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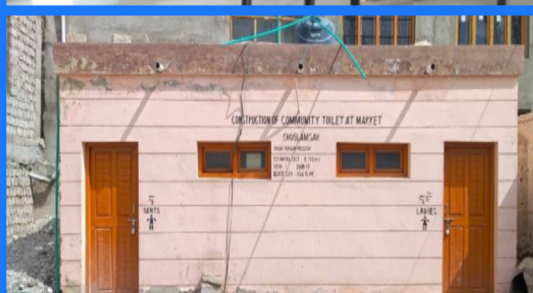
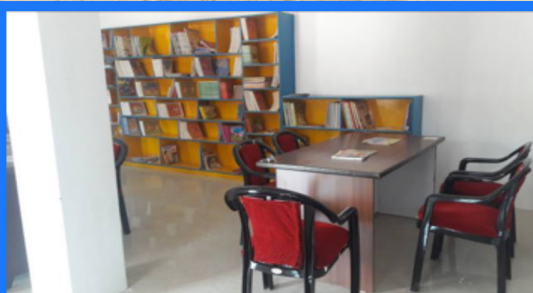
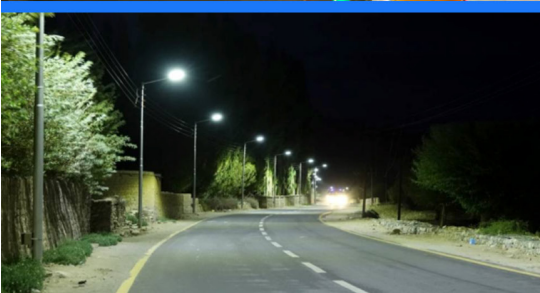
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Rurban Mission Transforms the Union Territory of Ladakh





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Rurban Mission Transforms the Union Territory of Ladakh

Leh district in the newly formed Union Territory of Ladakh is in the front-page news for an entirely different reason in recent times. About 8 km from Leh, a cluster of Gram Panchayats, identified as 'Spituk cluster' by Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) is fast emerging with facilities and opportunities that are essentially urban in nature. While the development of Rurban cluster at Jammu & Kashmir is revving up, Spituk cluster near Leh has taken the socio-economic drivers to a remarkable new level. The clusters have been identified, inter alia, recognising the potentials for economic growth, tourists flow and opportunities for employment generation and livelihoods promotion. The projects that have come up in the past 2–3 years in Spituk cluster in Ladakh include infrastructure required for tourism promotion, viz. amusement parks, access roads, parking area development, LED street lights, public toilets, community parks, centralised solid waste management system, besides augmentation of education facilities in local schools by building smart classrooms, enlarging

libraries, and setting up e-libraries. New warehouse facilities have been constructed that serve as storehouse and distribution centre, especially for horticulture crops like apricot, which are exotic and abundant in this part of Ladakh.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of providing catalytic interventions to rural clusters to grow with the 'spirit of villages and the facilities of cities' is near-at-hand with Ladakh exhibiting it in reality, on the ground.

In 2016, the 'Rurban Mission' of the Government of India introduced an integrated cluster action plan in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir with a view to stimulating economic growth. Three clusters of villages were identified – one in Jammu (Gole Gujral); the second one in Kashmir (Khumriyal); and the third one in the newly formed Union Territory of Ladakh (Spituk). The activities of the Mission have gained significant momentum after Ladakh became a Union Territory in October 2019.

Spituk cluster is located in a cold desert in the thick of a pristine landscape about 3,500m above sea level. It comprises three Gram Panchayats, viz. Choglamsar – I & II, and Spituk itself, which is the main village in the cluster. Spituk cluster has a population of 12,973 (Census, 2011).

Spituk cluster got Rs.64.92 crore approved for implementing the cluster action plan prepared. Works worth Rs.32.23 crore have already been completed, and the rest are in progress.

With attention of the Rurban Mission intensifying for Spituk cluster, Leh today is one of the most rapidly rurbanising areas in the Union Territory of Ladakh. In the past couple of years, with adequate financial and technical support, Spituk cluster is set for long-term systematic planning and infrastructure development to cater to the diversifying livelihoods and growing economic activities in Ladakh. All these are instituting a ground for collective optimism, and personal aspirations amongst the residents of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir. The projects that have already come up (and some of them in



Land development, access bridge and parking area development works at Choglamsar, Cluster Spituk, Leh

pipeline) are:

- **Street Lights:** From Forest Bagh, Choglamsar to Agling T-point and Bull Farm to MES Powerhouse, high-mast LED street lights have been provided. It will be extended to all the major junctions and hamlets of the entire Spituk cluster by the end of 2020.
- **Road Connectivity:** A number of road projects have been identified so as to enable connectivity to marketplaces and urban centres. Six such critical rural road projects at a cost of Rs. 1.20 crore have been completed.
- **Smart Classrooms & e-Libraries:** The current generation of children should not be using learning technologies that are primitive. Therefore, ICT-enabled smart classrooms and digital libraries have been set up in schools in Sptiuk Ldumra and Tashi Thongsmon,

Choglamsar with a total cost of Rs. 111.24 lakh.

- **Orchard Development:** Ladakh is known for the exotic apricot fruits, and it's almost synonymous with the region. The Mission identified the huge untapped economic potentials veiled in orchard development. In order to tap the commercial promise, and to boost the local economic activities around it, individual farmers have been encouraged to set up orchard farms. The Mission provides the required enablement at a cost of Rs. 1.20 lakh for 10 units. It includes 50 per cent subsidy/ incentive from the government.
- **Tourism Promotion:** An amusement park is being constructed in the cluster under Rurban Mission at a cost of approximate Rs. 6.30 crore at Choglamsar. It is on the banks of Indus river. It will have a park with Toy Train, Dragon Roller

Coaster, Striking Car/Bumber Car, Rock-climbing Wall, etc. The work of land development, and access-bridge to the location are partially completed, and further works are in progress.

- **Children's Park:** A children's park has been constructed at Tashi Gatsal, Choglamsar at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh. This park is already a favourite go-to place among the children of the area.
- **Community Hall:** A multipurpose model Community Hall has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 64 lakh at Spituk village, besides community sanitary complexes in strategic locations.
- **Ration Store:** Ration stocks in Choglamsar village used to be stored in a very old and damaged building for many years. The store has been fully renovated at a cost of Rs. 17 lakh.
- **Solid Waste Management:** This first ever Solid Resource Management Centre (SRMC) in Ladakh got functional in December 2017 at Choglamsar. Door-to-door waste collection takes place on a regular basis; and the waste collected are scientifically managed. The success of Choglamsar SRMC has prompted replication in



Community Hall developed at Spituk Village of Spituk cluster, Leh

places like Nubra, Khaltsi, Nimoo, Pangong and Chuchoti in Leh.

These are only indicative of the change of scene in the Jammu & Kashmir, and the profound transformation taking place in the newly formed UT of Ladakh. Plethora of such initiatives is in the offing. Thus, Rurban Mission is affixing its signature in J&K and Ladakh putting growth clusters on a rurbanising path.

The Mission, since its launch in February, 2016, has systematically created 300 Rurban clusters in 28 States and 6 UTs of the country. Total investment of more than Rs. 27,500 crore has been approved for the development of these clusters, and approximately Rs. 8,772 crore (about 32 per cent) has been invested that unlocks the potentials of rural areas to emerge as local economic growth centres.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of providing catalytic interventions to rural clusters to grow with the 'spirit of villages and the facilities of cities' is near-at-hand with Ladakh exhibiting it in reality, on the ground. The clusters are benefitting with improved urban-like infrastructure, better connectivity, scientific waste management systems, tourist amenities, skill trainings and improved economic activities.

Rurban Mission, as envisioned, is demonstrating convergence in action. Like the dream of a new India is coming near-at-hand in Ladakh, it will constantly come, time and again, in other parts of the country as well, with Rurban Mission working in 296 such clusters today.

Dr. R. Ramesh

Associate Professor and Head

Centre for Rural Infrastructure

NIRDPR

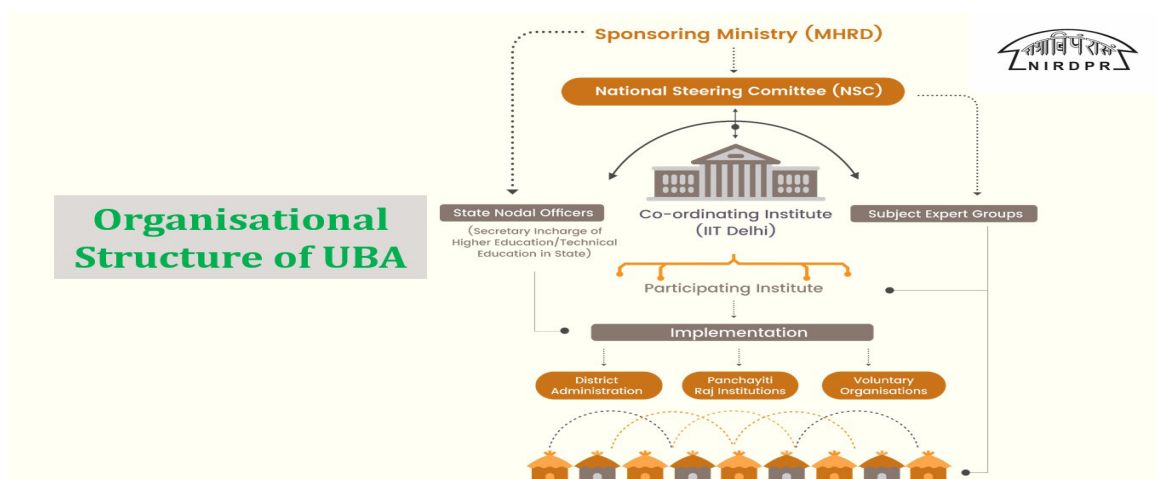
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Critical Gap Funding: The ICAP provides the estimated resource plan for the development of the cluster and the sources to meet the cost through convergence of various central sector, Centrally sponsored and State government schemes. In the event of one or more of the components in the ICAP not being covered by any of the government schemes, such items are covered through a funding arrangement from Rurban Mission called Critical Gap Funding (CGF). This additional funding support is up to 30 per cent of the project cost or Rs. 30 crore per cluster, whichever is lesser for plain areas and Rs. 15 crore per cluster or 30 per cent of the project cost in desert, hilly and tribal areas. This is one of the unique features, incentivising such Rurban clusters to come up.

National Rurban Mission (NRuM): The vision of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) is to "develop a cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity, and inclusiveness, without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature, thus creating a cluster of Rurban villages." The SPMRM is an attempt to make our rural areas socially, economically and physically sustainable regions. The Mission strives to strengthen rural areas by providing economic, social and infrastructure amenities, thus leading to sustainable and balanced regional development in the country.

Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAP) is a key document covering baseline studies outlining the requirements of the cluster and the key interventions needed to address these needs and to leverage its potential. The State governments shall prepare an Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAP) that would lay down the development aspirations of the cluster in a consultative manner and detail the interventions being envisaged as a part of NRuM, the schemes being converged, implementation framework, and the expected outcomes in the cluster as a result of implementation of NRuM.

CHRD organises training programme for Coordinators of Participating Institutions under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan



A slide from the presentation for the training programme on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

The Centre for Human Resource Development, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organised a state-level online training programme on 'Capacity Building & Participating Training Programme for Coordinators of Participating Institutes under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan for Telangana' region during 17th-18th August, 2020 in collaboration with IIT-Delhi sponsored by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Owing to COVID-19 pandemic prevailing in the country, it was decided to organise this programme online. The objectives of the programme were: (i) To orient participants about UBA and its framework, (ii) To acquaint the participants about the tools and techniques of situational analysis and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to prepare village development plans, (iii) To explain the strategies of using tied and untied funds for preparing sustainable development model, and (iv) To elucidate the strategies to be followed in the adopted villages post-COVID-19.

In total, 37 faculty members from 14 participating institutions of Telangana participated in this programme. Dr. Lakhan Singh, Regional Coordinator of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and course

director welcomed the participants and presented the course structure/design. He also gave an overview of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and discussed its importance for rural India.

Prof. Vivek Kumar from IIT-New Delhi, Co-coordinator of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan interacted with the participants. He highlighted the mission and vision of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and made an impactful presentation on some of the selected models of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan by using successful case studies from the selected states. The presentation revealed that wherever faculties had shown keen interest and had owned the villagers' faith, those villages did a wonderful work and emerged as model villages for the entire nation.

The content of the programme covered the overview on UBA phase 2.0, demonstration of UBA we-portal, preparation of village development plan by using Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), development of UBA proposals, usage of situational analysis for prioritisation of work, implementation of Gram Panchayat funds and strategies for providing livelihood to returned migrants due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Sessions were delivered by Dr. R. Ramesh, Associate Professor

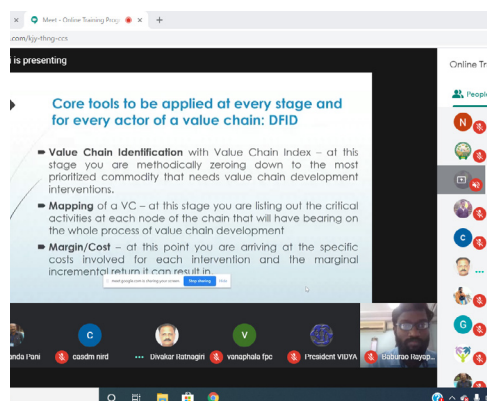
and Head CRI, Dr. Pratyusna Patnaik, Associate Professor, CPRDP & SSD Dr. Vanishree Joseph, Assistant Professor, CPRDP & SSD and Prof. Rajendra Prasad Mamgain, SR Sankaran Chair, from NIRDPR.

Besides the technical sessions, on demand of participants, three participating institutes, namely Hyderabad Institute of Technology and Management, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad and Vishnu Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research were asked to share their journeys with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and their field experiences with the participants. This session was very useful as participants learnt from the experience of other participant institutions.

At the end of the training programme, participants were asked to evaluate the programme. The feedback highlights that 91 per cent of the participants reported improvement in their knowledge, skill and change in their attitude because of this programme.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development, and Dr. R. Ramesh, Associate Professor, Centre for Rural Infrastructure, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.

Application of innovative tools and participatory methodologies in the online training programme on Value Chain and Business Development of FPOs



A presentation from the training programme

Majority of the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) registered in the country are stuck up with preparation of business plans post their registration. The traditional practice of hiring a cost accountant for preparing a business plan as per the satisfaction of the granting agency has not yielded expected results on the ground as the primary stakeholders like BOD members of the FPO are neither aware of the content of the plan nor do they have competencies to interpret the actualisation of business plan at field-level from time to time.

A functional business plan should integrate field-level realities and realisable potentialities guiding the FPO to achieve the core objectives with which the FPO was founded.

In this context, the Centre for Agrarian Studies (CAS), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has developed a unique tool to measure Value Chain Index (VCI) for each of the FPOs. This index enables the FPOs to select the crops and the activities with highest VCI in the pre-production, production and post-production phases of crop spectrum. The VCI tool was applied in the online training programme on 'Value Chain and Business Development of FPOs' conducted during 27th- 31st July, 2020. The participants of the programme came prepared with

The details of the Green Bird Farmer Producer Company Ltd. are given below:

GREEN BIRD FARMERS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED (CIN: U01100AP2019PTC112936)					
Value Chain Index for Maize Crop					
S. No.	Parameter	Rating	Weightage	Rating	Commodity Index
1	Area under the Crop	1-Less than 100 acres	10	2	6.67
		2-100-500 acres			
		3- More than 500 Acres			
2	Yield	3 - Less than 20 Q / Acre	10	2	6.67
		2- 20-30 Q / Acre			
		1- More than 30Q / Acre			
3.	No of primary Producers	1-Less than 100	10	2	6.67
		2-100 -200 members			
		3- More than 200 members			
4.	Input Availability	3-Supplied by Govt.	10	2	6.67
		2-Available at Farmer			
		1-Available at Market			
5	Status of grading & Processing of sale	3- No Processing & Grading	10	2	6.67
		2- Minimal Processing			
		1-Advanced processing			
6	Avg. Expenditure per acre	3- Less than 10K	10	2	6.67
		2- 10K to 20 K			
		3 - 20 K to 30 K			
7	Av Income per acre	1-Less than Rs.10,000/acre	10	3	10.00
		2-Rs.10,000-20,000			
		3- More than Rs.20,000			
8	Source of Marketing	1- Sale in the Village	10	3	10.00
		2- Govt Procurement			
		3-Established trader network			
9	Availability of Storage Facilities / Transport	1- Available below 10 Km	10	3	10.00
		2 - Available 10 to 20 Km			
		3 - Available more than 20 Km			
10	Perishability	1 - High Perishable	10	3	10.00
		2 - Mild Perishable			
		3- Low Perishable			
	100		100		80

baseline data regarding their FPOs and they worked on VCI during the training programme. The participants were from NGOs promoting FPOs and CEOs of FPOs coming under RSA Zone 1 of NABARD covering five districts of Andhra Pradesh, viz. Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, East and West Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts. They were trained beforehand by CAS team to collect the base line data through ODK platform. Preparation of VCI was followed by expert sessions on preparation of accounts and financial statements as per the FPC Act. The participants worked on these financial statements on Excel sheets during the programme and presented. After working on financial statements, the participants were given a thorough conceptual

understanding on some of the financial ratios. They were able to calculate the financial ratios for their financial statements and learnt the techniques of interpreting the financial ratios.

Pre-read material pertaining to the respective session was circulated beforehand for every session. A simple multiple-choice skill test was conducted before the commencement session and the same questionnaire was canvassed at the end of the session, tracking the learning levels. The five-day working sessions comprised expert sessions in the forenoon and practice exercises in the afternoon. A feedback form was generated via Google and was circulated online among all the participants for their feedback and suggestions.

The participants felt that the course was very timely, useful, and helped them to generate business plans for their FPOs. Some of the CEOs of FPOs, who already prepared their business plans, armed with this new learning and have submitted them to NABARD for further support. The CEOs of other FPOs who were trained, will be submitting the final plans soon. Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head, CAS, NIRDPR, Dr. Nithya V. G., Assistant Professor, CAS, NIRDPR, Dr. Divakar, Project Lead, CAS, NIRDPR and Shri Babu Rao, Research Associate, CAS, NIRDPR functioned as in-house resource persons. The programme was organised by Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head, CAS and Dr. Nithya V. G., Assistant Professor, CAS.

Online training programme on Social Audit of NSAP and PMAY-G for AP



Social Audit Guidelines Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin



A slide from the presentation for the training programme on Social Audit of NSAP and PMAY-G (Andhra Pradesh)

The Centre for Social Audit, NIRDPR, Hyderabad organised a five-day online training programme on 'Social Audit of NSAP and PMAY-G for the state of Andhra Pradesh during 3rd-7th August, 2020 using Google Meet platform. Social Audit Unit of Andhra Pradesh was asked to nominate 95 resource persons for this training programme. After receiving the nominations, a demo session was conducted on 31st July, 2020 to familiarise them with Google Meet platform and its features.

Each session was planned for a duration of 45 minutes comprising 30

minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for discussion. Everyday an online quiz was conducted based on topics discussed in the sessions. The purpose of the quiz was to test the participants' level of attention on training sessions and grasp of the subject knowledge.

Day 1

Session 1: Introduction, ice-breaking, expectations

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. C. Dheeraja, Associate Professor and Head-CSA, Dr. Srinivas Sajja and Shri Srikanth, Director, SAU – Andhra

Pradesh. On the first day, i.e. 3rd August, 2020 the programme started with an ice-breaking exercise. As part of the ice-breaking session, box of lies game was played.

Session 2: Social Audit process and issues at ground-level – Participants' experiences

In this session, Dr. Srinivas Sajja explained the process of Social Audit and discussed issues that are emerging at the ground-level in conduct of Social Audit. As the state of Andhra Pradesh was conducting Social Audit of NSAP till 2018-

19, some of the participants shared their experiences in conducting the Social Audit of NSAP along with other schemes.

Session 3: Concept of Social Audit

In this session, Dr. Dheeraja explained the concept of Social Audit, its definition, objectives, principles and institutional structure of Social Audit Units.

Session 4: Recent developments in Social Audit

This session dealt with the recent developments in Social Audits in India. Dr. Dheeraja discussed the recommendations made by MoRD committee on Social Audit, Status of Social Audits across the country and new initiatives taken up by other State SAUs. The trainer also discussed with the participants the impact of Social Audit, issues in roll out of Social Audit to other schemes, and Issues with follow-up action, etc.

Day 2

Sessions 1 and 2: Introduction to PMAY-G Guidelines

These sessions dealt with Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme guidelines. PMAY-G, previously known as Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), is a social welfare programme created by the Government of India to provide housing for the rural poor. Under PMAY-G scheme, financial assistance worth Rs. 1.2 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.3 lakh in hill areas is provided for construction of houses. These houses are equipped with facilities such as toilet, LPG connection, electricity connection, and drinking water convergence with other schemes.

Dr. Srinivas Sajja explained the guidelines along with eligibility criteria, unit assistance, selection of beneficiary, SECC data and its importance and AwasSoft, etc.

Sessions 3 and 4: Implementation challenges of PMAY-G

In sessions 3 and 4, implementation challenges of PMAY-G were discussed by Shri Subba Rao from Housing and Urban Development Corporation, Govt. of AP. He touched upon issues like non-availability of land to construct houses, financial support, basic amenities, adoption of new technologies and financial supports from bank.

Day 3

Sessions 1 and 2: Introduction to PMAY-G Social Audit Guidelines

In these sessions, Dr. Srinivas Sajja discussed PMAY-G Social Audit guidelines. The basic objective of Social Audit of the scheme is to ensure achievement of public accountability in PMAY-G implementation. The process combines people's participation and monitoring with the requirements of the audit discipline. The trainer explained the objectives, scope of Social Audit, periodicity and coverage and process of the Social Audit in PMAY-G.

Sessions 3 and 4: Experience of Social Audits during ToT of PMAY-G

In these sessions, the trainer shared the experiences from Pilot Social Audits conducted during ToT programmes of PMAY-G in five States.

Day 4

Sessions 1 and 2: Introduction to NSAP Guidelines

In these sessions, Dr. Srinivas Sajja explained the NSAP guidelines along with history of NSAP, eligibility criteria, norms of central assistance and MIS, etc. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally sponsored scheme which provides financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.

The National Assistance Programme consists of five sub-schemes:

- 1) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)
- 2) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)

- 3) Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)
- 4) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
- 5) Annapurna Scheme

Sessions 3 and 4: State schemes and Implementation challenges of NSAP

The Government of Andhra Pradesh announced 'Navarathnalu' comprising various welfare and development programmes. Some of the State pension schemes cover aged persons, widows, toddy tappers, weavers, single woman fishermen, etc.

Smt. Umamaheswari from Social Welfare Department, Govt. of AP detailed about the various social-security pension schemes of Govt. of A.P. eligibility criteria, scale of assistance and implementation challenges.

Day 5

Sessions 1 and 2: Introduction to NSAP Social Audit Guidelines

These sessions were designed to create awareness among participants on NSAP Social Audit guidelines. Dr. Srinivas Sajja explained the objectives of Social Audit in NSAP, administrative structure, funds for Social Audit, Social Audit process and follow-up action.

Sessions 3 and 4: Pilot Audits of NSAP Programme

Dr. Srinivas Sajja and Dr. Dheeraja discussed the findings from NSAP Pilot Social Audits carried out in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Assam, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh. A few participants shared their experiences and challenges as part of carrying out Social Audit of NSAP in AP during 2012 to 2018.

Programme Evaluation

After completion of the training session, programme evaluation was performed. During this process, participants gave feedback on speakers, course content, practical orientation and course material, etc.

Three-day online training programme on Agricultural Value Chain Financing by CED&FI



An illustration on Agricultural Value Chain Financing used in the training programme

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Financial Inclusion, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad organised a three-day online training programme on Agricultural Value Chain Financing during 12th-14th August, 2020. The training programme focussed on the ways and means of financing the agricultural value chain.

The current situation of agriculture and allied activities is declining day by day due to financial loss. Now, farmers don't want their children to be a farmer or any work related to farming as they assume there is no future in that sector. So, there is a decline in agricultural financial chain. It is said that farmers are the backbone of our nation but their situation is not stable. Addressing the situation, Dr. M. Srikanth throw light on credit appraisal of agri-business projects, and how agricultural value chain boosts the farmers financial condition.

He focused on the points like financial projections based on realistic assumptions, free cash flows, ratio analysis (liquidity, leverage, coverage, profitability and turnover ratios), break-even point,

NPV/BCR/IRR, sensitivity analysis, DSCR/ICR, total cost of the project and acceptability, promoters' contribution vis-à-vis net worth (capital subsidy based projects), financial assistance from banks/ FIs, provision for pre-operative expenses/ contingencies and cost overrun/time over run (Bobba power) to enhance the Financial Appraisal.

Contents of the Programme

- Agricultural Value Chain – An Overview
- Credit Appraisal of Agri-Business Projects
- Food Processing Sector – Opportunities and Challenges
- Financing Horticulture Projects - Focus on Fruits & Vegetables
- FPOs and Access to Finance
- Opportunities in Dairy, Poultry and Fisheries
- Insurance and Risk Management in Agriculture (Case Study)
- Agriculture Value Chain through Cold Storage Chains (Case study)

The programme consisted of the daily online quiz to test the trainee's knowledge on the sessions conducted. All

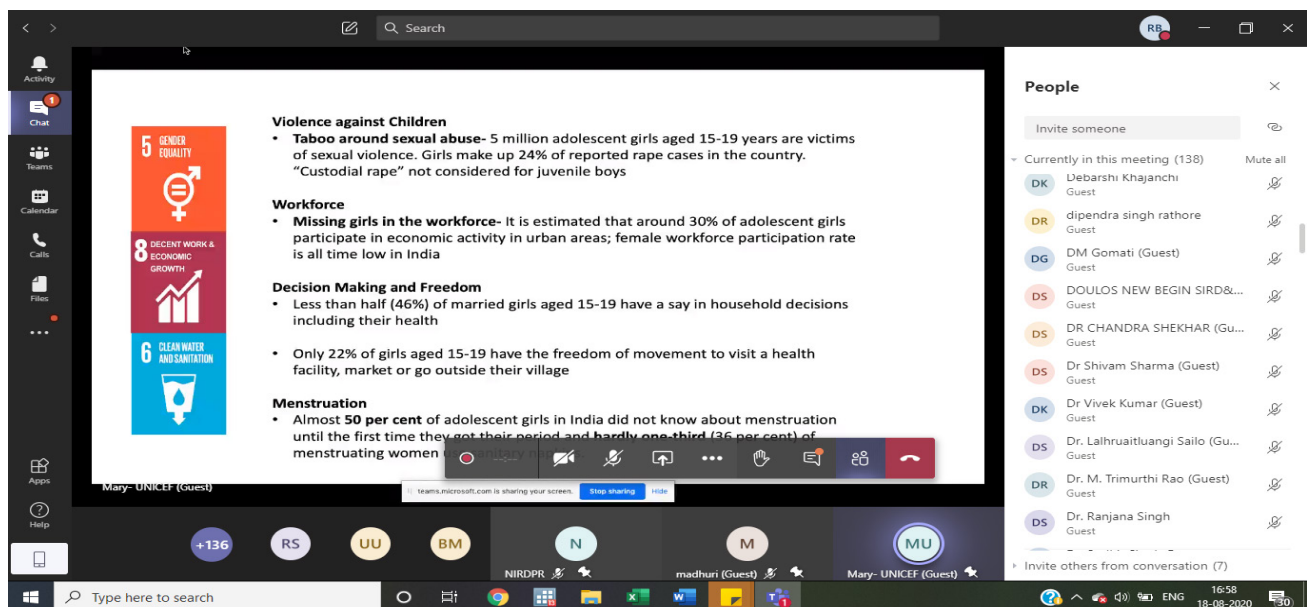
the trainees needed a minimum eligibility criterion to successfully complete the training programme which was based on evaluation quiz, feedback and attendance. The weightage for evaluation quiz was 50 per cent, 25 per cent for feedback and 25 per cent for attendance.

A total of 94 participants got registered. The officials included State Nodal officers, SPMs / DPMs, Faculty of Universities, Agri-business students, Bank Managers, Agriculture Professionals, Agriculture Executive and Master Resource Persons. Only 42 were eligible for issuing the e-certificate as they successfully completed the programme.

Dr. M. Srikanth, Course Director delivered the valedictory address and Dr. P. P. Sahu, Associate Professor, CEDFI, NIRDPR along with Dr. M. Srikanth addressed the questions, and issues raised by the participants. The programme was a success, as per the feedback received from the participants.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor and Head, CEDFI and Dr. P. P. Sahu, Associate Professor, CEDFI with the assistance of Shri Chandan Kumar, Research Assistant.

National online training on Gender Budgeting for Rural Development by CGSD



A slide from the presentation on tools for gender budgeting

Gender equality is fundamentally related to sustainable development and globally accepted as a necessity for the promotion of human rights. In the context of local government, gender equality is critical as women and men face different challenges in full participation, representation, and decent work opportunities. The practical integration of gender in all dimensions of governance require understanding of tools such as Gender Budgeting.

Evidence suggests that inequalities between genders in their access to resources are one of the causes of underperformance in the overall development. Research from low- and middle-income countries also suggest that by gender mainstreaming in rural development, sustainable development goals can be achieved. In view of the above, the Centre for Gender Studies and Development, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organised a national training programme on tools for mainstreaming gender, i.e. Gender Budgeting. This online course was designed to fulfil three major training/

learning objectives in five days, i.e. after completion of the course the participants will be able to

- i. Define the concept of gender and distinguish gender from sex
- ii. Identify gender-issues in programme-design and implementation
- iii. Create a gender-sensitive budget.

The programme commenced on 18th August, 2020 with 190 participants consisting of senior and middle-level officials from the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj departments, State Rural Livelihoods Missions, Integrated Child Development Services, faculty from SIRDs and Department of WCD and NGOs at the grassroots-level. Participants joined from almost all the states of India and also Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

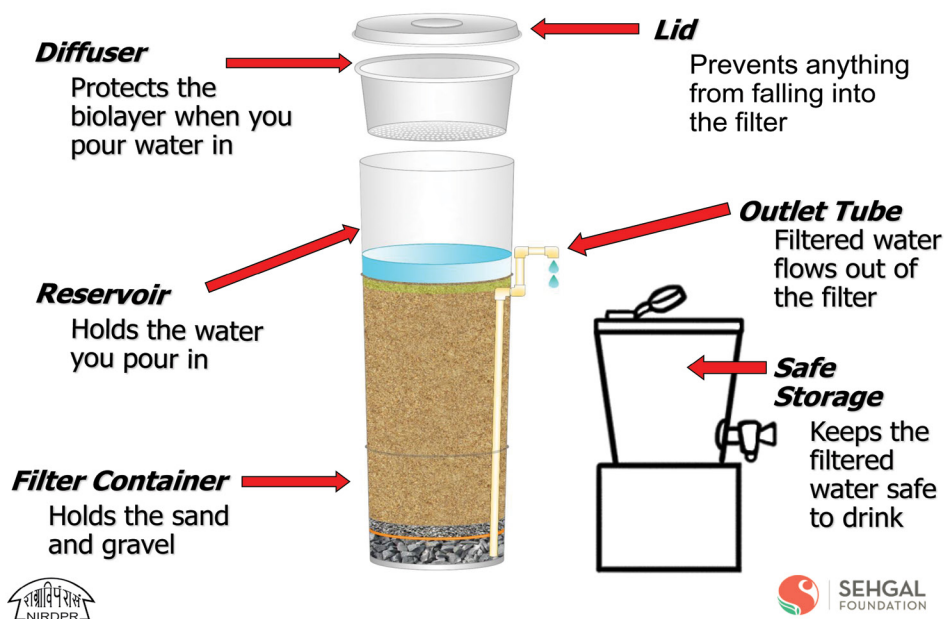
The sessions started with the introduction of the concepts of Gender in development. Ms. Mary Thomas, expert from the UNICEF conducted a session on gender in child rights. On 19th August, the training moved on to more core issues of gender with Dr. Vanishree explaining

the concepts of gender-needs and Dr. N. V. Madhuri discussing gender in education sector in a participatory manner.

On the 20th August, Smt. K. Surekha conducted a detailed session on Vulnerabilities and Gender mainstreaming and marginalisation. An animation prepared by CGSD with the help of CVC, NIRDPR and with the voice-over of Ms. Aparna, CPME animating a published cartoon strip (Emma's Comic) was broadcast on this day creating great enthusiasm among participants about reproductive burden of women. On 21st August, Ms. Hilda Grace conducted the technical Gender Budgeting session.

The course was coordinated by Dr. Ruchira Bhattacharya, CGSD and Dr. N. V. Madhuri, Head (i/c), CGSD with the technical support from Shri Praveen of CICT and Shri Sajid of CGSD, NIRDPR. A majority of the participants requested to conduct similar regional programmes in regional languages. Overall, the programme received a feedback score of 87 per cent effectiveness.

Biosand Filter Technology



Key components in a Biosand Filter and a model Biosand Filter

The Centre for Innovations, Appropriate Technologies for Skills & Jobs (CIAT&SJ), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad in partnership with Sehgal Foundation's Water and Waste Water Resource Centre, organised a three-day virtual learning programme on Biosand Filter Technology, a first-of-its-kind initiative, from 25th -27th August, 2020. Nominations were invited through website and more than 223 entries were registered.

The objective of the programme was to create awareness on the biosand filter, which is a practical and sustainable option to provide safe drinking water at household level as well as an effective way to implement WASH projects. Through virtual interaction, the participants learnt about water quality problems, water-borne diseases, health impacts and means of breaking the cycle of transmission of water-borne diseases. Various low-cost water filtration techniques available in the market were briefly discussed including their pro's and

con's and with a focus on biosand filter technology.

The participants were further trained on preparation of filter media, installation, operation and maintenance of stainless filter and biosand filters.

Dr. S. Ramesh Sakthivel, Assistant Professor & Head, CIAT&SJ, NIRDPR delivered the welcome address on day one and this was followed by an address from Shri Lalit Mohan Sharma, Director, Adaptive Technologies and Shri Salahuddin Saiphy, Director, Water Management from S M Sehgal Foundation.

A total of 12 female and 72 male participants comprising professionals, individuals and nominated representatives of 58 organisations including government and non-government institutions, universities, corporates, etc., from different corners of the country attended the online session. The attendees belonged to 18 States and one Union Territory, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand,

Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir.

The participants actively took part in the sessions conducted by Shri Lalit Mohan Sharma, Director, Adaptive Technologies as well as Aparajita Vaibhav and Yashi Gautam of Sehgal Foundation. The concepts were elaborated during the sessions employing PowerPoint presentations and short video clippings through interactive ways, viz. chat box query and regular Q&A after each session. The participants highly appreciated the technology and many of them expressed their desire to adopt biosand filter technology in their projects with community to facilitate the availability of clean and contaminant free drinking water.

The virtual learning concluded on a positive note with the participants appreciating the efforts of the NIRDPR and Sehgal Foundation in promoting a simple and viable option for providing safe drinking water to rural community.

Online training programme on Social Audit of PMAY-G and NSAP for Resource Persons of SAU Chhattisgarh



A slide from the presentation for the training programme on Social Audit of NSAP and PMAY-G (Chhattisgarh)

The Centre for Social Audit, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad organised a five-day online training programme on 'Social Audit of NSAP and PMAY-G' for the resource persons attached to Social Audit Unit (SAU) of Chhattisgarh from 24th to 28th August, 2020 via Google Meet platform. A total of 95 participants, who were nominated by the Social Audit Unit of Chhattisgarh, attended this programme.

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India had issued Social Audit guidelines for PMAY-G and NSAP in November, 2019. For operationalising these guidelines, NIRDPR has to do the capacity building of resource persons attached to the SAUs. To carry out this mandate, NIRDPR conducted five regional Training of Trainers (ToTs) from December 2019 to February 2020, covering all states. Due to COVID-19, the capacity building activities for the remaining resource persons could not be carried out. In this context, NIRDPR planned a series of online training programmes on 'Social Audit of NSAP and PMAY-G' for the resource persons.

The five-day training programme was divided into 20 sessions and at the end of each day, the participants were asked to attend a quiz with 10 questions through Google form. E-copies of

learning materials, presentations and quiz questions were provided in Hindi and English.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri M. M. Nag, Additional Commissioner, Government of Chhattisgarh and Director (in-charge), Social Audit Unit. In his inaugural speech, Shri Nag emphasised that the Social Audit process has contributed in making the MGNREGA more effective. Further, he highlighted the scope and importance of Social Audit in PMAY-G and NSAP schemes in the state.

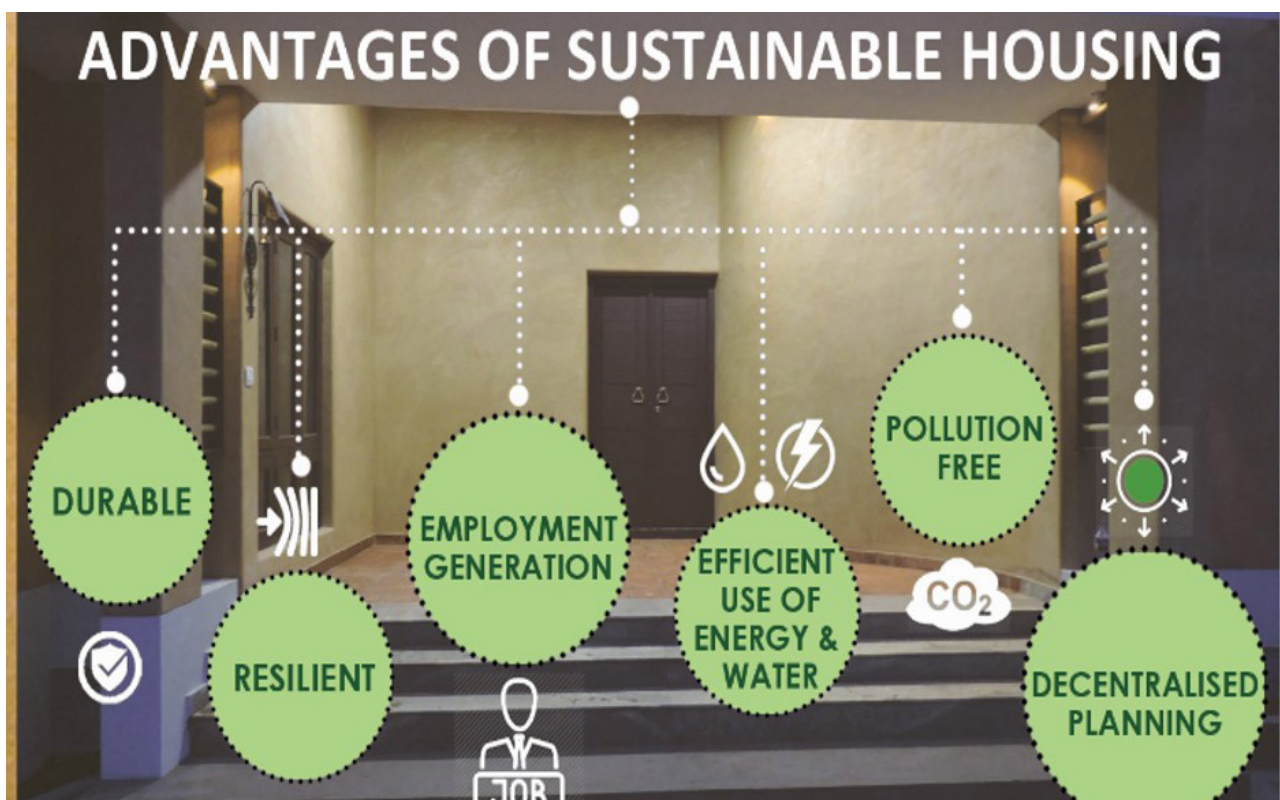
The following topics were covered during the five-day training programme:

- Social Audit process and issues at ground-level – Participants experiences
- Concept of Social Audit
- Recent developments in Social Audit
- Introduction to NSAP guidelines
- State schemes and implementation challenges of NSAP
- Introduction to NSAP Social Audit guidelines
- Experiences of Pilot Audits of NSAP
- Introduction to PMAY-G guidelines
- Implementation challenges of PMAY-G
- Introduction to PMAY-G Social Audit guidelines
- Experience of Social Audits during ToT on PMAY-G

All the sessions were video recorded using OBS studio software. The post and pre-interaction sessions and mandatory recap every morning made the programme highly participatory. After the completion of training sessions, the programme evaluation was done. During this evaluation, participants gave their feedback on course content, practical orientation and course material as well as the practical application of these learnings and skills in their day-to-day work in future. Some participants opined that the online platform is better and more convenient. However, they pointed out that issues like poor internet connectivity in some locations, high data usage, phone requiring frequent charging due to fast draining of battery, etc., were causing obstructions. After that informal feedback session, formal feedback was obtained through the Training Management Portal. Training of resource persons nominated to the second batch will be organised from 14th to 18th September, 2020.

This training programme was coordinated by Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Assistant Professor and Dr. C. Dheeraja, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Social Audit, NIRDPR with support from Shri Mohammed Arif, Consultant and Shri Shashidhar, Training Manager.

Virtual learning on Sustainable Housing Technologies for RES Engineers of Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh



A slide from the presentation for the training programme for RES Engineers of Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh

The Rural Technology Park, Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technologies and Skills & Jobs (CIAT&SJ), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organised a one-day virtual learning programme on 'Sustainable Housing Technologies' for the RES (Rural Engineering Services) Engineers of Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh.

This special programme was conducted as requested by Shri Siddharth Jain, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh who paid a visit to RTP before the coronavirus outbreak and proposed to construct some of the buildings in the district using the cost-effective and sustainable housing technologies promoted by RTP, NIRDPR.

After due assessment of their requirements, a one-day virtual

learning programme was designed incorporating the best suitable techniques of constructions, viz. rat-trap bond, mud block making and arch works.

The training commenced on 31st August, 2020, wherein 26 RES Engineers, who were identified by Shri Dheeraj Akhand, Senior Engineer at CEO's Office from different Centres of Jhabua district, participated.

The methodology adopted during the training was a detail explanation based on the hand-on demonstration film on all the relevant technologies. The entire programme was divided into two sessions and explanation was provided in Hindi.

All the sessions were headed by Dr. S. Ramesh Sakthivel, AP&H, CIAT&SJ and Er. B. N. Mani, Project Engineer, RTP. Before pre-closure, an online feedback and assessment link was shared with the participants. A digital certificate

was issued for the attendees who successfully completed the training by scoring more than 40 per cent. The link to complete training video recording was also shared with the attendees for future reference.

As a part of way forward in implementing these technologies, the RES engineers assured that technologies learnt would be taken up in different construction projects that are coming up in the district. The public buildings, mainly the anganwadi centres, Panchayat buildings, etc., are proposed to be taken up by implementing these technologies with the approval from the CEO.

As per the feedback provided the participants were very much satisfied with the presentations and the virtual hands-on training programme that was shown as a practical work to the participants.

Journal of Rural Development calls papers for special issue on 'COVID-19'

Scheduled date of publication: **March 2021**

Dear all,

Journal of Rural Development (JRD) is a quarterly journal of international repute, published by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR). The criteria used for acceptance of articles for JRD are topicality, contribution to knowledge, clear and logical analysis, good presentation and sound methodology of the research article.

Every article submitted for publication in JRD is evaluated on a step-by-step basis and is sent for peer review to a subject expert only after clearing the word limit criteria and similarity check. The members of Internal Editorial Board also go through these papers to check the relevance and quality of the content and soundness of methodology followed to clear it for peer review.

Journal of Rural Development is bringing out a special issue on COVID-19. In this regard, papers may be submitted on the following subjects:

1. COVID-19 and Livelihood Dynamics in Farm and Non-farm Sectors
2. Status of Adaptability of COVID-19 Stipulations and Coping Mechanisms
3. COVID-19 and Status of Migrant Workers (skilled and unskilled)
4. Impact of Corona virus Pandemic on Agricultural Supply Chain and Marketing
5. How the Existing Schemes (MGNREGA, Food Security, etc.) Help in Providing Livelihood Support?
6. COVID-19 and Microfinance for MSMEs
7. COVID-19 and Public Health, Sanitation and Rural Infrastructure
8. COVID-19 and Local Governments/Panchayats
9. COVID-19 and Agriculture
10. COVID-19 and Communication

The authors have to submit full papers with declaration on to **www.nirdprojms.in**. Before submitting the paper, kindly go through the '**Instructions to Authors**' on www.nirdprojms.in or in the final pages of the journal.

All papers submitted to JRD are subjected to double blind peer evaluation by relevant subject experts. Last date of submission of articles is **30 November, 2020**.



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