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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

Newsletter

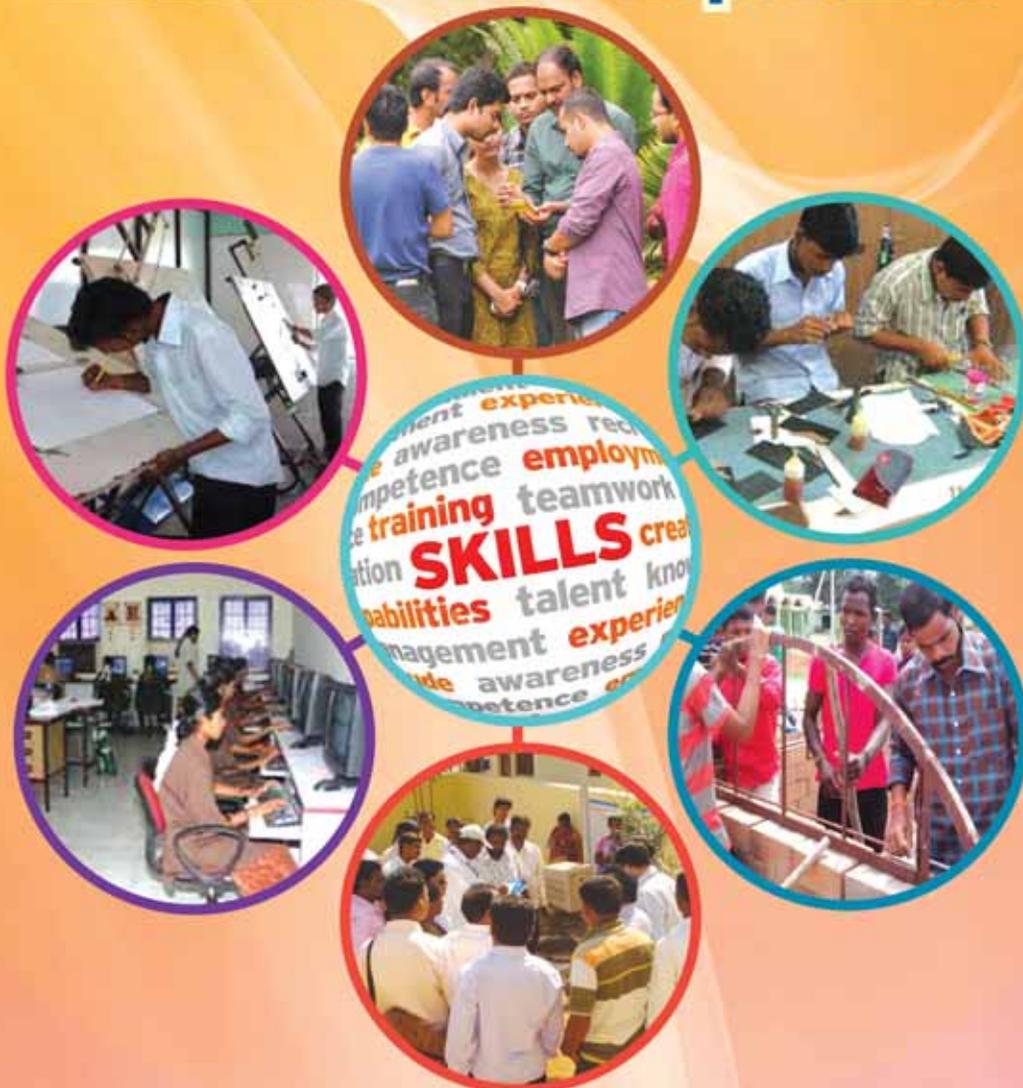
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Skill Development for Rural Youth Initiatives and Perspectives



Cover Story

Skill Development for Rural Youth Initiatives and Perspectives

430 million people in our country are in the age group 15-34 and constitute 35% of the population (Census 2011). This age group is projected to increase to 464 million by 2021. This can result in a “demographic dividend” for India if the capabilities of the youth are also developed. However, considering the present status of the workforce in terms of educational attainment and skill training, this is a big challenge. If the challenge is overcome by investing adequately in their education and employability, this youth power has the potential to transform the Indian economy.

It is in the above context, skill development and self-employment programmes have been part of the initiatives for rural development. The programmes of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) for self-employment and creation of assets started with Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in the year 1980. During the 9th plan period, Self-Employment



Programmes were revamped and merged into a holistic self-employment scheme called Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). It graduated in 2004 to Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)- Special Projects. This programme was revisited in the light of the new Skills framework and repositioned as Aajeevika Skills.

The Aajeevika Skills Scheme has been revamped in 2014 as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). The programme has now been refocused

and reprioritised to build the capacity of rural poor youth to address the need of domestic and global skills requirement. The focus is on skilling and placement in the formal sector so as to provide youth with jobs having regular monthly wages at or above the minimum wages. In the approach of the Scheme, the shift is in emphasis from training to career progression.

MoRD also operates Himayat, a special scheme under Aajeevika Skills for Jammu and Kashmir. Besides, a special scheme called Roshni has been launched that takes into account the peculiar situation in extremist affected districts.

NIRD&PR is envisaged to play facilitating role in skill development initiatives. Accordingly, as part of Aajeevika Skills and now under DDU-GKY, the Institute has been entrusted with the role of nodal agency for the release of the funds received from MoRD to the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and monitoring of the activities.



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Diploma Awarding Ceremony of PGDRDM Batch - 7



The Diploma Awarding Ceremony of NIRD&PR PGDRDM Batch-7, 2014 was held on December 27, 2014. Shri T. L. Sankar, IAS (Retd.), former Director General of the Institute and Honorary Visiting Professor, Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad was the Chief Guest of the occasion. Dr M.V. Rao, Director General & Chairman, Academic Committee, NIRD & PR PGDRDM presided over the function.

Dr. S M Ilyas, Programme Director, Centre for Postgraduate Studies briefed on the objectives and progress of the Programme, internship and placement status of the students of PGDRDM Batch-7.

Dr M V Rao in his observations referred to different strategies of NIRD&PR in building the human capital for rural development in the country. He highlighted that the students who have passed out from the programme are performing very well in the field of rural development. Further, he said that unlike other professions, rural development as a profession is different in that, It is more service demanded compared to other jobs. He emphasised that the passing out students should have passion for working in the rural areas.

Director General administered Rural Development oath by the students. Shri T. L. Sankar, Chief Guest awarded diplomas to all the successful students. Three best performing students were awarded with Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Ms. Anjaly Teresa John was conferred with Gold Medal, Mr. Kunal Daripa was awarded with Silver Medal and Ms. Divya Singh was awarded with Bronze Medal.



Shri T L Sankar, in his address appreciated the efforts of NIRD&PR in building the human capital to bridge the gap between demand and supply in rural

development sector. He advised the students to have optimism in addressing the needs and demands of the rural people. The service that is going to be

delivered by these students is typical, as they are dealing with the people who are required to be given sensitisation about many aspects of rural development.

Workshop on Standard Operating Procedures for Implementation of DDU-GKY

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Govt. of India has approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Deen Dayal Upadhyaya – Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (erstwhile Aajeevika Skills). In this connection, Orientation Workshop on SOPs for the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) was held at NIRD&PR during 18-19 December 2014. 120 participants representing different SRLMs and PIAs participated in the programme.

The objectives of the Workshop were (i) to indicate the flow of actions to be performed from the beginning to end of the DDU-GKY project; (ii) to inculcate a culture of control consciousness across the stakeholders; (iii) to systematically track and record all current process and procedures during the implementation of the

project; and (iv) to test the SOP e-learning portal.

Shri Vineel Krishna Ravella, Project Director (DDU-GKY)/ Chief Operating Officer, Roshni Projects, NIRD&PR sensitised the participants on the importance of SOPs and implementation procedures. Accomplished skill training providers were invited to make presentations on best practices and success stories on skill development projects. As part of the workshop, beta version of e-learning module of SOPs was introduced to the participants. The e-learning portal is designed for

delivering courses on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). It has courses designed for basic users who implement the programme; and for advanced users who can train the basic users. The workshop was coordinated by Shri K.R. Padmanabha Rao, Assistant Project Director and team members of DDU-GKY, NIRD&PR.



International Training Programme on Community Driven Rural Development

A six-week International Training Programme on Community Driven Rural Development was organised from 3 November to 12 December, 2014 at NIRD&PR. This was sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India under ITEC/SCAP Fellowship Programme. Sixteen participants have attended the programme representing ten countries. The programme consisted of four modules followed by two weeks study tour. The modules were Rural Development: Concept and Strategies, Community Driven Rural Development: Concept & Methodology, Community Participation and

Community Mobilisation. As part of the programme, participants were taken to Bala Vikasa Community Driven Development Programme in Telangana for one week duration and given training on Asset Based Community Development, Appreciative enquiry and participatory rural appraisal theory and practice. Participants also visited Model village Gangadevipally and learnt the ABCD approach and local governance practices. They planted trees as a token of their visit to the village. Participants were also taken on study tour to Rural development programmes in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. Besides, they were also exposed to MANTRA

Programme of Gram Vikas and provided an opportunity to interact with the stakeholders of Community Driven Water and Sanitation Programme in Ganjam district of Odisha. In valedictory session Shri S.M Vijayanand, Special Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Govt.of India and Dr. M.V.Rao, Director General, NIRD&PR interacted with the participants and shared Indian experience in Rural Development and also had feedback on the training programme. The programme was coordinated by Dr.R.R.Prasad, Professor & Head, Dr.T.Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor, CESD, NIRD&PR.



Tree plantation by International Participants at Model Village Gangadevipally



Participants lighting the lamp at Bala Vikasa Community Development Programme



Participants interacting with the community

International Training Programme on Geo-Informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices

An International Training Programme on Geo-Informatics Applications in Rural Development for Sharing Innovative and Best Practices was held during 1 October – 23 December, 2014 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India under ITEC / SCAP Fellowship programme.

The programme was attended by delegates from Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius, Iraq, Niger, Myanmar, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Vietnam. The main objectives of the programme were to discuss various Innovative Practices on Geo-informatics applications in Rural Development sector in India and to facilitate an exposure to Projects and interact with the stakeholders.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr M V Rao, Director General, NIRD&PR, who stressed on the need and use of GIS & Remote Sensing technologies for effective planning, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation of various Rural Development Programmes.

Delegates presented individual Country Papers, which gave a platform to understand the technological capabilities of their countries in the use of Geoinformatic technology applications. During the programme, various innovative and best practices were discussed namely Geo-Informatics in agriculture, land and water resources, forest resource management, Bhuvan web



resources and Geo-Informatics applications, in Disaster Management in South East Asia. Besides, an Open Source Software on Q-GIS, GRASS and Location Based Services with GPS, was imparted with extensive hand holding to the delegates.

As part of the programme, a Study Tour was organised to Bengaluru, Mysore and Ooty for exposure on Pilot and Demonstrative Projects on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications in Rural Development by National and State level departments namely, NBSS & LUP, Bengaluru; Karnataka State Remote Sensing Agency at Bengaluru & Mysuru, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, Bengaluru and Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Ooty etc. The delegates exchanged their views on utilising GIS applications during interaction with the officials and stakeholders in the Study Tour.

The programme was well received by the delegates who appreciated the efforts made by NIRD&PR in making the programme a very practical and useful one. They acknowledged the usefulness of GPS applications, open source software Q-GIS & GRASS, visit to INCOIS-Disaster Tsunami Support Centre, Role of Remote Sensing & GIS for Disaster Management and Mitigation, future technologies of GIS – APiB, GPR, LIDAR, Sensor and Mobile technologies. The participants have indicated that some of the best Geo-informatics applications and innovative practices will be carried out in similar fashion in their respective countries.

The programme was coordinated by Dr V Madhava Rao, Professor & Head (CGARD), Dr P Kesava Rao, Shri T Phanindra Kumar, Shri D S R Murthy, Assistant Professors; and staff of CGARD, NIRD&PR.

International Training Programme on Empowerment of Women for Rural Development

The Centre for Women Development and Gender Studies, NIRD&PR organised an International Training Programme on "Empowerment of Women for Rural Development" during 5 January to 1 February, 2015. The main objectives of the programme were (i) to understand the concept, strategies, initiatives, mechanisms for social, economic and political empowerment of rural women, (ii) to discuss the poverty reduction and rural development approaches in the context of the situation of women, (iii) to get familiarised with the ground realities and learn lessons in the implementation of development programmes for empowerment of women and (iv) to enhance the skills for effective management of projects and programmes for empowerment of women in rural areas. Altogether 28 participants from 16 countries attended the programme. The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India under ITEC-SCAAP programme.

Dr. M V Rao, Director General, NIRD&PR in his address advised the participants to improve the programmes of women development in their countries based on the learnings from the training programme and to spread the message of goodwill between India and their respective countries.



Visit to Community Seed Bank (CSB) at Therubeedi Yelachavadi, Ramnagar District, Karnataka

The programme had three modules- Development Perspectives, Women Empowerment and Rural Institutions. Besides NIRD&PR faculty, eminent speakers from different organisations viz. UNICEF, TISS, Institute of Health and Family Welfare (IHFV) and National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NIMSME) shared their expertise and experiences with the participants. In addition to visit 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 on developmental initiatives in India through interaction with women workers under MGNREGA, Women of SHGs under NRLM and Elected Women Representatives of PRIs. They also

visited seed bank in Therubeedi Yelachavadi village, Ramnagar District, in the State and had discussion with women farmers under Community Seed Bank (CSB). They also had an opportunity to get familiarised with Rural Development Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) in the State.

The participants presented study reports on the visits. Besides, they have prepared an Action Plan on learning points from the training programme they would like to try out in their own countries.

Dr. C S Singhal, Prof. & Head, and Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, CWD & GS, NIRD&PR coordinated the programme .



Interaction with villagers at BG Dhoti, Ramnagar, Karnataka



Interaction with Entrepreneurs at RUDSETI, Nelamangala, Karnataka

International Training Programme on Sustainable Agricultural Strategies for Rural Development



The ITEC-SCAAP International Training Programme on “Sustainable Agricultural Strategies for Rural Development” was held during 5 January – 1 February, 2015 at NIRD&PR. Twenty five participants representing Africa, Asia and East Europe attended the programme. Majority of the participants were Senior Officers from the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development covering crop husbandry, livestock, fisheries, horticulture, extension and research institutions etc.

The four week-long programme has been divided into six broad themes namely: i) Sustainable Agriculture: Issues and Approaches; ii) Rural Development: Approach & Strategies and Linkages with Agriculture; iii) Institutional Linkages: Role of Science and Technology for Agriculture Development; iv) Study visit - Innovative Experiments; v) Institutional Linkages and Role of Science & Technology for Agriculture Development; and vi) Sharing of field experiences.

The modules have been rolled out encapsulating the subjects such as

(i) Sustainable Agricultural Strategies (ii) Conservation as a tool for agrobiodiversity (iii) Agricultural Extension (iv) Climate Change: Adoption & Mitigation methods (v) Watershed Development (iv) Non-farm Micro Enterprises for Self Employment (vii) Poverty in Rural Areas (viii) Change Management in Agriculture and Allied Sectors (ix) RD programmes through Gender Lens (x) Agrarian Crisis (xi) Livestock Development for Sustainable Agriculture (xii) Application of GIS in Agriculture & RD, (xiii) Participatory Planning (xiv) Monitoring & Evaluation of Development Projects.

Apart from internal resource persons, participants benefited from special sessions handled by Prof. Venkatesh Athreya, Sr. Professor, MSSRF, Chennai and Dr. Devi Prasad, Director, Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad and other experts.

As part of the study visits, participants were taken to Ankapur village, Nizamabad district of Telangana State; Hiware Bazar, Ralegaon Siddhi, and Pune in Maharashtra State.

Based on the learnings from field visits, the delegates prepared study reports and presented during the valedictory session. The themes of the study reports were (i) Sustainable Agricultural Practices (ii) Linkages between Rural Development & Agriculture (iii) Gender in Agriculture, and (iv) Local Governance & Village Administration.

During the closing ceremony, Dr. MV Rao, DG, NIRD&PR appreciated the keen interest and enthusiasm shown by the participants in acquiring different skills and knowledge. Dr. Rao advised the participants that they should act as “NIRD&PR Ambassadors” in their respective countries to spread the message of good things and practices that they have been exposed in India in general and NIRD&PR in particular.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. K.Suman Chandra, Professor & Head and Dr.E.V.Prakash Rao, Associate Professor of the Centre for Agrarian Studies & Disaster Mitigation.

CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

CIRDAP-NIRD&PR Collaborative International Training Programme on “Sustainable Rural Livelihoods” was organised during 5 – 14 January, 2015 at NIRD&PR. Dr. M.V. Rao, Director General in his inaugural address emphasised the need for the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods and interacted with participants. Shri K.P.Rao, Head (CSERE) & Programme Coordinator presented programme design, contents and various resources available at the Institute including Library. Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran, Director (Training), CIRDAP highlighted the need for more collaborative programmes.

In all, 16 participants from 10 countries representing Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and India participated in the training programme. Delegates shared experiences through their country presentations. During the programme, various innovative and best practices adopted in member countries were discussed.



Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP interacted with the participants on 9 January, 2015.

Study visits were organised to Swamy Ramananda Tirtha Rural Institute (SRTRI) and Handloom Park, Pochampalli, Nalgonda and SHGs at Dharmasagar. Dr. Cecep Effendi, DG, CIRDAP and Dr. Vasanthi Rajendran also accompanied the trainees in the field visits. The delegates acquired in-depth knowledge and exchanged their views on livelihood practices with the officials and stakeholders

during the visits. They interacted with SHGs members on functioning of CBOs and saving mechanism, SHG bank linkage, regular repayment process, functioning of Village Organisations, Mandal Samakhyas, Zilla Samakhyas, coordination and convergence with line departments etc. Participants also visited and interacted with MD and members of Mulkanur Cooperative Dairy, Karimnagar, one of the oldest co-operative Dairies in the country. The programme was coordinated by Shri K.P. Rao, Director and team of CSERE, NIRD&PR.

National Seminar on Labour Markets and Issues of Adivasis in India

S. R. Sankaran Chair for Rural Labour at NIRD&PR has organised a National Seminar on ‘Labour Markets and Issues of Adivasis’ in collaboration with Council for Social Development

(CSD), Hyderabad during January 22-23, 2015. The Seminar while focusing on issues of labour markets pertaining to adivasis identified research gaps and future directions of research. Prof. C. H. Hanumantha

Rao, an eminent Economist and Chancellor, University of Hyderabad delivered the Inaugural Address. Prof. Virginius Xaxa, Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) has given

the Keynote Address. The Inaugural Session was Chaired by Prof. R. Radhakrishna, a noted economist and Chairman, Advisory Committee, S. R. Sankaran Chair. Dr. M.V. Rao, Director General, NIRD&PR delivered Welcome Address and Dr. Kailash Sarap, Professor, Sankaran Chair, briefed about the Seminar. Prof. Dev Nathan, Professor, Institute of Human Development, Delhi delivered the Valedictory Address. Prof. Ch. Hanumantha Rao raised three important issues related to Adivasis in India: their land rights, agricultural productivity and governance. He said, as displacement and land alienation of tribals to non-tribals are affecting their livelihood and leading to their deprivations, the policy concern must be preservation of land and forest rights. Second, productivity of agriculture in tribal agriculture has been lower in comparison with that of the average in the non-tribal areas. Hence, he said, raising the productivity of tribal lands through technological interventions and supporting services is essential for improving tribal welfare. Third, there is need for participatory governance in tribal areas.

Dr. M. V. Rao, in his address stressed on strengthening of public interventions for tribals particularly through concerted efforts and positive impact of MGNREGS and Roshini schemes. Prof. Radhakrishna, in his opening remarks said, 'control over resources and effective participation in the decision



making institutions for the tribals in the central India is necessary'.

Prof. Virginius Xaxa's keynote address gave historical account of how the state policies, ever since colonial regimes to present ones, particularly those resulted in displacement and land alienation of tribals, and those restricted their access to forests. All these have led them to depend on precarious labour market for their livelihood. He said, many a time tribal labour met the demand for cheaper labour with meagre wages (for instance, in Coal mines, Railways etc., during the Colonial rule). In a competition for better paid or regularisation of casual labour in any sector, even among the unskilled category, tribals are discriminated and denied access to such opportunities. In respect of formal sector especially in public sector, when adivasis were illiterates there were some jobs created but their illiteracy and poor educational levels denied their access to such jobs; when they are getting educated such jobs are shrinking and they are discriminated.

Prof. Dev Nathan, in his observations said, 'the major challenge of the development policy, especially through markets, in India is to improve well-being of Adivasis while keeping their identity'.

More than two dozen presentations by scholars from different disciplines and from different parts of India, were made during the Seminar. The themes and issues they covered were livelihoods patterns of tribals, structure of workforce among tribes, different dimensions of poverty; impact of displacement, land degradation and informalisation on their livelihood; impact of state policy like MGNREGS, school education and other developmental programmes; and women and child labour. Some papers have also focused on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The deliberations of the Seminar also focused on way forward as to how to go about for improving the livelihoods of the tribal population in the country.

National Workshop on Promoting Integrated Farming System in IWMP: Critical Issues

A National Workshop on Promoting Integrated Farming System in IWMP: Critical Issues was organised at NIRD&PR, during 11-12 December, 2014. A total of 35 participants attended and presented papers including 4 lead papers in the Workshop. The Workshop covered three broad themes. The first theme focused on Integrated Farming Systems for Small and Marginal Farmers. The second theme was on Scientific Planning, Good Practices and Capacity Building while the third theme focussed on Role and Responsibilities of Stakeholders.

All the papers presented on the themes emphasised on the need for farmer centered planning at all levels. During the deliberations it was highlighted that taking into consideration the natural resources, an action plan needs to be developed. Community has to be made responsible for the natural resource use involving all the stakeholders effectively. It was also



highlighted that it is the responsibility of scientists to provide farmers with options for better farming. Research based options are to be given taking into consideration the farmer's land holding, resources etc. Further, emphasis has to be given on practices like revitalisation of old seeds, encouraging SHGs to go for seed bank and thereby protecting right of farmers in preserving seed

etc. These apart, the discussions emphasised on building the capacity of farmers through KVKs and training centres for effective implementation of watershed programmes.

The Programme was coordinated by Dr. Siddayya, Associate Professor & Head and Dr. U H Kumar, Assistant Professor, CWLR of NIRD& PR.

13th Rural Technology Mela - 2015

The NIRD-PR conducted 13th Rural Technology & Crafts Mela – 2015 from 8 to 12 January, 2015 in the main campus of NIRD&PR at Hyderabad. One hundred and twenty stalls were set up, but request for stalls from technologists and crafts persons from all over India flooded the mela organisers. Therefore, 50 additional stalls were made and allocated, making the total stalls to 170. We had an array of products & technologies on display and for sale from almost all over India.





There were about 10,000 - 12,000 people visiting the stalls in the mela every day. During the mela period, the combined sale of all the stall owners was nearly ₹ 20 million. The mela served as a confidence-booster to the producers of rural handicrafts and products and demonstrated that traditional products sell well in today's market if presented with blends of innovation, and modernity.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in Action during RTP-Mela:

One of the aspects well-planned and executed during the mela was 'cleanliness of the mela venue'. There were also food stalls

running in the mela, which had high chances of generating a lot of waste – in terms of used paper plates, paper cups etc. Therefore, cleanliness action taken were: (i) Swachh Bharat logo and message were displayed in all the places; (ii) there was a team of student-volunteers who cleaned up every hour even small paper plates or tea cups, thrown by some visitors. Anyone throwing waste had to undergo a 5 – 7 minute 'lecture' on Swachh Bharat by student volunteers, which resulted in 'responsible disposal of wastes' by the visitors as the mela progressed into third and fourth days. Thus, the venue was clean throughout the mela period.

SBA Panel Discussion with PGDRDM Students

There were two panel discussions held on Swachh Bharat – one during the mela period at the mela venue; and the other immediately after the mela got over, where NIRD&PR faculty members, and Assistant Registrar served as panelists and answered the questions / doubts raised by students of PGDRDM. No doubt, all rural technologists and crafts persons who participated in the mela, including the NIRD&PR community is looking forward to the announcement of dates for 14th RTP Mela.

Orientation Programme on Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana for Resource Persons from SIRDS

At the instance of Ministry of Rural Development, one-day Orientation Programme on SAGY for Resource Persons from SIRDS was organised on December 13, 2014 at NIRD & PR. Shri SM Vijayanand, Special Secretary, MoRD oriented the participants on the salient features of SAGY and explained in detail

the processes and interventions contemplated through Yojana. He emphasised that SAGY is a unique approach blending attitudinal change and convergence of various development initiatives. He detailed on how the initiatives undertaken under SAGY will lead to sustainable development and good governance. He impressed

upon the resource persons to carry out the responsibilities in perfection in view of the importance of the programme. In all, 68 resource persons across the country attended the Workshop. The programme was coordinated by Dr. G. Rajanikanth, Associate Professor and the Team, CWEPA, NIRD&PR.

Training Programme on Poverty & Inequality Estimation

A training programme on 'Poverty and Inequality estimation' was organised at NIRD&PR during December 22-26, 2014 at the instance of National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) Govt. of India. It was meant for probationers of 36th Batch of Indian Statistical Service. Besides dwelling on the concept and changes in methodological aspects of poverty estimation, inequality measures were discussed in the training programme. The coverage also included the degree of poverty and human development including Human Poverty Index (HPI), Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), Human Development Index (HDI), and Gender Development Index (GDI). Changes in the incidence of poverty due to developmental interventions were demonstrated



through use of 'Changes in Household Incomes Matrix (CHIM)'. In addition, orientation on concepts of 'Gender and Poverty' as well as participatory poverty assessment methods was also provided. The training programme was attended by

twenty Probationers. The programme was coordinated by Dr S.V. Rangacharyulu, Dr. G. Rajanikanth and Dr C. Dheeraja of Centre for Wage Employment and Poverty Alleviation, NIRD&PR.

Training Programme on Promotion of Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

A training programme on "Promotion of Sustainable Rural Livelihoods" was organised at NIRD&PR during 8 - 12 December, 2014. 35 participants representing different States and drawn from Banks, State Rural Livelihoods Missions, DRDAs, and NGOs attended the programme.

The main objective of the programme was to familiarise the participants with various aspects and experiences relating to rural livelihoods such as Social mobilisation, financial inclusion, SHG Bank Linkage, SHG federations etc. As part of field exposure, participants visited Model Village i.e Gangadevpally, Warangal district, Telangana State, wherein they were exposed to the livelihoods and development aspects in the village. The participants interacted with officials and Gram Panchayat



President, Members of the wards and women SHG members. The programme concluded with valedictory address by Shri K.P. Rao, Head, CSERE. Dr. T.G. Ramaiah,

Associate Professor and Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, CSERE, NIRD&PR coordinated the programme.

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

A training programme on Geo-Spatial Technologies for Planning & Management of Watershed Projects was organised during 15-20 December, 2014 at NIRD&PR.

The Programme was attended by 26 Senior and Middle Level Officials from eleven States. The participants included Officers from IWMP, Soil and Water Conservation, Agriculture and Forest Departments working in watershed projects in respective States. The main focus of the Programme was to expose and to develop skills in Geo-Spatial Technologies for Planning, Monitoring and Management of Watershed Projects.

The participants were initially exposed to Geo-spatial concepts and subsequently imparted Intensive hand holding on Open Source GIS Software on Q-GIS, and SAGA Image Processing Software, so as to enable them to manage mapping, planning and monitoring of



Watershed Programmes in their States. Besides, they were imparted skills in handling of GPS and Mobile GPS for asset capturing of watershed structures and uploading the geotagged data for incorporation of the same on satellite imageries and maps. Participants were also exposed to the in-house web based GIS Software on Geo-hydrology model and Watershed Estimation

Software for planning, designing and estimation of Watershed Projects.

The Programme was well received for its technological inputs, which will enable scientific planning and monitoring of watershed projects. The Programme was coordinated by Dr P Kesava Rao, Dr V Madhava Rao and Shri T Phanindra Kumar of CGARD, NIRD&PR.

Training Programme on Computerisation of Accounts for DRDAs and PRIs

A Training Programme on Computerisation of Accounts for DRDAs and PRIs was held during January 5-9, 2015. As many as 44 Senior Accounts Officers from DRDAs and PRIs, drawn from 13 States have taken advantage of the programme. Among them three were women accounts officers. The main focus of the programme was to bring awareness on using computers for managing DRDA/PRI Accounting Systems. Besides, the participants were given orientation with maximum



hands-on exercises on Financial Accounting using softwares like Tally, DRDA/PRI Financial Accounting System, Panchatantra and Fund Based Accounting. The programme was well received and they desired such

programme be offered on regular basis every year. The programme was coordinated by Dr. P Satish Chandra, Associate Professor & Head and Shri G V Satya Narayana, Asst. Professor, CIT, NIRD&PR.

Induction Training Programme for Dena Bank Officers

An Induction Training Programme sponsored by Dena Bank was organised during 1 – 13 December, 2014 at NIRD&PR for 17 newly recruited Agriculture Officers. The participants were given inputs on basics of general banking & banking retail products, RBI instructions on priority sector & KYC norms. They were also enlightened about rural non-farm sector and the importance of MSME sector in rural and semi-urban areas. The course content also included appraisal of loan proposals relating to agricultural and allied sectors and NPA Management. As part of study visit, the participants visited NFDB and SHG Mahila Bank.



The programme was coordinated by Shri R. Koteswara Rao, Project Consultant, CRCDB, NIRD&PR.

Rural Credit Management for Poverty Reduction

A Regional Training Programme of NIRD&PR was conducted from 15 to 19 December 2014 at ANSSIRD, Mysuru. The programme was attended by 20 Branch Managers who are working in the rural branches of Cauvery Gramin Bank, Karnataka Gramin Vikas Bank and Pragathi Gramin Bank operating in the State of Karnataka. Experienced speakers covered various pertinent subjects on rural credit in general and SHG movements and functions of SHG Federations in particular. Detailed presentations were made on emerging models in agriculture, financial analysis and project appraisal, Agribusiness through Agri-clinics, NPA and recovery



management in agricultural finance, effect of minor irrigation on agriculture and financing animal husbandry schemes. Besides, revised procedures of KCC, JLC, GCC as well as finances to warehousing projects were covered. Films documenting the success stories from various States formed part of the coverage of the programme.

As part of the programme, field visit was made to few villages covered under Corporate Social Responsibility of TVS Motors Private Limited near Mysuru which was a

unique experience for the participants. Especially, the units monitored by the representatives of TVS Company were an eye opening strategy to alleviate poverty ridden rural people in their service areas. Similarly, providing income model by promoting firms making agarbatti (incense sticks), providing canteen and catering activities, plying auto rickshaws and other small business activities were motivating factors to participants to augment rural credit extensively. The most learning experience was the observations on empowerment of women through SHG activities in the Nanjungad

taluk, which has encouraged the participants to think of initiating similar activities in their branches. The participants were motivated and excited to work in their respective rural branches to initiate major breakthrough in disbursement of rural credit under various government sponsored schemes in the State of Karnataka.

The programme was coordinated by Dr.B.K.Swain, Professor and Head of the Centre for Rural Credit and Development Banking, NIRD&PR with the support of Mr. Shankar, Faculty Member, ANSSIRD.

Micro-enterprise Development and Management for Rural Bankers

The captioned programme was conducted from 19 to 23 January, 2015 at State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (SIPARD), Agartala. The programme was attended by 27 participants who are officials working in the rural branches of Tripura Gramin Bank. The topics covered in the training programme included 'innovative ways for financing micro-enterprises, Identification of appropriate micro-enterprises based on utilisation of local natural resources, marketing strategies for micro-enterprises products and rehabilitation of sick micro-enterprises units. Dr.B.K. Swain, from NIRD&PR covered various strategies to manage the micro-enterprises while the local resource persons dealt with other aspects, such as recovery of NPAs under micro-enterprises in the rural sector, which itself is a daunting task for every bank. The recovery strategies and procedures were explained with success stories from various States. As part of the course, field visit was



made to a nearby village. The participants observed that the self-help groups along with other people were fully engaged round the year on vegetable cultivation, growing flowers and dairy farming and were earning sufficient money to maintain a decent standard of living. They were able to gain first-hand experiences after listening to

success stories narrated by the members of the local self-help groups.

The programme was coordinated by Dr.B.K.Swain, Professor and Head of the Centre for Rural Credit and Development Banking, NIRD&PR and Mr. Rajeev Malakar, Junior faculty working at SIPARD, Agartala.

Strategies for Sustainable Management of Rainwater Through Integrated Watershed Approach

A Regional Training Programme on “Strategies for Sustainable Management of Rainwater through Integrated Watershed Approach” was organised at SIRD, Meghalaya during 19-23 January, 2015. A total of 22 participants attended the programme, who included senior and middle level officials including three women participants. The participants were familiarised with the efficient use of rainwater under integrated watershed approach, management of rainwater for livelihood and development of rainwater structures at the village levels. The deliberations also covered rainwater use efficiency; management of participatory approaches, and backward and forward linkages. The programme provided maximum number of hands-on-sessions to expose the participants to various topics such



as Traditional and Modern Rainwater Harvesting Methods, Technology Applications in IWMP, Monitoring and Evaluation and Governance Issues. Besides, efficiency in Conventional Farming Systems in Meghalaya was also

discussed. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Siddayya, Associate Professor & Head and Dr. U. Hemantha Kumar, Assistant Professor of Centre for Water and Land Resources (CWLR), NIRD&PR.

Management of Panchayati Raj Finances

A four-day training programme on ‘Management of Panchayati Raj Finances’ was organised at the SIRD, Imphal, Manipur during November 10-13, 2014. The broad objective of the programme was to sensitise the panchayat functionaries, both elected and official, on various elements of financial management in panchayats in the State, with particular reference to Art.243-I to 243-H and Art.280 of the Indian Constitution. The core content of the Programme included internal

revenue mobilisation (IRM); revenue transfers to Panchayats by the State and Union governments; functional devolution matrix; the revenue support provided by the successive State and Union governments; expenditure management by Panchayats; and the various control and accountability mechanisms such as budgeting, book-keeping, and audit of Panchayat accounts; and the differences between Panchayats and ADCs in Manipur so far as their financial management is concerned.

The Programme was inaugurated by Prof. N.Mohendra Singh, a retired academic and an activist of Panchayati Raj in the State. In his inaugural address, tracing the genesis of Panchayats in the State, Prof. Singh had observed that finance is not only a lubricant to but also a key to development and hence local resource mobilisation for effective democratic decentralisation is imperative. He pointed out that fisheries, horticulture and tourism offer great scope for internal

resource generation by the Panchayats. He deplored that many Panchayats in the State do not properly maintain their cash books, stock registers, and even their own annual budgets and these should attract immediate and serious correctives.

Classroom lectures apart, the participants numbering 30 were afforded an opportunity to visit the Toubul Gram Panchayat in Bishnupur Block and to have discussions with its Mahila Sarpanch, and members of the Gram Panchayat, and other village-level functionaries of development departments of the State. Besides, participants inspected some of the initiatives taken by the Gram Panchayat in



the areas of fisheries, solar power, and physical infrastructure. The participants commended the work being done by the Gram Panchayat. The programme was organised by Dr K. Siva Subrahmanyam, Adviser (PR), NIRD&PR.

Exposure Visit to Students of University of Agricultural Sciences

A batch of postgraduate students of M.Sc (Agriculture), College of Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, visited the Institute on December 19, 2014. This visit was part of

educational tour of their course curriculum. The students were acquainted with the activities of the Institute with a special focus on human resource development activities. The activities of Rural

Technology Park (RTP) were also explained. This was followed by open discussion. Dr. Gyanmudra, Head and Team, CHRD of NIRD&PR coordinated the visit.



Swachh Bharat Initiatives of NIRD&PR

Behavioural Change Communication for Rural Sanitation Professionals

As part of Swachh Bharat action initiatives, NIRD&PR conducted a 5-day training course on 'Behavioural Change Communication for Rural Sanitation Professionals under Swachh Bharat Mission' at SIRD, Tamil Nadu from 1 to 5 December, 2014. The participants were drawn from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. The course coverage included resistance to change, dealing with resistance, theoretical models on habit formation, building sanitation culture through explicit social norms, behaviour change, sanitation marketing and various design options of toilets including eco-toilets, and solar toilets. As part of the programme, the trainees engaged themselves in sweeping and cleaning the Sanitation Park at SIRD campus. The participants also paid a visit to Mudichur Village Panchayat, Kancheepuram district where



household solid waste is managed at village level in an admirable manner. The participants made an attempt to analyse the factors that have contributed to the success of this effort. These included community participation; financial participation of the community; the dedicated leadership by the Village Panchayat President along with his team of 'green friends' (as they are locally known); and able technical support by an NGO known as Hand-

in-Hand, Kancheepuram. One important lesson gained from the visit was that there is no dearth of technical expertise or advice on solid waste management. What needs to be explored more, and what requires to be developed is a 'local management system to manage solid waste', which in Mudichur, they have been able to come out with one. The training programme was coordinated By Dr. R. Ramesh and Dr. P. SivaRam of CRI, NIRD&PR.

Swachh Bharat Mission by NIRD&PR Action Research Team

Dr Gyanmudra and her Action Research team carried out Swachh Bharat programme in Antaraganga village, Kudaire Mandal of Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh on 23.12.2014. The participants involved

were Self-Help Group members, Asha worker, Anganwadi staff, school teachers and children, Saakshar Bharat Village Coordinator. All the informed members, school headmaster, teachers, students

gathered at school and carried out cleaning of school premises, premises of Anganwadi Kendra, watershed building, main roads, rachabanda area, and the premises of moharam gundam.



Cleaning the school premises



The Action Research team also carried out Swachh Bharat programme in Nagireddypalli village, Kudaire mandal of Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh on 30-12-2014. The participants involved were Self-Help Group members, school teachers and children. All members were divided into small groups and involved in cleaning at different places such as SC colony, BC colony, Chowdamma temple, water tank, surrounding of gundam and premises of school.



Residents cleaning their colony



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