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International Training Programme on Management of Watersheds for Sustainable Livelihoods



The International Programme on “Management of Watersheds for Sustainable Livelihoods” sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India under NIRD Plan of Action for India –Africa Forum – 2011 was organised by Research and Training Division (RTD) during 12 – 27 March, 2012. The Programme aimed at discussing the major issues in watershed development and their impact on sustainable rural livelihoods and to share Indian experiences in watershed management. Twelve participants drawn from six countries - Botswana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe - attended the course. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. M.V.Rao, IAS, Director General, NIRD, who highlighted the importance of natural resource management for sustainable rural development in general and livelihoods in particular.

The programme deliberations started with an overview of agricultural scenario in African countries and its implications for sustainable livelihoods. This was followed by presentations on technological aspects of different components of watershed development. Given the importance of people’s participation in ensuring sustainable development, aspects relating to social and community mobilisation and capacity building were also discussed. This was followed by analysis of initiatives and options for livelihood development in watershed projects.

Besides classroom presentations and discussions, study visits to watershed projects have been included. As a part of it, participants visited projects in Karnataka to have hands-on experience in field on planning and operational aspects of watershed management as also initiatives of farm and non-farm based livelihoods. Based on inputs, discussions and field observations, participants were facilitated to develop their individual action plan for projects in their respective countries. Valedictory address was delivered by Dr.M.V.Rao, IAS, D.G, NIRD wherein he stressed on

implementation of what has been gained form the training in the management of watersheds in the countries.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. D.Bidari, Professor and Head, RTD and Dr. V.K.Reddy, Adjunct faculty, RTD, NIRD.

Planning and Management of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)



A one-week training programme on “Planning and Management of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)”, sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development(MoRD), Government of India (GoI), was organised by the Centre for Equity and Social Development (CESD)at NIRD during 23-27 April, 2012. Participation was from senior and middle level officers implementing NSAP across eleven states of India.

The programme covered the five components of NSAP viz., Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGMOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna. The objectives of the programme are: to enhance the understanding of the participants about the rationale for the various social security programmes including the NSAP; to develop requisite skills for effective planning, and monitoring of the various components of the NSAP within the framework of the prescribed institutional framework and mechanism; and to share the best practices in effective planning and implementation of the NSAP. The subjects covered by the experts include an overview of NSAP, social sector in unorganised sector, use of IT for effective implementation of NSAP, Grievance Redressal Mechanism, and experiences and best practices from states.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. V. Annamalai, Associate Professor and Dr. R. R. Prasad, Professor and Head, Centre for Equity and Social Development.

Training of Trainers on Training Methods and Skills



As part of capacity building of institutions for training for Rural Development, NIRD has planned four training programmes for training of trainers during 2012 – 13. It was felt that in addition to subject matter related programmes, there is a need to have programmes for trainers on methodological aspects of training. Accordingly, the first in the series was organised at NIRD during 16-20 April, 2012 for faculty members of SIRDS, ETCs and PRTCs. The programme aimed at providing grounding in training methods and communication skills and their applications to the training programmes meant for rural development professionals. It was attended by 27 participants- seven from SIRDS, eleven from ETCs and nine from PRTCs. Participants were drawn from eight States which included Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.

In tune with the objectives, the programme was designed focusing on different training methods and techniques. This included lecture method, discussion methods, case method, role play, field /exposure visit method etc. Besides, themes such as systematic approach to training, role of trainer and learning principles and styles were also included with a view to providing context to the presentations and discussions on methods. Dr.M.V.Rao, IAS, D.G, NIRD in the interaction with the participants highlighted the importance of the training skills for trainers in addition to the expertise and experience in the subject matter content of training.

As the objective of the programme was to develop skills in the use of different methods, presentations/explanations on the method was followed by demonstration and practice sessions. As part of it, participants were facilitated to try out the skills on selected themes related to Rural Development and get feedback from faculty and fellow

participants. Further, Dr. R.R. Prasad, Professor & Head, CESD while delivering the valedictory address, guided the participants on how to prepare individual action plan on the methods and skills which helps them for implementation in their back home situation.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. D.Bidari, Professor & Head, Dr. V.K.Reddy, Adjunct faculty, and Dr. R.P.Achari, Associate Professor, Research and Training Division.

Gender Issues And Youth Empowerment

A programme on Gender Issues and Youth Empowerment was organised during 16-20 April, 2012 at NIRD to discuss the gender issues in the development and empowerment context and to emphasise their importance; to enable the participants develop an understanding about the specific role of rural youth in development programmes and to acquaint the participants with managerial skills for effective functioning of youth organisations.

The main content covered in the course was gender in rural development; national policy on youth and youth development programmes; strategies for empowerment of women and National Policy for Empowerment of Women; participation of youth in development programmes (self/wage employment programmes) ; designing training programme for youth groups; leadership and motivation management for youth.

Altogether 35 participants comprising district youth coordinators of Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan, senior and middle level officers from Women Development Corporation, Department of Youth and Sports and other line departments and few NGO activists attended the course.

Dr. C.S. Singhal, Prof & Head , and Dr A.Rizwana, Adjunct Faculty of Centre for Women Development & Gender Studies coordinated the programme.



Planning and Management of Social Security Programmes for Rural Poor

The Centre for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (CPME) organised a training programme on “Planning and Management of Social Security Programmes for Rural Poor” during 16-21 April, 2012 at NIRD. This programme covered 21 participants from different States like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam, Tripura, Goa, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The contents of the programme covered all the three dimensions of social security like: preventive, promotive and protective aspects inculcating sessions on nutrition, food security, mid-day meal, provision and mechanism of Cess for unorganised workers, constitutional safeguards for the weaker sections, empowerment through self and wage employment, schemes of insurance for poor, Social Assistance Programmes, etc. Dr. P.C. Sikligar, Associate Professor, CPME organised this programme.



Promoting Women's Political Leadership and Governance

Two Regional Programmes for Master Trainers were organised during 17 - 21 April, 2012 and 24-28 April, 2012 at SIRD, Bhubaneswar, Odisha as part of the ongoing project on “Promoting Women's Political Leadership and Governance in India” being implemented with the support of UN Women, South Asia Regional Office (SARO).

The major objectives of these programmes were to create a pool of trainers and equip them with the skills needed to train the Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Promoting Women's Political Leadership and Governance. Altogether 46 resource persons identified in Odisha State comprising Government Officials, PRIs, NGO's and other

experts belonging to two districts i.e. Dhenkanal and Gajapathi attended these programmes.

Participants were oriented about the different modules viz. PRIs and Women Leadership, Socio-Cultural Construct of Gender, Gender Mainstreaming and Empowerment, Development Programmes, Partnership with Local Organisations and Development Planning in PRIs and livelihood developed by Centre for Women Development and Gender Studies in collaboration with UN Women and other gender experts. These resource persons are expected to train the EWRs in their respective district in the coming months under the UN Women project.

The programmes were coordinated by Dr. C.S. Singhal, Prof & Head, CWD&GS and other team members including faculty of SIRD, Odisha.



Workshop on Networking With Disabled Persons Organisations

Persons with Disabilities (PWD), one of the most vulnerable sections of the society are kept out of the mainstream development due to various problems faced by them including isolation and discrimination. In an effort to bring them into the mainstream, Parivaar and Swadhikaar (both NGOs) in association with NIRD organised two-days workshop on 2-3 April, 2012. The main objective of the workshop was to identify various modalities for the inclusion of PWD in all the government sponsored rural development programmes. In this regard, 53 participants participated and deliberated in the workshop.

Dr. Kalpana Kannabiran, Director, Council for Social Development delivered the keynote address on “Inclusive Society for PWD and their Role in Social Development”. The workshop came out with an action plan for the

inclusive development of PWD and also identified key areas, where NIRD can collaborate with Disabled Persons' Organisation. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. K.P. Kumaran, Professor & Head (CMRD).



Workshop on Identification Of Best Practices in IAY

The workshop on identification of Best Practices in Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was organised on 27-28 April, 2012 as a part of major research study conducted in 12 states at the instance of the Rural Housing Division of MoRD. About 50 persons from different states representing various institutions participated in the workshop. Dr.M.V.Rao, DG, NIRD in his inaugural address highlighted the need for convergence of various services with the housing programme. He has also drawn the attention of participants on the need for productive housing linking with the land issue as a part of homestead scheme of Gol. Further, he has shared the policy discussions of Bangladesh, where the problem of access to land for housing is addressed with the concept of multi-storied complexes for the rural poor considering the increasing pressure on agricultural land.

Shri Shyamal Gan, Member of Working Group on Rural Housing of Twelfth Five Year Plan and state secretariat of FOSET, an NGO working on alternative housing technologies from Kolkata presented the recommendations for rural housing during the Twelfth Five Year Plan as part of his keynote address. Shri G.Vasudeo from Vivekananda Kendra of Kanyakumari, another member of working group supplemented the recommendations of Twelfth Five Year Plan for timely provision of housing to all the needy people. Dr.S.Venkatadri and Dr. Y. Gangi Reddy of Centre for Rural Infrastructure, NIRD presented the study findings and several good practices adopted by different

districts/states government agencies involved in the implementation of IAY. The delegates of state governmental agencies, DRDAs, NGOs and other organisations representing the study districts and states have also supplemented with the current good practices adopted in the respective areas.

The workshop was organised based on the following sub themes and presentations were made under the each sub-theme considering the importance of rural housing and the need for changes during Twelfth Five Year Plan for effective implementation of IAY :

Based on the presentations made by the concerned subject experts and the group discussions on the same themes the following recommendations were made in the workshop.

I. Selection Process

- BPL survey should be conducted by using multiple methods like Participatory method, Income method, Expenditure / Consumption method and it should be done once in five years.
- Selection should be made from the permanent IAY waiting list according to existing provision without any deviation
- Selection of the beneficiary should be strictly based on seniority
- Gram Sabha has to pass a resolution of such selection in public so as to ensure the transparency in the selection of genuine beneficiaries

II. Access to Land

- Wherever government Land / panchayat land is available it should be reserved for allotment of sites free of cost to IAY beneficiaries.
- If the beneficiary is owning agriculture land then permission should be given to construct IAY house, in an area not exceeding 40 x 60 feet. Land acquisition problems must be addressed by the states involving PRIs at various levels and revenue department authorities
- It is compulsory to provide temporary shelter while construction was going on.

III. Convergence

- TSC amount should be increased and the same can be made available with the IAY implementing agency on the lines of AP.
- Both IAY and TSC should be taken up by a single agency across the country.
- All IAY houses should have Rashtriya Swasthya Bhima Yojana (RSBY) cards and it should be a continuous process.

- BPL card itself (attested) should be a proof of insurance on the lines of Rajasthan for any claims.
- All IAY households should be linked to various employment oriented schemes so as to ensure full employment for at-least one member in each family.

IV. Instalment System for the Unit Cost

- Four Instalments should be provided.
- The minimum Unit Cost should be R 75,000 as per cost estimation and it should be varied from state to state and community to community.
- Bank credit should be compulsory and it should be atleast R 50,000. For repayment security purpose every household should have MGNREGA Cards and that amount should be provided through banks only.
- Initiations from SHGs, SHG federations, NGOs, GPs, Officials should be encouraged by way of awards and rewards.

V. Type Design and Technologies

- Minimum Plinth Area should be 300 Sq ft preferably with 3 rooms
- Type Design should be such that it takes care of livelihood activities of the household
- Type Design should be on the lines of Green building concept including compatible to Roof Water Harvesting

Cost-effective Techniques and Technologies

- Rural Building Centres be revived and established at block level.
- Competent NGOs may also be given responsibility for setting up RBCs
- State level workshops on eco-friendly construction technologies for sustainable habitat management for IAY houses should be organised
- To construct model units (single and multiple) applying engineered traditional technologies in different geo-climatic zones.
- To award ISO codes to cost-effective technologies
- Structural and stability certificates to be provided for these technologies from registered Engineers for acceptance by beneficiaries
- Although, proven housing technologies were developed in terms of roofing, walling, plinth, flooring etc., their suitability and relevance in terms of cost-effectiveness varies widely across the regions. A proper mix of recommended practices / technologies in the construction should be encouraged in each state with various designs meeting the requirements of different occupational groups

VI. Disaster Proof Housing Models

- The location specific technologies with specific design suited for a particular region of each state must be specified so that field functionaries can adopt such models and designs
- Necessary training should be given on the techniques and technologies required for different disaster proof housing to the local engineers and masons
- RBCs should work under the control of State Housing Corporation.
- Through RBCs:
 - ✓ Clusters should be identified based on availability of raw material for the construction; Cost-effective techniques should be identified;
 - ✓ Cost-effective technologies should be identified;
 - ✓ Demonstrative cost-effective houses should be constructed at-least some in each block;
 - ✓ Case studies should be collected in each block and it should be documented;

VII. Institutional Networking

- In the states where institutions were built, the performance of IAY was remarkable especially in Southern states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Under staffing was noticed in many DRDAs and achievement of targets was greatly affected. Hence, enough staff support must be ensured for effective implementation of IAY
- Monitoring mechanism at DRDA level has become weak due to absence of enough engineering staff. Hence, the need for strengthening the monitoring mechanism with the support of MIS applications
- The strategy of tapping the potential / charismatic leadership at different levels of some states seem to have yielded spectacular result which may be attempted in all the states
- The administrative cost should be allowed and must be paid for effective implementation of IAY

VIII. MIS Applications for Transparency and Accountability Including AWAASSoft

- There should be integration of state level software, if any, to Awaassoft.
- Uploading of BPL List and IAY Permanent Wait List should be mandatory to Awaassoft either directly or through the states specific software.
- Video films on Best Practices including Rural Building Centre of RTP, NIRD should be made available on the website
- Post Offices should be encouraged to go for core banking so that e-payment should be facilitated.

NIRD PGDRDM STUDENTS SELECTED AS PMRD FELLOWS

The following previous batch students of the NIRD's Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) have been selected under the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellows (PMRDF) Scheme:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nibedita Mohanti | 4. Alok Mohapatra |
| 2. Mansi Kaushik | 5. Arnabh Sharma |
| 3. Rohit Joshi | 6. Sayantan Sarkar |

The Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellows (PMRDF) Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India that envisages the setting up of a pool of young and committed development facilitators stationed in each of the 60 Districts of the country outlined under the Integrated Action Plan (IAP), to assist the Collector and his/her team.

The IAP has been specifically devised for 60 Tribal and Backward Districts of the country faced with acute consequences of left wing extremism. The MoRD firmly believes in the need for a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach to tackle the unique developmental challenges that these areas throw up. With particular reference to the importance of efficient, accountable and transparent implementation of social sector interventions in these areas, the PMRDF Scheme seeks to tap the talent, commitment and energy of the youth of the country in supporting processes to understand the community and its socio-cultural and political structure, local economy and its linkages, and relationship of the political and executive machinery with the community. The scheme seeks to supplement the strategic support required by the District Administration in these areas, in improving the planning process through effective decentralisation, monitoring the implementation and rapidly assessing results of key interventions.

Once recruited, the Fellows will be appointed for a period of two years on a fixed contract, extendable for one more year based on performance. The range of activities to be undertaken by the Fellows include:

- Conducting an analysis of the socio-economic and political economy of the District stationed in and ascertain the felt needs of the people
- Learning and promoting micro-planning (at ward and panchayat levels) in the district
- Providing critical inputs in preparation of district plans and outcome budgets
- Conducting data analysis relating to budget outlays and optimum utilisation of funds
- Identifying critical gaps in the design and implementation of development programmes
- Setting up a network for voluntary cooperation in the local area, on the basis of identifying the presence of key civil society organisations (CSO) in the said District
- Assisting district collectors in carrying out any assignment desired by the collector
- This would be complemented by a set of supportive actions such as building the capacity of district and block officials through designing and participating in streamlined trainings; triggering wide and inclusive district-wide social mobilisation processes particularly among the youth; achieve a ground swell of support and build strong relationships with the Gram Panchayats to facilitate feeding mechanisms between them and the stationed bureaucracy.

PGDRDM Students Offered Placements

The placement event Phase -1 of NIRD's PGDRDM (Batch -IV) was held between 30 April and 8 May 2012. The second phase of placements is scheduled in Mid June to Mid July. Nearly two-thirds (19) of the (33) eligible students have been offered placements in various organisations. The other students include 10 International students, who will be placed in their own organisations, are not a part of the placement process.

The recruiting organisations included the State Governments, Semi Government Institutions, Corporate Social Responsibility Units of Industrial Houses such as the Reliance foundation and NGO's Like The Grameen Vikas Trust. The average salary offered was R 25,000 per month + Allowances.

The event is coordinated by Dr. A. Debapriya, Placement Coordinator (PGDRDM-CPGS).

STATUE OF DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNVEILED



Dr M V Rao, Director General, NIRD unveiled the bust of Dr B R Ambedkar on the eve of 122nd birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar on 14.4.2012 at NIRD Library. After garlanding and paying floral tributes to the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution by Dr M V Rao, Heads of the Centres, Faculty and Staff, a prayer song in Buddhist style was recited by Shri I B Gajghate.

On this occasion, Dr M. V Rao, recollected the boldness and commitment of Dr Ambedkar who excelled himself in various fields of education and developed multi-faceted personality despite acute unfavourable socio-economic conditions during the days of his childhood. Dr M V Rao also highlighted Dr Ambedkar's significant contributions to the constitutional provisions with legal sanctity for the ideology of equity and social justice, which indeed paved way for socio-economic transformation among socially disadvantaged sections.

Dr R R Prasad, Prof. & Head (CESD) , highlighted the relentless efforts of Dr Ambedkar towards socio-economic and political empowerment of disadvantaged sections.

On this auspicious occasion, Dr M V Rao released three compendiums of literature (1) Dr B R Ambedkar's Ideological Contributions towards Egalitarianism, (2) Equal Opportunity and Hurdles for the Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and (3) Perspectives on Socio-Economic Development of Dalits in India compiled by Shri I B Gajghate, Dr B Chakravarty and Dr K P Kumaran. Shri R. Ramchander, General Secretary of NIRD SC&ST Employees Welfare Association presented a bouquet to Dr. M.V. Rao as a token of gratitude.

While proposing a vote of thanks, Dr K Suman Chandra, Prof. & Head (CAS & DM) appealed the gathering to imbibe the ideology of Dr Ambedkar and emulate the same towards achieving excellence in chosen fields.

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National Institute of Rural Development
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030
Phone : 24008473
Fax : (040) 24008473
E-mail : ciec@nird.gov.in
website : www.nird.org.in

Director General : Dr. M.V. Rao, IAS

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