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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

Newsletter

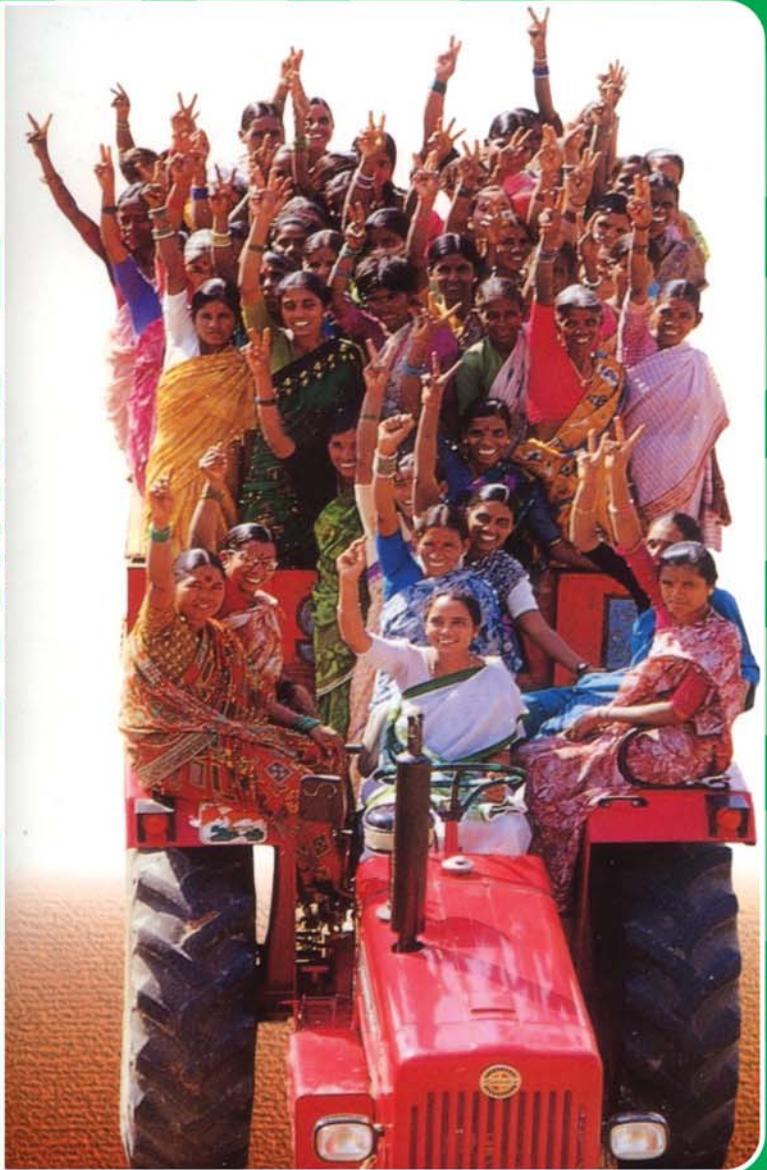
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Gender and Development



Cover Story

Gender and Development

Since the mid-1980s, there has been a growing consensus that sustainable development requires an understanding of both women's and men's roles and responsibilities within the community and their relationship to each other. Improving the status of women is no longer seen as just a women's issue but a goal that requires the active participation of men and women.

Thus the gender and development model adopts a holistic approach and treats development as a complex process influenced by political and socio-economic forces. It uses 'gender relations' rather than 'women' as a category of analysis and views men as potential supporters of women. It offers a holistic perspective by looking at all aspects of the women's life. Women are seen as agents of change rather than as passive recipients of development assistance. This approach stresses the need for women to recognise themselves for a more effective political voice.

Gender Mainstreaming Initiatives

Gender mainstreaming is a continuous and dynamic process of integrating a gender perspective into each stage of development process, with a view to enabling equality and equity between men and women. This includes incorporating gender sensitivity into policy, legislation, planning, budgeting, programmes and schemes, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, auditing, research and advocacy. It is not an end in itself but is a process or means to enabling equity.

Mainstreaming gender into the development planning process



Shri S.M. Vijayanand, the then Director General, NIRD&PR and Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India and Shri Louis-Georges Arsenault, Representative, India UNICEF Country Office, New Delhi exchanging an MoU.

essentially means viewing each activity that uses public resources through a gender lens to ensure that it reduces (and does not exacerbate) existing gender disparities.

Gender Responsive Budgeting is well recognised as an important tool for enabling gender mainstreaming. In 2004-05, the Ministry of Finance mandated the setting up of Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs) in all Ministries/Departments as focal points for mainstreaming gender. So far 56 Ministries/Departments have set up the Gender Budgeting Cells.

NIRD&PR Initiatives for Gender Mainstreaming

In the Institute, there is a specialised 'Centre for Gender Studies & Development (CGSD)', through which several initiatives have been taken in the past few years. The Centre has implemented a UN Women Sponsored project titled

'Promoting Women's Political Leadership and Gender Responsive Governance in India and South Asia' during 20-11-13. The aim of the project was to create an enabling environment for the women to become change agents in political decision making for promotion of gender equality. This ensures gender equality and genuine democracy. The programme focused mainly at the local government level because it is here that a large number of women have already occupied elected seats. The project was supported by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. It has been rolled out initially in the selected sixteen districts of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

A series of workshops and ToT programmes were conducted under this project. About 600 master trainers were trained. As an outcome of this

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project, Trainers' Manual on 'Promoting Political Leadership and Gender Responsive Governance' and Trainers' Modules on different areas viz. agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry, fisheries, NTFP, non-farm enterprises, health and sanitation, food and nutrition, child rights and universalisation of primary education, inclusive development planning and leadership were developed. These manuals and modules are now being used for training of elected women and men representatives and rural development and Panchayati Raj officials through State Institutes of Rural Development and Extension Training Centres all over the country.

The second phase of the project is under progress. As part of it, a brainstorming workshop was arranged with SIRDs and UN Women representatives on 29.01.2016 on the theme 'From Opportunities to Capabilities: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Enhancing Gender Responsive Governance.'

Another initiative of the CGSD is development of curriculum for capacity building of officials from multi-sectors, on the critical importance of nutrition for survival, growth and development of children and women. In this regard, Shri S. M Vijayanand, Director General, NIRD&PR, and Shri Louis-Georges Arsenault, Representative, India UNICEF Country Office, New Delhi, signed an MoU on 17 June, 2015.

The Centre also initiated women empowerment through child survival strategies, under which a series of National Consultations were held on the subject and a manual is under preparation for capacity building of rural development and panchayati raj functionaries in collaboration with Global Health Strategies.

Sensitisation on Gender Budgeting for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

A series of National Workshops have been organised during the last three years in collaboration with Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. In these workshops, altogether more than 300 senior and middle level officials and faculty of SIRDs, ETCs and other National level institutes were trained. As follow-up, these institutes have been organising several programmes on gender related themes. One of the recommendations of these workshops was to organise workshops at different levels to facilitate gender awareness for mainstreaming in rural development programmes. One such programme was organised during 10-12 February, 2016 at North Eastern Regional Centre of NIRD&PR at Guwahati.

In addition to above, the CGSD has initiated several specialised capacity building initiatives on the new themes like gender mainstreaming in MGNREGS and other flagship programmes, women empowerment and livelihood for rural women based on the detailed module developed on the subject.

Dr. W.R. Reddy Assumes Charge as the Director General, NIRD&PR

Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS (86 Kerala batch) has assumed duty as Director General, NIRD&PR on 10.03.2016 (FN). His last posting was additional Chief Secretary, Taxes, Government of Kerala. He worked in undivided Andhra Pradesh for five years during 1990-95 as Project Director, DRDA, Cuddapah and Joint Secretary in Irrigation and Command Area Development

He worked in different assignments in Government of Kerala and Government of India. Some of the prominent areas of work are Managing Director, Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing



Federation, District Collector of Kannur, Pallakkad (Palghat) & Kollam District of Kerala and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Gov. He has interest in agriculture, rural development and upliftment of poorer sections of the people.

Dr. Reddy is a native of Abdullapuram village, Kurnool district and he studied in Government high school, Velpanur of Kurnool district and Government Junior College at Atmakur. He completed BSc Agriculture at Tirupati, MSc Agriculture and PhD from Indian Agriculture Research Institute, PUSA, New Delhi.

National Symposium on Organic Farming



His Excellency Shri Acharya Dev Vrat, Governor of Himachal Pradesh inaugurating the programme



Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Honourable Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare at valedictory session

A National Symposium on 'Organic Farming for Farmers' Prosperity,' was jointly organised by Ekalavya Foundation, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad during 19-20 March 2016. As many as 200 delegates, including organic farming practitioners, researchers and representatives of NGOs promoting

organic farming and enterprises marketing organic products participated in the Symposium.

The themes for deliberations in the symposium were pre and post-harvest research and technology needs of organic farming, role of NGOs in promotion of organic farming and organic schools for enhanced livelihood opportunities, market development and market interventions for enhanced farmers'

profitability, practitioners' perspective and knowledge management.

Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR welcomed the guests. His Excellency Shri Acharya Dev Vrat, Governor of Himachal Pradesh inaugurated the programme. Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Honourable Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare delivered the valedictory address.

International Women's Day Celebration

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March, 2016. IWD is being celebrated to highlight the women's achievements across nations. It is also known as the United Nations (UN) Day for Women's Rights and International Peace. Much progress has been made to protect and promote women's rights in recent times. But nowhere in the world can women claim to have all the same rights and opportunities as men.

As per the UN, the majority of the world's 1.3 billion absolute poor are women and on an average, women receive between 30 and 40 percent less pay than men earn for the same work. Women also continue to be victims of violence with rape and domestic violence. These are listed as significant causes of disability and death among women worldwide.

On the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March, 2016, the Centre for Gender Studies and Development (CGSD), NIRD&PR Hyderabad, honoured several women who contributed a lot as community resource persons and brought change in the life of women by mobilisation through self-help groups. They shared their experiences on this occasion, which was very inspiring.

Ms Anita Ramchandran, IAS, Commissioner, Telangana State Institute of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development, Government of Telangana, was the chief guest and Ms. Sowmya Kidambi, Director,



Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency, Department of Rural Development, Government of Telangana was the special invitee.

Ms Anita Ramchandran, while addressing the gathering, emphasised on continuous and concerted efforts towards achieving a gender just society. She reiterated the need for women emancipation at

social, economic and political levels in the society. She was of the view that everyone must work towards women's rights in a patriarchal society. Women have special responsibility and can change the society for faster development. She cited the example of the CRP's who have been doing a commendable job on women issues at the community level.

Ms.Sowmya Kidambi in her address said, real empowerment is possible only when we put an effort to change our mindset and work together towards a gender just society. She also highlighted the importance of creating conditions for elimination of discrimination against women and for their full and equal participation in social development.

Earlier, Dr. C.S Singhal, Prof & Head, CGSD while welcoming the guests, stated about 2016 theme for International Women's Day i.e. "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality". He pleaded for achievement of sustainable development goal of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls by 2030.

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

In this context, rural women working at the grassroots level as Community Resource Persons from far-off States like Bihar and Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh were invited to honour and share their experience. They spoke at length on the struggles faced by them at every level for survival and how they were determined to fight inequality and injustice meted out towards them within family and the society to achieve the social position and recognition and respect from their own community.

These women started working as Self-Help Group (SHG) members and worked on a range of issues, focusing on education, drinking water,

prevention of child marriage and financial management of SHGs in their respective communities, constantly training and motivating the communities in their endeavour towards bringing about significant change in several areas of community development.

A brief background of the Community Resource Persons, along with their individual achievements is mentioned below.

Smt. Mamta Dewangan, Community Resource Person from Chhattisgarh

Smt. Mamta Dewangan, a community resource person comes from Aarla village of Surgi cluster of Rajnandgoan district from Chhattisgarh. She is 32 years old and studied up to 12th standard. Smt. Mamta started as an SHG member in 2007 and went on to become book keeper to a community resource person, helping in group formation. Ms.Mamta having a poor family background, faced number of social hurdles in the family and the

community. To give her family social honour and status, she decided to join a SHG group in her village. After she lost her first child immediately after delivery, due to lack of care, she was determined to have her second delivery in the hospital. After a lot of convincing, and criticism from family members she joined the SHG. When people appreciated her writing and speaking skills, family members also understood her talent, and encouraged her to contribute more towards village development. She encouraged the community men and women to send their children to school. She motivated elders in the village about girl child education. She also monitored the Anganwadi workers' work informally, looking after the cleanliness and hygiene of the food prepared, helped the poorest of the poor women in the village into forming SHG groups. Since she studied only up to intermediate level, she aspires her children to attain higher levels of education.

Mrs. Nurjaha, Community Resource Person from Bihar



Mrs. Nurjaha Khatun is from Jhikatia village of Gaya district in Bihar. Starting her career as president of Gulab Jeevika SHG in 2006, Mrs. Nurjaha Khatun went on to become the president of a village organisation in 2007. She also served as member of Social Action Committee of village organisation. As a member, she took up many developmental issues of her village and with that experience, she got elected as President of Panchayat Samiti of Jhikatia as well and has been serving her community in different development activities.



She comes from a very poor family, gone through many hardships, could not even feed children three times a day and sometimes slept without having food. Gradually she joined a SHG group, after facing lot of hurdles from the home front. Coming from a Muslim community, she was not encouraged to go out in the public and work. People dissuaded her from stepping out of the house. However, after lot of persuasion and convincing in-laws that she will be working for the development of the village, she got an opportunity to work for the

community. After being a part of the SHG, her economic status improved and that helped her feed her children three times a day. Her consistent efforts to change the attitude of her community men and women towards women and work, eventually gave her social recognition also. She could fund her children's education and send them to English medium schools. She also earned respect from her husband. Nurjaha feels happy about the recognition, name and popularity that have come after joining a SHG and the confidence she has gained thereafter.

Smt. Baijanti Devi, Community Resource Person from Bihar

Smt. Baijanti Devi is a community mobiliser of Bhusia village in Gaya district of Bihar. She is a lady who has the courage to keep her promises, she is committed to the community and hopes to achieve the goal for equal rights for women in the community. She goes to motivate at new places on her own, fights for the rights and justice, moves on tractors to collect the ration quota for the



members, and trained the community women on various aspects.

Smt. Baijanti has studied till 8th class, is a confident motivator, who manages the records at SHG, trained community mobilisers. In her own village, she made efforts to include all the desirous left outs, ensure entitlements of the members like PDS ration quota, job card, etc., and boosted the morale of the community for fight against odds.

Smt. Baijanti Devi focused on girl child education, emphasising on equal status for boys and girls in schools in her village. She also worked towards stopping alcoholism in the village. As she started working in the Gram Sabha, she had a higher level of confidence. After joining SHG, her economic status improved. She mentioned how earlier she started with saving rupees five, and today the SHG members are earning up to five lakh rupees. Today whenever she goes to the BDO or the Commissioner or any government official, she gets a lot of respect and social honour.

Mrs. Zubeida, Differently Abled Rural Entrepreneur



Mrs. Zubeida Begum hails from Sanga Reddy of Medak district and is an orthopedically challenged person. With great difficulty she could go to school up to 5th standard, thereafter studied on her own, taken SSC examination privately and qualified. Despite being physically challenged, she could establish a telephone booth in the year 2003 and successfully run the same. She started realising the need to bring awareness among the physically challenged and started motivating them. She started 'Chaitanya Sangam' in 2007 for physically challenged people and mobilised the physically challenged of all sorts, she imbibed a spirit of confidence by skill development training to improve their economic condition.

The district legal service authority recognised her counseling talent and appointed her as 'Para Legal Volunteer' for the resolution of the family disputes. She along with 13 other physically handicapped persons from Kandi village near Sanga Reddy, Medak district, Telangana has taken training at Rural Technology Park (RTP) of NIRD&PR in the assembling of solar lanterns and with the support of the district administration and the technology partner of RTP viz., M/s. Thrive Energy Solar Pvt Ltd., started the solar assembling unit at Sanga Reddy.

Smt. Chennamma, Solar Bare Foot Engineer, NIRD&PR

Smt. Chennamma is the President of 'Women Solar Barefoot Engineers



Association', supported by NIRD&PR and associated in the electrification of tribal habitations by installing Solar PV lights. She comes from a stone cutters family and is an illiterate. She was volunteer and undergone training in skill development in solar energy at Rural Technology Park, NIRD&PR in 2003. She was sent by NIRD&PR in 2004 to Tilonia, Rajasthan for training in solar assembling for six months. Her efforts of becoming a 'Solar Barefoot Engineer' were recognised and she was felicitated by Late Dr Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, Former Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh.

She is illiterate, but she managed to explain how the six months training in Rajasthan helped her gain confidence. She left behind her parents, child and husband, and went all the way to Rajasthan. She mentions that itself is a big achievement for her. After her training in Rajasthan, she was also sent for training to other villages in her district where she trained other women in electrification of tribal habitations by installing Solar PV lights. In 2013 she received an award and a cash prize for her work in her community.

Ms. Naina Jaiswal, International Table Tennis Player

Born in Hyderabad, Ms. Naina is a multi-talented girl. She is the first Asian girl who completed her matriculation at the age of 8 years. At 10 years, she completed her Intermediate. At 13 years, she passed her graduation and at 14 years of age, she entered into post-graduation. She is the youngest graduate in journalism in India. At the age of 7 years, she recorded a CD by singing Ramayana Slokas. She verbalised Gita at very early age. She is a singer cum piano player. She writes with both hands. She is world champion at Jr level of international table tennis.



Ms. Naina emphasised on the strength of the woman, and the immense capabilities a woman possesses. She spoke towards ending gender based violence and to join hands together to fight for equal status of men and women in our society. Historically women have been subjected to violence and torture both in the private and the public space, which must end now. Success and accomplishment can come through and all of us must work hard towards achievement of gender equality.

Ms. Sowmya Kidambi who was the special invitee on the occasion, worked with the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) based in Rajasthan, since 1998. She played an important role in the formulation



and passage of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, and the employment guarantee laws in India. Prior to joining SSAT in her current role, she was associated with the Strategies and Performance Innovations Unit, Department of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh as Social Development Specialist, where she was actively involved in institutionalising the Social Audit process as part of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. On this occasion on behalf of NIRD&PR, Smt. Anita Ramachandran, IAS, Chief Guest

and Ms. Sowmya Kidambi and all the women guest invitees were honoured by CGSD team as a mark of respect and appreciation.

The programme ended with vote of thanks to the chief guest and all invited guests by Dr N.V. Madhuri, Senior Assistant Professor, CGSD, who coordinated the programme under the guidance of Prof. C.S Singhal, Professor and Head, Centre for Gender Studies and Development, NIRD&PR. Dr Sucharita Pujari, Asst. Professor of CGSD helped in facilitation of the programme.

International Training Programme on 'Rural Credit for Poverty Reduction'

The International Training Programme on "Rural Credit for Poverty Reduction", sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India was conducted by the Centre for Rural Credit and Development Banking from 1 to 28 March 2016. The main objective of the programme was to motivate the participants to learn from micro-financing experiences of India in bringing the poor people into group fold for successful management of credit and thereby improving their standard of living.

Seventeen participants from 11 countries, namely Afghanistan, Ecuador, Fiji, Krygyzstan, Nigeria, Peru, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo and Turkey attended the programme. IT was organised to increase the knowledge and skills of



the participants from developing countries in the field of microcredit.

The course was designed keeping in mind the need to give maximum exposure to the participants on various issues of rural development in general and microcredit in

particular. Sessions on important topics were taken by experienced faculties of NIRD&PR and guest faculties from outside on subjects like Indian Experiences with Rural Development, Microfinance Development through Bangladesh Joint Liability Model, Livelihood

Options in Developing Countries, Rural Technologies, Gender Issues in Microfinance, Social Mobilisation, Federating SHGs, etc.

As a part of the programme, participants were taken on a study tour to Bidar in Karnataka for four days. Participants were exposed to the workings of MFIs which are working in various blocks for empowering SHG members. The participants visited various SHGs and got first-hand information about the group meetings, book keeping, loan collection and repayment procedures followed in the group including the process of decision makings. They were exposed to groups which are engaged in business and agriculture related activities. Participants enquired about the raw materials and marketing of finished products and

the role of MFI in providing support services like procurement of raw materials, availability of timely credit and marketing of products. The participants were also exposed to a skill based training programme conducted by the District Central Cooperative Bank (DCCB), Bidar for the group members. They interacted with the group members freely and thereafter were taken to the DCCB Head Office located at Bidar. The participants earlier discussed about the functioning of Rural Self-Employment Training Institute (R-SETI) established by the DCCB at Bidar regarding the type and effectiveness of various self-employment training programmes with the Director and the training participants. During their field visit, they visited the Mailoor Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society and

various Self-help Groups at Halbarga and Nawad area as well as gained practical experiences of functioning of joint liability groups, procedures of record keeping, working of small sugar mills and running baby food units in a modern and scientific manner.

The participants presented reports of their filed visits and on the status of microfinance activities of their countries during the last week of the training programme. Some senior faculty members interacted with the participants in the valedictory session. The programme was coordinated by Dr.B.K.Swain, Professor and Head of the Centre for Rural Credit and Development Banking and supported by project consultants working in the Centre.

NIRD&PR-CIRDAP Collaborative International Training Programme on ICT Applications for Rural Development

NIRD&PR-CIRDAP Collaborative International Training Programme on ICT Applications for Rural Development which was sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India was conducted at this Institute during February 29 - 9 March, 2016.

As many as 18 participants from 10 CIRDAP Member Countries including three women took advantage of the programme. The participants were mostly senior officials with varied background in the fields of Agriculture & Irrigation, Rural Development, Information Technology, Disaster Management, Education, Land Reforms, etc. The main focus was



on the application of ICTs, its interventions in Rural Development covering key areas such as

e-Governance Projects, Role of Software Technology Parks, Recent Trends in Networks, ICT Innovations

in Health, Rice Knowledge Management Portal, Electronic Service Delivery, Application of Wireless Sensors in Groundnut production, e-Governance Scenario, Communication Media, Community Radio, Sustainable Agriculture Management at Grassroots, Geo-Informatics Applications in Rural Development, e-Marketing of Agriculture Products, Rice Portal, InDG Portal, Vikaspedia and Data Centre, etc.

Dr. D. Rama Rao, Director (NAARM), Hyderabad in his opening remarks emphasised the major role that information communication technologies are playing these days in every sphere and as a consequence, people at large are benefited mostly. Especially its reach needs to penetrate further in rural areas to help the farmers in villages. New gadgets have really transformed the way people interact and communicate these days diminishing space, time and distance.

The Resource Persons / Subject Specialists explained the application of emerging technologies and best practices evolved from time to time and also given examples / case studies followed by demo / live audio / presentations concerning National

and International situations. After the session / discussions, participants were provided ample opportunity to clear their doubts. The success and its implementation impressed the participants to have a thorough understanding of the techniques and usage of these applications in respective areas.

Participants were taken to various Service Centres including, NIC, ICRISAT, STPI, NISG, C-DAC, etc., in and around Hyderabad city which provided them an opportunity to go around the important ICT institutions of repute in the State of Telangana.

With a view to acquainting the participants with the field level exposure, a study tour was arranged to Deccan Development Society, Zaheerabad, Medak district where they had the opportunity of knowing the state-of-art-happening in Communication Media and Social Change, Community Radio, Mobile Telephony followed by case studies. They got the first-hand information about the activities and technologies being adopted at the grassroots in the area of Sustainable Agriculture, Seed Conservation, Vermi-compost and Sangam activities pertaining to livelihoods and use of community radio.

On 9 March, 2016, Shri Chiranjeev Choudary, IFS, Commissioner and Ex-Officio Secretary, Horticulture and Sericulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, addressed the participants on Women & Child Development using E-Sadhan software for effective monitoring of ICDS programme. Later he interacted with the participants and sought details about the usefulness of the programme and its application in back-home-situation. He stressed the importance of smart phone, tablets being used these days in every sphere of life especially in the digital world.

Participants appreciated the programme design, content, reading material, sequencing of sessions, lecture-cum-demos delivered by the resource persons, case studies, exposure visits including study tour, cultural programme, etc. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (ICD), CIRDAP in her vote of thanks, thanked the DG, NIRD&PR, DG, CIRDAP and Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for sponsoring this programme.

The programme was organised by Dr. P. Satish Chandra, Shri G.V. Satya Narayana of Centre for Information Technology of the Institute while Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran coordinated on behalf of CIRDAP.

Partnering for Knowledge Management in Rural Development : Heads of Institutes Meet at NIRD&PR

Rural Development Sector in terms of financial investment, knowledge and information have been expanding dramatically, in the present world towards bringing equity in regional

development, improving quality of life, providing basic amenities, social sector development, enhancement of the productivity of resources, creating economic and employment

opportunities. There has been expertise and rich experience evolved by numerous institutions engaged in the promotion of rural development including agricultural research &

training, extension, entrepreneurship in Hyderabad. There is an urgent need for networking of these institutions to strengthen the expertise and resources available, for accelerated rural development in knowledge sharing, training, research, action research and academic programmes. The networking of local institutions can provide professional assistance to the Central Ministries, State Governments, and other stakeholders including the rural poor, and attend to the issues related to rural development and would undertake and facilitate research and capacity development in a collaborative way in the interest of the society.

Heads of Institutions - NAARM, MANAGE, ICRISAT, CRIDA, TSIRD, ICM, WALAMTARI, IRR, NIPHM, EEI, TASK, etc., participated in the dialogue. Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director



General welcomed the heads / representatives of institutions and delineated the areas for partnering and networking amongst the institutions. These include policy and action research, collaborative training and capacity building, providing a platform for knowledge management, developing innovative mechanisms for creating a resource pool, sharing

infrastructure and resources for greater synergy and mutually act as think tank.

The participants appreciated the initiative of Director General, NIRD&PR and indicated that they are looking for continued relationship for mutual learning and strengthen efforts for sustainable development.

National Seminar on Strategies for Women and Child Survival

As a mark of celebration of International Women's day, a National Seminar on "Strategies for Women and Child Survival" was organised during 8-10 March, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The purpose of the seminar was to share the efforts made for survival of women and children through different programmes and to recommend interventions for policies and programmes related to survival of women and children.

The seminar received an overwhelming response from the participants of different States and more than 100 abstracts were



received. Out of them, 40 abstracts with full papers were selected and invited for presentation from academicians, researchers, practitioners, civil society organisations. The presenters were from prestigious universities and institutions of India such as Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, International Institute for Population Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, Indra Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, Institute of Economic Growth, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar University, New Delhi, Guwahati University, Assam, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, University of Pune, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, Visva Bharati University, West Bengal, etc.

Dr. A Laxmaiah, Head, Division of Community Studies, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad delivered the keynote address in the inaugural address. In his address he dwelt about the various issues related to maternal and child survival and suggested several strategies to improve the same based on the studies.

Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR chaired the concluding session and dwelt upon various issues related to the theme and emphasised the need for awareness in the context. Dr Reddy facilitated the chief guest of the session Dr M Ram Mohan Rao, Former Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. Earlier, Dr Ram Mohan in his address highlighted several issues related to women and child survival and advised to allocate more resources for the health sector.

The three days deliberations centered around six major themes of the seminar viz. Maternal and Child Mortality in India, National Health



Mission and Maternal and Child Health, Programmes for Women and Child Survival, Gender and Equity Issues for Health and Nutrition, Child Sex Ratio and Child Survival, Role of Panchayati Raj in Maternal and Child Health Care, and Nutrition and Anaemia among women and children. All the session themes were chaired by experts in those areas.

In these three days of deliberations on different issues of women and child survival, following important recommendations emerged:

- Need for an elaborative study on Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) through gender lens.
- Some of the innovative projects initiated to end Maternal Mortality should be expanded.
- Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 should be strictly implemented.
- Enhance the full immunisation of children in Telangana and elsewhere by educating the people using Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) approach.

- Strengthening the manpower and training of AWWs.
- The unmet need of family planning at micro level, particularly spacing methods should be addressed.
- Promote inter-sectoral cooperation and collaborations of success as well as unsuccessful stories for strengthening the Child Development process.
- Effective implementation of safe motherhoods schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana and other regional schemes like Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme of Tamil Nadu, Majoni of Assam, etc. It would be more appropriate if we implement those with Nutrient Coupons cum Cash Assistance scheme instead of conditional cash transfer assistance alone.

The seminar was coordinated by Dr. C S Singhal, Prof. & Head, Centre for Gender Studies & Development and Dr. Lakhani Singh, Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development, NIRD&PR.

Initiatives of Change: Faculty Development Programme

As part of the Faculty Development Programme of NIRD&PR, an Iterative Training Workshop was conducted by the 'Initiatives of Change (IofC)', Panchgani, Maharashtra on 28 March. Faculty Members, Project Directors, Advisers and Consultants comprised the participants. The programme was inspired by the thought process of the Director General Dr. W R Reddy. Ms Chanda Pandit, Registrar and Director (Admn.), introduced the IofC Team and contextualised its development endeavours. The programme was conceived and coordinated by the Centre for Research and Training Coordination and Networking (CRTCN).

“IofC is an idea in action to transform society through changes in human motives, behaviour and character ...Integral to the idea is a commitment to correct one's own life and then take strategic actions, as promised by the deepest in one's heart to correct the wrongs in society. The search for inner wisdom is at the heart of its



approach to caring, sharing, learning and practice”.

Based on the articulated motivation and learning needs of the NIRD&PR faculty, a series of high energy academic and life skill-oriented activities were custom designed and meticulously delivered by the IofC facilitators, spearheaded by Shri Suresh Khatri.

The participants were asked to voice their major concerns of rural

development and strategise their priorities of interventions vis-a-vis the mandate and strengths of NIRD&PR. Hectic activity followed by way of an exercise on 'What is in my Glass' that referred mainly to individual follies and the concomitant notions of 'rights and wrongs in one's life and living'. Varied and profound thoughts surfaced about one's 'Regrets' and the feeling of 'Right'. The experience sharing was at once revealing in as much as concealing and confiding.



The moral of the lesson was "give ourselves one more chance of being seen as "right" and "ethical". The participants were then persuaded to share their experience with rest of the participants to respond, without being judgmental, as all values were considered valid and respected. "Ethics is performing more and expecting / taking less from any designated activity or objective".

The need for group thinking and planning was conveyed through a group exercise of Tower Building with newspapers. Involvement of team members and optimal use of human resources was the bottomline.

The facilitators have creatively demonstrated the use of personal narratives for driving home the point of personality development and a sense of responsibility. Thematic songs, skits and video clippings were imaginately used to drive home

the spirit of group work and ethics. 'The problem of ethical illiteracy must now be overcome by design' is the lesson learnt. Ethical illiteracy and spiritual malnutrition is a scourge. 'Let us do something together to overcome the same' was the group conclusion. 'The power of synergistic thinking and resolution is the answer to the pressing problems of rural development' was seen as pragmatic application.

Next was the lesson learnt in overcoming the problem of little or no confidence in what we seek to do through another exercise. The substance of this exercise was "We need to become a part of the problem resolution exercise, otherwise you are the problem", as summarised by the facilitators.

Methodologically, the lofC has added to the participant's inventory of exercises in Team Work, Team

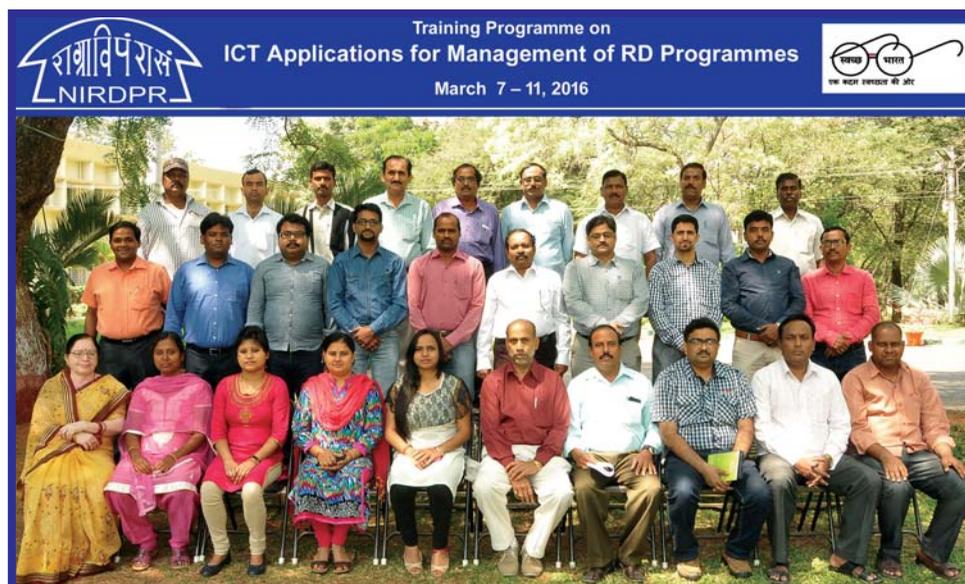
building, Communication, Motivation and the challenges of working together. The nuances and niceties of training methods were highlighted, notwithstanding the oft quoted differences of perceptions and practices.

The workshop concluded with the following emotional but pragmatic resolution that 'whatever it takes, we must strive to achieve the overall objective of NIRD&PR with utmost sincerity and professionalism'.

Dr.P.Durgaprasad, Adviser and Project Head, CRTCN capped up the learning objective and its outcome, even while appreciating the critical contribution of life-skills, training methods, ethics and values. The honesty and purpose with which the lofC has facilitated the programme was applauded by the faculty members.

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" during March 7-11, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. Twenty six participants, including five women, representing Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, DRDA, Zilla Parishad (ZPs), Watersheds (IWMP), RIRDs, Agriculture and Rural Development departments from 11 States namely, Assam, Bihar, Haryana,



J&K, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal participated and took advantage of this programme. The main focus of this programme is to sensitise functionaries of Rural Development and line departments to the potential of ICTs, e-governance, Geo-Informatics, monitoring and evaluation, project management for effective management of Rural Development programmes and providing skills in development of Information Systems.

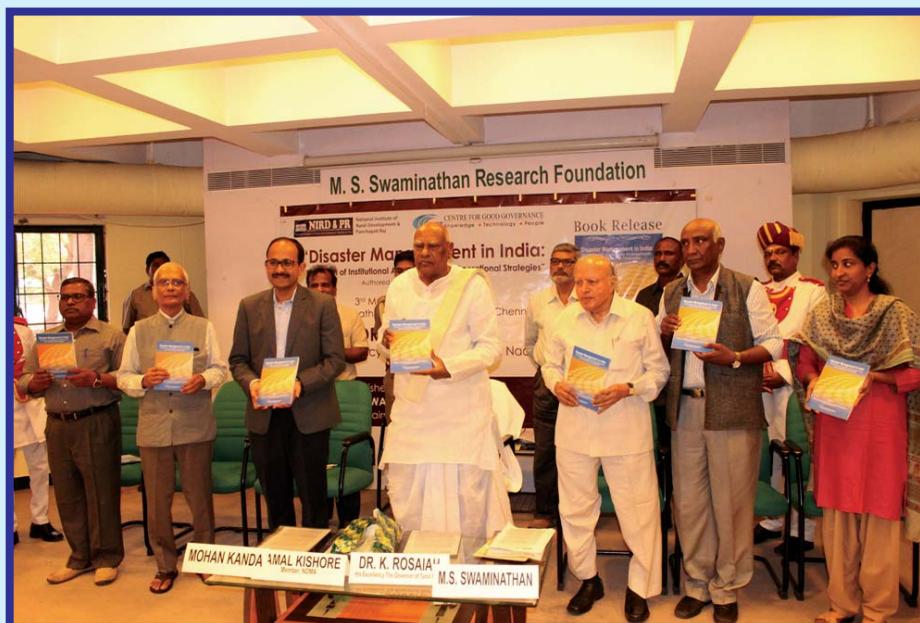
A field visit to Rajapur village of Balanagar mandal, Mahabubnagar district was organised for providing

insight into various intricacies in managing rural development programmes at the grassroots level concerned with MGNREGA, IWMP and Pensions and also about the SHG activities. The participants were provided opportunity to interact with the elected representatives at the Rajapur village for gaining knowledge of various Rural Development initiatives taking place in those villages. The participants also interacted with SHG members, learnt about the process and ICT practices of SHG management, and livelihood activities and appreciated the efforts in the delivery of services to the rural poor.

As part of the field visit, participants visited DWMA office of Mahabubnagar district, interacted with DWMA and DRDA officials and gained knowledge about the initiatives of Telangana State for poverty alleviation in general and of Mahabubnagar district in particular. The programme was well received and the participants expressed that there is need for organising many such programmes. The programme was coordinated by Shri G V Satya Narayana, Senior Assistant Professor and Dr. P Satish Chandra, Head of Information and Communication Technology (CICT).

Book on Disaster Management Released

NIRD&PR in association with Centre for Good Governance published a book written by Dr. Mohan Kanda, IAS, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The book titled “Disaster Management in India: Evolution of Institutional Arrangements and Operational Strategies”, discussed the topics such as prevention and preparedness, relief and rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery, risk assessment and vulnerability analysis to mention a few. The book extensively referred the Disaster Management Act, 2005 which came into existence as the “Magna Carta” of Disaster Management. The book covered both natural and man-made disasters and also recent disasters such as Hudhud, Phailin, Katrina, etc., in the form of case studies.



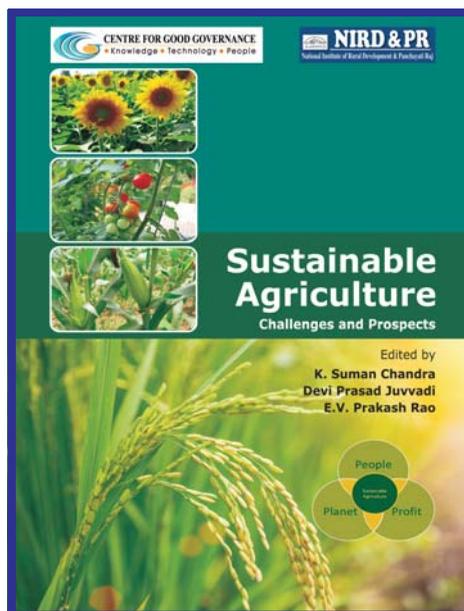
The book was released by His Excellency Dr. K. Rosaiah Garu, Governor of Tamil Nadu at a function organised by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai on 3 March

2016. The book is a timely guide for preparation of a sustainable framework for future generations, Disaster Management programme implementors, policy makers and also useful to student community.

Book on Sustainable Agricultural Strategies Released

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) and Centre for Good Governance (CGG), Government of Telangana jointly organised an International Conference on "Sustainable Agricultural Strategies for Rural Development" at CGG on 9 January, 2016. Seventeen country representatives participated along with Indian participants. Based on the papers presented, an edited book was published by NIRD&PR jointly with CGG.

The edited volume was released by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan at a function organised at MSSRF, Chennai on 3 March, 2016. The volume is edited by Dr. K. Suman Chandra, Professor & Head (CAS); Prof. Devi Prasad



Juvvadi, Director (AMRG), CGG and Dr. E.V. Prakash Rao, Professor &

Head (CCC&DM). Speaking on the occasion of book release, Prof. Swaminathan said that sustainability rests on the principle that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. He further added that while conventional agriculture is driven almost solely by productivity and profit, sustainable agriculture integrates biological, chemical, physical, ecological, economic and social sciences in a comprehensive way to develop new farming practices that are safe and way to achieve food security without degrading our environment. Prof. Swaminathan congratulated the editors for their efforts.

Hindi Workshop on Unicode



One-day Hindi Workshop on Unicode was conducted on 10 March, 2016 for Group "C" employees of NIRD&PR, for the first time four employees of NIRD&PR, NERC Guwahati also attended the above workshop. Director General Dr. W.R. Reddy and Ms. Chanda

M. Pandit, Registrar & Director (Admn) were also present during the workshop. Dr. A. Debapriya, Asst. Registrar inaugurated the workshop. He felt "Unicode" is very useful for official work. Shri Ram Singh, Dr. Kamaluddin, Hindi Pradhyapak, were the resource persons for the

workshop. The first session was about Unicode software and second session about Hindi grammar and administrative glossary. Smt. Anita Pandey, Asst. Director (OL) and Shri E. Ramesh, Sr. Hindi Translator and Syed Isaq Hussain coordinated the programme.

National Seminar on 'Dynamics of Rural Labour Relations in India'

S.R. Sankaran Chair (Rural Labour) at NIRD&PR organised a three-day National Seminar on 'Dynamics of Rural Labour Relations in India', during 10-12 March, 2016. The main objective of the Seminar was to have a holistic understanding of the rapid changes that are taking place in rural labour markets during the last two decades or so due to a variety of factors including various development and welfare programmes; and gradual structural changes in the countryside due to ongoing economic reforms in the country.

Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, an eminent economist of India delivered the Inaugural Address. Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, delivered the Keynote Address. The Inaugural Session was chaired by Prof. R. Radhakrishna, a noted economist and Chairman, Advisory Committee, S.R Sankaran Chair. Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director



General, NIRD&PR gave a Welcome Address, and Dr. Kailash Sarap, Professor, S.R. Sankaran Chair, briefed about the Conference. Prof. Yoginder K. Alagh, Professor, an eminent economist and Chancellor of Central University, Gujarat delivered the Valedictory Address.

There were five Technical Sessions. Around thirty presentations were

made by distinguished scholars and promising young researchers during the seminar. Several distinguished scholars including Professor S.K.Rao, Prof. Judith Heyer, Prof. K.P. Kannan, Prof. Indira Hirway, Prof. Nagaraj, Prof. Panchanan Das, Dr. Sher Singh Verick from ILO, New Delhi, participated in the Seminar and contributed to the deliberations on different themes of the seminar.

Technology and Institutional Arrangements for Water Resource Management in IWMP

Conventional watershed approaches in the past, have focused only on soil and water conservation measures and therefore, have not brought in much productivity gains or contributed to improve rural livelihoods. The crucial concern of the integrated watershed programme

is of sustaining the benefits of this programme beyond the project period. This can only be possible if incomes generated by them are transformed into savings and investment, that sets the platform for a long-term economic transformation of the area. The two key

requirements for this to become possible are a) Application of technology for augmenting water resource conservation and distribution and b) Strengthening the people's institutions that would provide leadership to solicit the support systems.

In this context, Centre for Water and Land Resources (CWLR) of NIRD&PR has organised a Regional Training Programme on “Technology and Institutional Arrangements for Water Resource Management in IWMP” at Yashada, Pune during 1-5 February, 2016. It is a sponsored programme of Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), GoI. The participants of this programme are district and sub-district functionaries working in Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP).

The broad themes that were covered in the five-day programme were conventional and indigenous technological options for water resource conservation and distribution, community managed surface and groundwater systems, conceptual framework and operational modalities for institutions,



support systems vital for effective functioning of the institutions under IWMP. Besides classroom sessions, case studies on some successful producer institutions were given for group discussion, to discuss the facilitating factors for success. One-day field visit was organised to a

successful watershed programme in Satara district followed by the presentation on the field visit by the participants. The programme was organised by Dr.Ch.Radhika Rani and Dr. U.Hemantha Kumar, Faculty, NIRD&PR.

Training Programme on Sustainable Production and Income Generation under IWMP

Watershed Programme is a key programme to restore natural resources and reduce poverty in the rainfed areas in the country. The nature and scope of the programme has been undergoing many changes and the approaches have been evolved from an externally imposed biophysical interventions to participatory production and income generation interventions. The guidelines are being reviewed periodically so that investments in watershed management have a long-lasting impact on crop production and rural livelihoods in rainfed cropping areas. However, the augmentation in natural

resources with watershed programme should have an organic linkage with the production systems for landed class and livelihoods for landless class in the area. Institutionalising good practices into the watershed programme is also a matter of concern.

In this context, Centre for Water and Land Resources (CWLR) of NIRD&PR organised a Training Programme on “Sustainable Production and Income Generation under IWMP” at NIRD&PR during February 22-26, 2016. It is a sponsored programme of Department of Land Resources

(DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), GoI. The participants represented the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. The broad themes on which the participants worked in the five-day programme were 1. Establishing linkages between natural resource management (NRM), production systems and livelihoods 2. Identifying good practices in NRM and production systems and dovetailing them into IWMP framework 3. Understanding the philosophy of institutions in IWMP and the options for upscaling their



Training Programme on
" Sustainable Production and Income Generation under IWMP"
Sponsored by DoLR
February 22-26, 2016



activities. A one-day exposure visit was organised to Uday Agri Producer Company in Medak district during which participants interacted with the board directors, producer members

and the CEO. Participants submitted a note regarding the important points that they have learned during the course of training programme which, they would like

to implement in their area of work. The programme was organised by Dr. Ch.Radhika Rani and Dr. Siddayya, CWLR, NIRD&PR.

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