' launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, last year. This initiative will provide entrepreneurs with various subsidies, relaxed norms for starting up businesses and setting up incubators across the country.

In this direction, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, has been building capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders through interrelated activities of training, research and consultancy. The NIRD&PR initiated an innovative concept called Rural Technology Park (RTP) in which the

identified innovations relevant to rural development are demonstrated with the help of entrepreneurs and utilise them as training-cum-production facilities. The entrepreneurs are provided hand-holding support along with the physical infrastructure to operate the unit on a business model. So far, over 60 technologies have been identified for demonstration in the areas of agriculture, sustainable housing, food processing, crafts, energy, water and sanitation. These are used as training-cum-production facilities at the RTP. A large number of rural people and entrepreneurs have been trained so far, and many of them have established successful ventures at various places across India.

In this direction, an MoU was signed by NIRD&PR with the Life Sciences Cluster Unit of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) for transfer of technologies developed for the purpose of defence to civilian applications. As part of this collaboration, over 15 different types of technologies developed by DRDO have been transferred to RTP. Initially, technologies such as bio-toilet, vermicomposting, hydroponics, mushroom cultivation, fresh cut vegetable preservation, water treatment, treatment for skin ailments such as Leucoderma and Eczema, have been established at RTP. Recently, another MoU with Autodesk has been signed and a 'Launch Field' to assist innovators to develop prototypes of their technologies which need to be perfected at free of cost has been established at RTP. Efforts to initiate an incubation centre and innovators' cafe to provide mentoring support for innovators are in the pipeline. As part of this effort, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) conducted 'Rural Innovators Startup Conclave' in March 2017. This has set in a momentum to connect with the innovators, investment hands and mentors. However, there is a need for developing partnerships and roping in experts who can volunteer to assist innovators for creating larger impact which can enable rural transformation through technological interventions.

Workshop on Frugal Innovation

It is in the above background, a workshop on 'Frugal Innovation' was organised by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchyati Raj (NIRD&PR) in association with Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) and Vijnana Bharati on July 7 and 8,

2017 at NIRD&PR campus. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development, and Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament was the guest of honour at the programme. More than 200 participants attended the workshop which included distinguished members of INAE, business mentors, technocrats, innovators and students.

Speaking at the programme, Shri Venkaiah Naidu emphasised the need for identifying and promoting traditional practices and skills which are practised from ages by the people in rural areas as part of our rich cultural past. He also emphasised that unless rural India prospers, the nation cannot prosper. In his address, Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy stressed the need for keeping the requirement of end users in mind while developing innovative solutions. Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, mentioned that the Institute will strive to identify innovations which have the potential of addressing the problems of rural people and help the innovators for scaling up by providing technological and business related mentoring and support. Dr. B. N. Suresh, President, INAE, expressed that big thrust is needed towards innovation and start-ups in India. In his valedictory address, Dr. V. K. Saraswath, Member, Niti Aayog, stressed that only innovations can spur growth in rural areas, and therefore it is important to nurture innovators by creating avenues for outreach support by Institutions like NIRD&PR and INAE.

Apart from lectures by eminent speakers, the technical sessions organised in the workshop on principles of frugal innovations, success stories, marketing business models and outreach have helped the participants, especially innovators, to understand the need and way forward to scale-up their innovations. The two-day workshop helped in creating an inclusive-platform for exchange of ideas and connecting innovators with experts for potential mentoring support. The deliberations at the workshop identified potential areas which can be considered as a follow-up include developing a framework for providing linkages with financial institutions, providing support towards developing effective marketing strategies, assistance for

launching products through e-commerce platform, publishing a magazine/portal focussed on innovations with profiles of entrepreneurs and relevant announcements, launching an innovators' cafe and creating a permanent outlet at RTP for showcasing and selling products of innovators.

The initiative of Rural Technology Park at NIRD&PR is a pioneering step in the direction of identifying a few appropriate and sustainable rural technologies that could be demonstrated as a single window display of training-cum-production by the technology partners themselves so as to motivate those who are interested in adopting these technologies as part

of their livelihoods. The NIRD&PR by playing the role of an accelerator, can really enhance interface, and enable tie-up with appropriate Institutions that can cater to the entrepreneurial aspirations of the youth who have been mulling over innovative ideas. For such an effort, there is a need for large number of technical hands who are willing to work on voluntary basis to support such innovators. In the forthcoming years, NIRD&PR will continue to assess and identify the need of innovators and entrepreneurs, and take appropriate steps in this direction to achieve rural transformation through innovations and technological interventions.

Dr. Ramesh Sakthivel
Associate Professor,

Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technology

Convocation

Twelfth Convocation of PGDRDM of NIRD&PR

The 12th convocation ceremony of Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj was held at NIRD&PR campus on July 29, 2017. A batch of 43 students who graduated, received their diplomas from the Chief Guest of the occasion, Shri V Nagi Reddy, IAS, State Election Commissioner, Government of Telangana. The Gold Medal for best academic performance was awarded to Ch. Karthika Vimal, while the Silver and Bronze Medals were awarded to second and third best performing students, i.e., Ms. M Pranathi and Aswin R Nair, respectively. Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, presided over the function. Dr. Franklin Laltinkhuma, IAS, Registrar, NIRD&PR welcomed the Chief Guest and invited the audience.



Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, who administered the convocation oath to students, congratulated the entire 12th batch of PGDRDM. In his inaugural address, the Director General informed that 99 per cent of the graduating students have secured good placements in reputed organisations. The Director General expressed his gratitude to the recruiting agencies

which offered good jobs to the students. Addressing the students, the Director General advised them to dream big and work hard to achieve them. He also urged them to stay connected to the Institute and comeback in future. The Director General felt that the feedback of students will help the Institute to improve the course in coming years.

Dr. C S Singhal, Professor and Head, CPGS&DE while presenting the Course Report on the twelfth batch of PGDRDM, shared the programme's objectives and main highlights of the 12th Batch. He informed that there are 43 students in the twelfth batch of PGDRDM: 2016-17, from different parts of India. Of these, 13 are girls and

the rest are boys with varied educational qualifications and five International In-service students were sponsored by Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP). The international candidates were from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Fiji. They have been selected on the basis of an All-India Entrance exam followed by Group Discussion and Personal Interviews. He also informed that the campus placement for Batch-12 was held from April 24, 2017 to May 1, 2017. Reputed organisations participated in the campus placements and offered employment to the students. Vote of thanks was given by Dr. A. Debapriya, Associate Professor, CPGS&DE.

Workshop

Workshop on Developing Modules for Sensitising Transgender People and Stakeholders

Transgender people, broadly called as Hijras, Kinnars and Aravanies in different parts of the country are the people with gender identity/ expression, opposite to their assigned sex and its associated roles who diverge from normative gender roles. Hindu society created a sacred status for these hijras in an era, appreciating their presence at weddings, births and festivals. Parenthetically in contemporary epoch they are harassed from multi-dimensional sources like parents, teachers, peers and society cutting across every sphere of their lives and activities. Brutal stories of Abuse, Harassment, Sexual Violence and Rape meted to them by police in public places, at home, at police stations and in jails have led to social exclusion, violence, perpetration of inequality and deprivation in society. Nature of harassment includes verbal abuse, assault, bullying,



sexual violence, etc., and social restrictions resulting in psychological trauma, causing migration and social boycott.

Thus, gender non-conformity has warped them and pushed them into embarrassing problems predominant of which are, lack of access to gender recognition certificates, sexual expression, employment, decent

housing, subsidised healthcare services, etc. With the rising population figures of transgender people, accounting for 6 lakh persons in the country, it has become an imperative need to call for an immediate sensitisation of Transgender Community and the stakeholders to overcome the discrimination and injustice meted out to them by the society and to enable them to lead a quality life.

Contextually, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad took up an initiative to organise a workshop from July 31 to August 1, 2017 at NIRD&PR. Honourable Union Minister of State for Social Justice and

Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale, inaugurated the workshop on July 31, 2017. The workshop was designed with the objectives to mainstream transgender people, provide them interventions and alternatives for development and secondly to develop a module for sensitising stakeholders so as to minimise discriminatory practices against transgender people. Persons from transgender community, organisations working for transgender people, activists, police, doctors and judiciary working for transgender people have been invited to participate in the workshop. The workshop was conducted by Dr. G. Valentina, Associate Professor, Centre for Equity and Social Development.

Workshop on Priority Sector Lending

Lending by banks to the Priority Sector, comprising Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Education, Housing, and a few other identified areas, has been a major policy intervention to ensure flow of funds to these important segments of the economy and to the disadvantaged groups under these segments. A workshop for senior officers of Commercial Banks looking after the priority sector lending portfolio was organised on June 9 and 10, 2017 to discuss about various issues concerning bank loans to these sectors.

Sixteen senior officers from public sector banks attended the workshop. The inaugural session was attended by Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, Shri H R Dave, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD and Shri R Subramanian, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India. Shri A Srivastava, Chief Financial Officer, MUDRA made a presentation and



interacted with the participants later in the day. There was a pre-dinner session where, in addition to the participants of the workshop, eminent persons from nearby Institutions were also invited. Shri Ajit K Rath, Executive Director, Andhra Bank and Shri Hardayal Prasad, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Hyderabad interacted with the participants and the guests during the pre-dinner session and answered their questions. On the second day, Shri Manas R Mohanty,

General Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Hyderabad addressed the participants.

There was extensive experience sharing by the participants. As part of the workshop, the participants were divided into three groups for deliberating on different issues related to priority sector lending. The

suggestions made by the groups, as also other suggestions made by the participants during the workshop were compiled and forwarded to Reserve Bank of India and NABARD for information and necessary action. The programme was coordinated by Shri R N Dash, Consultant, Centre for Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship (CFIE).

Workshop on Strengthening District Central Cooperative Banks in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), which form the middle tier in the three-tier rural cooperative credit system, have been playing a significant role in purveying credit for agriculture and rural development over the past century. For several reasons, their financial health has been a matter of concern and there are also issues relating to their governance and management. From time to time, several steps have been taken by the Government and other stakeholders to revitalise the rural credit

cooperatives. To discuss the present status of these initiatives and focus on the way forward for these Institutions, a Workshop was organised for the CEOs and Directors of DCCBs operating in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on July 28 and 29, 2017. A total of 27 participants comprising CEOs, professional directors and senior officers of State Cooperative Banks participated in the workshop. It was inaugurated by Shri K Suresh Kumar, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Andhra Pradesh Regional Office.

Topics discussed in the workshop included technology adoption in DCCBs, the present status of the



revitalisation exercise, corporate governance in cooperative banks, business development and emerging areas for bank finance, regulatory issues concerning DCCBs in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and internal control mechanism in DCCBs. The subjects were handled by experts from NABARD, RBI, Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank, and Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank, and faculty members from the Centre for Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship (CFIE), NIRD&PR. The programme was coordinated by Shri R N Dash, Consultant, Centre for Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship (CFIE).

Distinguished Visitors

Dr. D Veerendra Heggade Visits NIRD&PR

Dharmadhikari of the Dharmasthala Temple and Padma Vibhushan Award recipient, Dr. Veerendra Heggade visited the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on July 18, 2017.

During this visit, Dr. Heggade interacted with the participants of 'Brainstorming Session of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY)'. The participants included the Mission Directors of various State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs), Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and officials from Ministry of Rural Development and NIRD&PR. In his address, Dr. Heggade spoke about need of systematic skill development of rural youth so as to engage them in livelihood. He shared his own experience in this field with the participants. Dr. Heggade also paid a visit to Rural Technology Park (RTP) at NIRD&PR, where he interacted with the entrepreneurs who are engaged in manufacturing, selling, and training (capacity building) of the other youth. Dr. Heggade also inaugurated Frugal Technology Stalls which were recently established in collaboration with DRDO. Dr. Heggade appreciated the set-up of RTP and contribution made by NIRD&PR for capacity building of youth and nurturing the entrepreneurs.

In the evening, Dr. Heggade interacted with faculty members, staff, PGDRDM students and participants of all ongoing programmes at NIRD&PR, officials from banks nearby RSETIs and neighbouring Institutions. A good number of trainees i.e. rural youth from SBI RSETI,



Chilkoor and Medak were also present. Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR welcomed Dr. Heggade.

The Director General appreciated the work done by Dr. Heggade and opined that there is a lot to learn from his experience. Dr. Heggade shared his experience in the field of Rural Development in general and Self-Help Groups in particular. He also talked about the concept of Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institutes (RUDSETIs) which was experimented at Ujaire, Karnataka in the year 1982. He said that in the year 2009-10, after the RUDSETIs proved to be successful, the Government of India decided to replicate the model in all districts across the country under the banner of Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs). These RSETIs trained more than 22 lakh youths and the success rate in terms of settlements is around 65%. He further said that there is no room for complacency; we have to do much more in the years to come. Shri O N Bansal, Project Director, RSETI, presented vote of thanks.

Training

International Programme on Empowerment of Women for Rural Development

The Centre for Gender Studies and Development organised an International Training Programme on 'Empowerment of Women for Rural Development' at NIRD&PR from July 3 to July 30, 2017.

The main objectives of the programme were to understand the concept, strategies, initiatives, mechanisms for social, economic and political empowerment of rural women, discuss the poverty reduction and rural development approaches in the context of the situation of women, get familiarised with the ground realities and learn lessons in the implementation of development programmes for empowerment of women and enhance the skills for effective management of projects.

The programme had three modules on development perspectives, women empowerment and rural institutions. In addition to local institutions working on women empowerment and livelihoods promotion, the participants had a study tour to Karnataka State, where they got first-hand information by interacting with women workers under MGNREGA, women of SHGs



under NRLM and elected women representatives (EWR). A visit to RSETI Institution was also organised, where the participants had discussions with the trainees.

A total of 23 participants from 11 countries attended the programme, of whom 17 were women. The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Besides NIRD&PR faculty, eminent speakers from different organisations viz. MANAGE, MV Foundation, NAARM, PDP, University of Hyderabad, and Osmania University addressed the participants.

Participants prepared and presented country papers and field study reports on all the visits. An action plan on learning points and the ideas they would like to try out in their own countries were prepared. There was an overwhelming response from the participants. Dr. C S Singhal, Dr. N V Madhuri and Dr. Sucharita Pujari of the Centre for Gender Studies and Development coordinated the programme.



Training Programme on ICT Applications for Management of Rural Development Programmes

The Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) organised a training programme on 'ICT Applications for Management of Rural Development Programmes' from July 24 to 28, 2017 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. A total of 41 officials, majority representing Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Zilla Parishad/Zilla Panchayat (ZP)s, DRDAs, SIRDs/ETCs, Agriculture, Forests and Environment, Sericulture, Soil and Water Conservation, Education and Academicians from 12 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab and West Bengal participated in the programme.

The main focus of the programme was to sensitise functionaries of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, ZPs/ DRDAs, SIRDs/ETCs and line departments to the potential of ICTs and its applications, e-Governance, Digital India, Geo-Informatics, Social Audit for Monitoring and Evaluation, IEC, and Project Management for effective management of Rural Development programmes and providing skills in development of Information Systems.

To meet the above objectives, Application of ICTs for e-Governance services in various sectors such as Citizen-

Centric Services, NSAP, MGNREGS, PMAY, in addition to topics relating to Information Systems Development, Geo-informatics, Role of Internet of Things (IOT) and Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN) in Agriculture, IEC, Project Management, Soft Skills such as Leadership for Conflict Resolution were discussed as part of the programme.

A visit to National Informatics Centre, Hyderabad was arranged as part the programme to provide more insights into various applications of ICTs in Rural Development programmes like Panchayat Enterprise Suite, Digital Panchayats and Government Services Delivery, Geo-informatics as decision support tool in sectors such as School Education, and Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

The participants also participated in Art of Living module organised in consultation with Swamiji. The participants also took part in the cultural programme organised as part of the programme. The participants expressed gratefulness to the Director General, NIRD&PR and to Swamiji for providing this rare opportunity and also for the cultural evening.

All the participants actively took part and made the sessions lively. The programme was well received and the participants expressed that there is need for organising many such programmes. The programme was conducted by Shri G V Satya Narayana, Senior Assistant Professor of Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT).



Consultation on Farming System for Nutrition

A preliminary consultation was organised for district officials of Maharashtra from July 24 to 27, 2017 at YASHADA, Pune. The consultation was organised by the MSSRF in collaboration with NIRD & PR, Hyderabad and YASHADA, Pune. The consultation was inaugurated by Dr. Siddayya, Associate



Professor & Head, CNRM, NIRD&PR in the presence of Shri Anand Pusavale, Associate Professor, YASHADA. On first two days of programme, the consultation was presided by Shri Anand Pusavale of YASHADA while on the last day, Dr. K M Nagargoje, IAS (Member Secretary, Maharashtra Council of Agricultural Education and Research) provided a keynote address. From each district, two to three officials, representing the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry were invited to participate in the consultation. In addition to the district officials, scientists from Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (MPKV), Rahuri also participated. The consultation was well attended with representations from 31 districts and a total of 102 participants.

The objectives of the consultation were :

- To disseminate the concept of Farming System for Nutrition
- To discuss the need and scope for nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Maharashtra

- To collect district-level information with respect to:
 - On-going practices in nutrition-sensitive agriculture
 - Constraints in practising/promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture
 - Support system for practising nutrition-sensitive agriculture:
 - (a) Existing schemes
 - (b) Required support/schemes

Farming Systems for Nutrition and Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture are approaches that aim at influencing nutrition outcomes through changes in food production system.

Farming System for Nutrition (FSN), as a farmer led strategy is defined by M. S. Swaminathan as:

“The introduction of agricultural remedies to the nutritional maladies prevailing in an area through

mainstreaming nutritional criteria in the selection of the components of a farming system involving crops, farm animals and wherever feasible, fish.”

On all four days, the consultation began with a presentation on the concept of Farming Systems for Nutrition and this was followed by a detailed presentation on the need and scope for agriculture - nutrition linkages in the State of Maharashtra. On all the days, there was a lively discussion based on the presentations made. In the

afternoon sessions, the participants were divided into groups and the discussions revolved around district-specific issues:

- On-going practises on nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- Constraints to practise nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- Existing government schemes that support nutrition-sensitive agriculture and
- Support structure required to promote nutrition sensitive agriculture.

NIRD&PR Faculty Wins National Award of Excellence

Dr. T Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has been awarded the prestigious 'Adarsh Vidya Sarasvati Rashtriya Award for Excellence' by the Global Management Council (GMC), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on July 27, 2017 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of education, research, innovative practices in teaching. The award comprised a trophy, an appreciation certificate and a gold medal.

GMC, an apex body that promotes and encourages commendable achievements from all over the country, regularly organises national-level seminars with the help of its members to promote socially responsible education practices and sustainable development in economic as well social front in India.

In addition to this honour, the Council has nominated Dr. T Vijaya Kumar as the Editorial Board Member for Glacier Journal of Scientific Research in Education and Human Resource Development field.

NIRD&PR Events



Korean Delegation Visits NIRD&PR



Orientation on Sexual Harassment Act



Launch of UNICEF and NIRD&PR Communication Resource Centre



Talk on Stress and Back Pain by Dr. B Chandra Sekhar Reddy, Neurologist from CITI Neuro Centre



Update for JRD

- The Journal of Rural Development, a quarterly journal published by NIRD&PR has gone online with regard to the submission of papers. Henceforth, the contributors are requested to follow the procedure given in Online Journal Management System (OJMS). One can access the OJMS site on the link <http://nirdprojms.in>.

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National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030

Phone: (040) 24008473, Fax: (040) 24008473

E-mail: cdc.nird@gov.in, Website: www.nird.org.in

Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR

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