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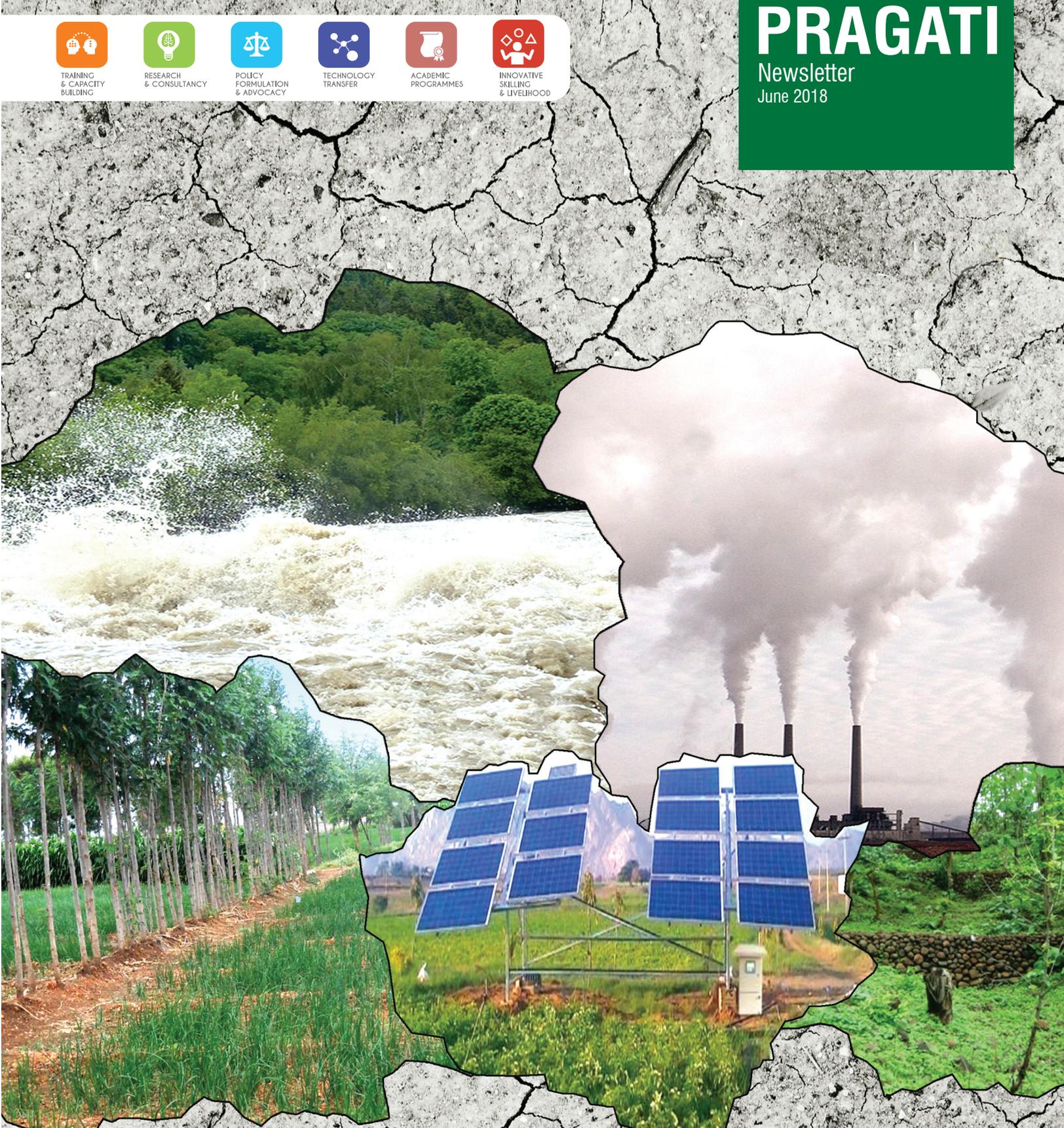


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No: 277

PRAGATI

Newsletter
June 2018



Climate change initiatives and environment in India



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Climate change initiatives and environment in India

Developing countries are going to bear the brunt of climate change and suffer most from its negative impacts. Evidence over the past few decades has conclusively established that significant changes in climate are taking place worldwide as a result of enhanced anthropogenic activities. The fast pace of development and industrialisation and indiscriminate destruction of natural environment, more so in the last century, have altered the concentration of atmospheric gases that lead to global warming (Rama Rao et al., 2018). Climate change refers to a statistically significant variation in either the mean state of the climate or in its variability, persisting for an extended period (typically decades or longer) (IPCC, 2007). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) established in 1988 played a decisive role in leading to the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the key international treaty to reduce global warming and cope with the consequences of climate change. The

Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) released during 2013-2014 provides a clear and up to date view of the current state of scientific knowledge relevant to climate change. The Sixth Assessment Report is expected to be finalised in 2022 in time for the global stocktake forseen under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement (<https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming>).

The combination of greater international pressure and shifts in the extent and nature of domestic attention led to a reformulation of India's international climate position and attendant domestic policy changes. Institutional change during this period centred on two high level policy formulation and coordination institutions, the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change (PMCCC) and the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Climate Change. The formation of the PMCCC in mid-2007 was stimulated by a perception that India needed to be better prepared to react to global pressures to address climate change (MEA, 2007). Formally, the council was charged with formulating a national

strategy to address climate change (which is known as National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), overseeing the formulation of action plans, and monitoring key policy decisions (Gol, 2007; <http://www.indiawaterportal.org>).

The NAPCC is guided by the six principles such as 1) Protection of the poor and vulnerable section as an inclusive development strategy; 2) Achieving national growth through qualitative change and economic direction that enhances ecological sustainability; 3) Demand side management; 4) Better technology that address mitigation and adaptation strategies; 5) Market mechanism that rewards sustainable development; and 6) Inclusivity that invites linkups with civil society and local government institutions. It has necessitated establishment of eight national missions, which not only espouse to these principles but will form the core of the overall national mission. The eight missions are 1. The National Solar Mission, 2. The National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, 3. The National Mission on Sustainable



5 MW Solar Rooftop project in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Habitat, 4. The National Mission on Water, 5. The National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, 6. The National Mission for a Green India, 7. The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and 8. The National Mission for Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

Climate change is probably the most complex and challenging environmental problem facing the world today (Ojwang' et al., 2010) and is increasingly recognised as a potent threat to agriculture. It is threatening the livelihood and food security throughout the world, but the impact is more in the developing countries (Mendelsohn et al., 2006). Various climate change models have predicted a rise of 1.7 to 4.90°C in mean temperature by 2100 in India (Cruz et al., 2007; Krishna Kumar et al., 2011; Chaturvedi et al., 2012). As a result of changing climate, rainfall is also projected to increase, but changes in distribution of rainfall are expected. An increase in frequency of extreme events such as floods, droughts, etc., is another manifestation of changing climate.

India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) outlines the post-2020 climate actions they intend to take under a new international

agreement as per Conference of the Parties-21 (CoP-21). The INDC centres around India's policies and programmes on promotion of clean energy, especially renewable energy, enhancement of energy efficiency, development of less carbon intensive and resilient urban centres, promotion of waste to wealth, safe, smart and sustainable green transportation network, abatement of pollution and India's efforts to enhance

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carbon sink through creation of forest and tree cover (Pew Center on Global Climate Change). Factors responsible for climate change and its impact on various important growth indicators are presented hereunder:

Population growth and pollution

The largest single threat to the ecology and biodiversity of the planet

in the decades to come will be global climate disruption due to the build-up of human-generated greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The combined effects of climate change and rapid population growth are increasing food insecurity, environmental degradation, and poverty levels. People around the world are beginning to address the problem by reducing their carbon footprint through less consumption and better technology (www.biologicaldiversity.org). Unless these issues are fully prioritised in development strategies and implemented in an integrated manner, it will be very difficult for developing countries to achieve sustainable development (<https://pai.org/policy-briefs>). An unbelievable bitter truth is that Indian population explosion adds an Australia to the country every year (Tripathi and Tripathi, 2003).

Depletion of forests, population growth, vehicular emissions, use of hazardous chemicals and various other undesirable human activities are mainly responsible for this degraded scenario of environmental health in India. Studies have found that urbanisation, population growth, economic development, and increasing demand for water from

agriculture and industry are likely to aggravate the situation further. Drudgery of women is increasing in fetching fuelwood and water to feed their family. Climate change impacts are great and they disproportionately affect women. When empowered, women and their families are better able to adapt to climate change.

Denudation of forests

Environmental change is one of many factors reducing the diversity of crops and livestock. Maintenance of biodiversity is essential for the sustainable production of food and other agricultural products and the benefits these provide to humanity, including food security, nutrition and livelihoods (<https://www.cbd.int/agro/importance>). A changing climate may worsen many of the threats to forests, such as pest outbreaks, fires, human development, and drought. Climate changes directly and indirectly affect the growth and productivity of forests through changes in temperature, rainfall, weather, and other factors. In addition, elevated levels of carbon dioxide have an effect on plant growth. These changes influence complex forest ecosystems in many ways (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2017).

In India, forests continue to shrink in spite of the National Forest Policy, 1988 (emphasised the protective role of forests in maintaining ecological balance and environmental stability), to have 33 per cent of the total geographical area of the country under tree cover. As the human and cattle population grew, forest areas have been cleared for agricultural and other household purposes. Again, railways, roadways, etc., have expanded their network. Dams, projects, bridges and several other institutions have been constructed thereby decreasing the forest areas. At the rate of deforestation of 2.5 hectare of forest per minute, India will become a Sahara desert within 50-100 years. State of Forest Report (2018) says that India's forest and tree cover has

increased by one per cent. The total forest and tree cover is spread across 802,088 square km, which is 24.39 per cent of the geographical area of the country.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) effect

Globally, increase in GHG emissions is mainly due to the rise of non-CO₂ emission levels in 2016, which was estimated around one per cent. With a share of about 28 per cent, the non-CO₂ GHG emissions (CH₄, N₂O and F-gas emissions) are a significant source of global GHG emissions (Olivier J.G.J., Schure K.M. and Peters J.A.H.W., 2017). Of those, methane, constituting about 19 per cent of global emissions, is by far the largest category. Its main sources are fossil fuel production (25 per cent), cattle (23 per cent) and rice production (10 per cent). The figures quoted above for total GHG emissions do not include net CO₂ emissions from land use change (<http://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/trends-in-global-co2-and-total-greenhouse-gas-emissions>). The five largest emitting countries including the European Union, which together account for 51 per cent of the world population, accounted for 68 per cent of total global CO₂ emissions and about 63 per cent of total global GHG emissions. Of those largest emitters, only India has shown a significantly rising trend of GHG emissions in 2016 (+4.7 per cent). Russia and the United States have shown a decreasing trend (both -2.0 per cent) as did Japan (-1.3 per cent), whereas China, the European Union and the group of other G20 members have stayed virtually at the same level as in 2015. This is mainly the result of lower coal consumption from fuel switches to natural gas and increased renewable power generation; in particular, in wind and solar power. Other growth in global GHG emissions mainly occurs in other developing countries.

Climate-related impacts on water resources can undermine the two dominant forms of power generation in India - hydropower and thermal power

generation, both of which depend on adequate water supplies to function effectively. To function at full efficiency, thermal power plants need a constant supply of fresh cool water to maintain their cooling systems.

Air pollution

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) formulates and notifies standards for emission for discharge of environmental pollutants, viz. air pollutants, water pollutants and noise limits from industries, operations or processes with an aim to protect and improve the quality of the environment and abate environmental pollution. Rising issue of air pollution has increasingly been becoming a serious concern, particularly in metro cities. Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM 2.5) concentrations are the major concern for the entire area of Delhi and NCR for last five years with reference to human health.

Generally, air pollution mainly affects the respiratory and inflammatory systems, but can also lead to more serious conditions such as heart disease. 'Global Burden of Disease' estimates for 2017 that early deaths related to PM 2.5 in India are the second highest in the world and ozone-related deaths are the highest in the world. Health effects of air pollution are cumulative manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals (MoEF report extract).

Agriculture and food security

More than 60 per cent of India's agriculture is rainfed, making the country highly dependent on groundwater. Even without climate change, 15 per cent of India's groundwater resources are overexploited. Intensive soil tillage and mismanagement of irrigation water and fertilisers under current agricultural practices have accelerated the pace of degradation of irrigated drylands in India. Best management practices for improving



Solar Steam Cooking System at Veerayatan Vidyapeeth Kutch, Gujarat

fertiliser use efficiency include applying nutrients according to plant needs, placed correctly to maximise uptake, at an amount to optimise growth, and using the most appropriate source (IFA, 2009). Poor soil fertility limits the ability of plants to efficiently use water (Bossio et al., 2008). This low water utilisation is partly because crops cannot access it, due to lack of nutrients for healthy root growth (Pening de Vries and Djiteye, 1982). (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/06/19/india-climate-change-impacts>).

Agriculture makes use of 70 per cent of all water withdrawn from aquifers, streams and lakes (FA, 2011). In most cases, farmers have no alternative, as their water sources are polluted, but in an increasing number of countries, waste water use is a planned objective, boosted by current climate change predictions (Scott et al., 2010). Crop diversification, more efficient water use and improved soil management practices, together with the development of drought-resistant crops can help reduce some of the negative impacts. Water management is central to producing the world's food supply and water scarcity has become a major concern in many regions.

In the face of these environmental and economic challenges, Conservation Agriculture (CA) practices such as reduced tillage, residue retention and proper crop rotations offer such solutions. But research on CA in India is still in its infancy.

Studies have shown that cultivating crops on relatively permanent raised beds with residue retention, potentially saves 12-23 per cent irrigation water in wheat and maize. Compared with conventional agriculture practices, raised bed systems saved up to 70 per cent of irrigation water in rice (Mina Devkota et al., 2014). Availability of irrigation water and use of heavy agricultural machinery intensified crop production but it also led to soil compaction, erosion, water logging, soil salinisation and nutrient mining (Devkota, 2011a; Devkota et al., 2010; Qadir et al., 2009).

National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) was launched during February, 2011 by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with the funding from Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The mega project has three major objectives of strategic research, technology demonstrations and capacity building. Assessment of the impact of climate change simultaneous with formulation of adaptive strategies is the prime approach under strategic research across all sectors of agriculture, dairying and fisheries. Evolving climate resilient agricultural technologies that would increase farm production and productivity vis-à-vis continuous management of natural and man-made resources constitute an integral part of sustaining agriculture in the era of climate change. The four modules of NICRA are natural resource

management, improving soil health, crop production and livestock; is aimed at making the farmers self-reliant (Wikipedia).

Marine production systems

Sea surface temperature has increased by 0.2 to 0.3°C along the Indian coast in the last 45 years, and is projected to increase by 2.0 to 3.5°C by 2099. The projected sea level rise is 30 cm in 50 years. During the southwest monsoon, the wind speed, coastal upwelling strength and chlorophyll concentration are also undergoing changes in the Indian seas. This will induce increases, decreases and shifts in the distribution of marine fish, with some areas benefiting while others lose. The small pelagics' such as the oil sardine and the Indian mackerel have extended their distributional boundary to northern and eastern latitudes contributing to fisheries in the last two decades (<http://www.cmfri.org.in/nicra/background.htm>). The marine fish production in India has increased by six times in the last six decades. However, there are sustainability concerns such as production approaching the potential yield, overcapacity in the fishing sector, open access to the fishery, degradation of habitats and trade-related issues. Climate change exacerbates the situation.

Human health

Climate change is expected to have major health impacts in India-

increasing malnutrition and related health disorders such as child stunting - with the poor likely to be affected most severely. Child stunting is projected to increase by 35 per cent by 2050 compared to a scenario without climate change (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/06/19/india-climate-change-impacts>). Malaria and other vector-borne diseases, along with and diarrheal infections which are a major cause of child mortality, are likely to spread into areas where colder temperatures had previously limited transmission. Heat waves are likely to result in a very substantial rise in mortality and death, and injuries from extreme weather events are likely to increase. Health systems will need to be strengthened in identified hotspots. Improvements in hydro-meteorological systems for weather forecasting and the installation of flood warning systems can help people move out of harm's way before a weather-related disaster strikes. Building codes will need to be enforced to ensure that homes and infrastructure are not at risk.

Rural livelihoods

Among many others, climate change is a major driver of change in rural areas resulting in urbanisation, migration, technological change and globalisation, which is making rural development a more complicated task for policymakers. There has been a significant structural shift in the economy towards the urban sector, and within the urban sector, towards the manufacturing and service sectors, especially the informal sector from the rural agriculture sector. In the rural sector, the shift from agriculture sector has been basically towards the non-farm activities. Also in traditional rural agriculture sector, there has been a significant change; outmoded subsistence farming is gradually being replaced by commercial agriculture. In a CRIDA report on "Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Policy Preferences: A Snapshot of Farmers' Perceptions in India," authors have observed that the fact that the migration is increasing in rural area became evident

when 45-55 per cent households in east and hill zones and 25-30 per cent households in north, south and west zones felt that presently, farming has become a secondary occupation. The adverse effects of climate change impair the livelihood of farming households and push them to face several other problems associated with crop loss and low income. Further, insufficient rainfall and increasing incidence of disease infestations were perceived as major challenges being faced by the farmers.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an important management tool for ensuring optimal use of natural resources for sustainable development. A beginning in this direction was made in our country with the impact assessment of river valley projects in 1978-79 and the scope has subsequently been enhanced to cover other developmental sectors such as industries, thermal power projects, mining schemes, etc. To facilitate collection of environmental data and preparation of management plans, guidelines have been evolved and circulated to the concerned Central and State government departments. EIA has now been made mandatory under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 for 29 categories of developmental activities involving investments of ₹ 50 crore and above (Insights IAS – Summary of Environment Report – 2017-2018).

Environmental Information

ENVIS (Environment Information System), a Central sector scheme, is being implemented through a network of 67 ENVIS Hubs and Resource Partners (RPs) of which 31 Hubs dealing with "State of the Environment and Related Issues" with varied thematic mandates pertaining to environment, forests, climate change, pollution abatement, health/hygiene, etc.

The World Environment Day is a part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for creating awareness and action worldwide for the environment. UNEP is made up of elected

committee members from various countries that work together to promote environmental issues through creating treaties and regulations for countries to sign that are based in environmental law, environmental health and environmental sustainability initiatives. The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973. It is the biggest annual event for positive environmental action and takes place every 5th June, since 1973, it has been hosted by a different city with a different theme. Today it is widely celebrated in more than 100 countries (www.conserve-energy-future.com/). The 2017 theme was 'Connecting People to Nature.' The host country for the WED 2017 was Canada, where the official celebrations took place. The host for World Environment Day 2018 is India and the slogan for 2018 is "Beat Plastic Pollution." (<https://en.wikipedia.org>)

The environment is the resource base that sustains both economic and social development. While pollution affects all of us, it has particularly negative impacts on women, children, the elderly, workers, the sick and people living in low-income areas. As a consequence, pollution constitutes a significant impediment to achieving sustainable development and ensuring that no one is left behind. A pollution-free planet would protect and restore the ecosystems that we rely on for our food, water, air and livelihoods, thus helping to improve human well-being and prosperity, especially for the poor and the disadvantaged. Pollution is to a large extent socially constructed. Transitioning to a pollution-free planet is not only possible; it is an imperative. Eliminating pollution would be the best insurance policy for future generations, as it would improve the integrity of the ecosystems they will need to survive. Human activities on land are the biggest sources of marine pollution. These include the dumping of waste along coastlines, littering on beaches, and the breaking down of ships. The major sea-based sources of marine pollution include discarded fishing gear, shipping activities, and legal and illegal dumping. An estimated 8 million

tonnes of plastic waste enter the world's oceans each year. (<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/marine>)

Adaptation and mitigation strategies

Climate change and adaptation need to be supported by initiatives that build the multi-tiered evidence base of transboundary socio-economic and environmental 'hotspots' and, hence the case for collective action on adaptation. Adaptation requires long-term planning and decision-making, considering a broad range of climate and socio-economic scenarios. It requires new knowledge, technologies, and understanding (extracted from Rural Development Report – 2017: Impacts of climate change on rural

livelihoods in CMC, 2018). It is important that government create opportunities for adaptation to climate change through creating a policy framework, resource mobilisation, regulating the private sector and NGOs, and facilitating adaptation and mitigation measures for climate change and economic globalisation. Knowledge and information sharing, including early warning of natural disasters and climatic events, are essential to build the resilience of local livelihoods and communities to climate change. The issue of climate change cannot be addressed in solace, but has to be integrated with the overall development plan. The challenges of climate change can be managed only

if the identified limitations such as lack of awareness and capacity on climate change, absence of proper institutional coordination and management, erroneous priority setting and absence of appropriate implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanism need to be addressed.

Dr. E.V. Prakash Rao

Professor and Head,
Centre for Climate Change and
Disaster Mitigation (CCC&DM)

Dr. V. Suresh Babu

Associate Professor, CCC&DM

Photo courtesy: **Ms. Shwetal Shah**,
Technical Advisor, Climate Change
Department, Government of Gujarat

Cover page design: **V G Bhat**



Officials of Save the Children Fund, Bangladesh visit NIRD&PR

An eight-member delegation of Save the Children Fund in Bangladesh led by Dr. Fredrick Christopher Aulanadam, Director, Child Poverty visited the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) during May 28-29, 2018 as part of their exposure visit to India.

On the first day, the delegates interacted with Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRD&PR and senior faculty members of the Institute. Ms. Shahida Begum, Programme Director-Youth for Empowerment made a presentation on initiatives of Save the Children Fund in Bangladesh. Important among these initiatives were skill development of young girls through

community involvement.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Rural Technology Park. The visitors were oriented on Government of India's initiative on skill development in rural areas through its scheme - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) - by Shri K Padmanabha Rao, Additional Project Director (CFL, NIRD&PR). Later in the day, Shri S. Srinivas, Project Director (NRLM), briefed the delegates about Government of India's poverty alleviation initiatives through Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission. In addition, Dr. N.V. Madhuri, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Gender and Social Development, briefed the

participants about the status of children in India, and various initiatives taken by the Government of India and NIRD&PR for improving the quality of lives of children, particularly their nutritional status.

Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR presided over the valedictory session. He emphasised the importance of exchanging experiences for transforming lives of rural people in the Indian sub-continent. Dr. Fredrick Christopher expressed the desire to send other teams from the organisation to NIRD&PR for exposure and exchange. The entire programme was coordinated by Dr. Rajesh K Sinha, Assistant Professor and team of CRTCN (Training), NIRD&PR.



ADB Executive Director Dr. Kshatrapati Shivaji delivers lecture at NIRD&PR

As part of the study forum, the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad invited Dr. Kshatrapati Shivaji, Executive Director of Asian Development Bank to deliver a lecture on 'Role of ADB in Rural Development: Innovations Across Globe Relevant for India' on June 28, 2018.

Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR delivered the welcome address.

In his address, Dr. K Shivaji emphasised that every individual should try not only doing the best but in a unique manner which will have an impact on the society. Regarding global poverty, he noted that India is no longer a country housing largest number of poor people, adding that many have been elevated from poverty.

Dr. K Shivaji further stressed that human resource is more valuable and significant compared to the material. "In India, though we make our development strategies through five-year plans, we should devise plans on a long-term basis like Chinese administrators. The turning point for India while projecting into global level was in 1991 when economic reforms were taken up. Our nation's strength lies in its robust and strong institutional network which is a strong point for our financial stability whereas many of the multi-national institutions in advanced countries have collapsed due to lack of strong structural strengths.

India is emerging as a strong economic power. India has to compare itself with China on many fronts to plan for many long-term goals," he said.

"In the present scenario, technology is the major driving force for economic development and if it has to be used judiciously, focussing on rural development areas. Internet of Things (IoA), Artificial Intelligence (AI), etc., are some of the examples. There is a need to increase the scientific temper among the youth to get full advantage of the human resources available in India. The technological advance is changing at a rapid manner. At times, it appears that it is having an impact on the livelihoods of a large population which may increase the unemployment in most of the countries. The knowledge and the technology should be balanced and we should strive to obtain the full advantage of these areas and to the satisfaction of mankind. India is bestowed with innovations, even among the rural/less-educated people. This kind of knowledge combining with local appropriate technologies will definitely take India to the next higher level in many spheres of life. We may have to synergise some of these things with a proper convergence to make the maximum benefit. It is a known fact that collective efforts will always give better outputs than individual efforts and hence, teamwork is given more importance in

today's world. India has taken a lead in digital information with efforts taken by the Government of India," he added.

Dr. K Shivaji pointed out that many venture funds are available to the new projects which can be taken up. "India being one of the most populous countries should strive to create more job providers rather than job seekers. There is no dearth of ideas in India and the youth, particularly in rural areas, should encourage local appropriate technologies and create more jobs in rural areas. NIRD&PR will definitely play a major role. ADB has already concentrated on qualitative and strategic interventions in many of the areas. Now, the Asian region should concentrate on some thematic areas with some sectoral development. Knowledge has become more important than financial assistance," he said.

Winding up, he advised the youth, particularly those belonging to rural areas, to make use of the knowledge and the innovative ideas and noted that the rural India can be developed by an appropriate local area technology.

Faculty members, staff and students of NIRD&PR, and also the neighbouring institutions attended the lecture. Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRD&PR proposed a vote of thanks. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Assistant Professor, CRTCN, NIRD&PR.

NIRD&PR EVENTS



Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, faculty members, staff and students of NIRD&PR performing yoga as part of the International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21, 2018.



Under the 'Clean and Green' campus initiative, Parthenium plants, plastic covers, bags, etc., were removed from the NIRD&PR campus on June 30, 2018. Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, students of PGDRDM, residents of NIRD&PR campus, faculty members, staff, etc. actively contributed their 'Shramdan' to this noble event. On the occasion, the Director General requested the people to contribute more in near future for the cause of 'Clean and Green' campus.



Eco-friendly construction technologies were used for the construction of Director General's bungalow on the NIRD&PR campus. The house warming ceremony was held on June 24, 2018.

ToT programme on Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance



A ToT programme on 'Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance' was organised by Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGGPA) during June 25-29, 2018 at NIRD&PR.

The programme aimed at addressing the objectives such as exposing participants to the concept of welfare state and its policies, identifying governance deficits and gaps in existing policies, enabling participants to learn different social accountability tools, applying the tools for analysing existing flagship programmes of rural development, verifying and establishing the tools and making the participants equipped with knowledge and skills for social accountability tools for better service delivery.

The training programmes focused on covering the following modules:

- Concept, Approaches and Elements of Good Governance
- Concepts, Approaches, Rational and Tools of Social Accountability
- Application of Social Accountability Tools Techniques – Budget Analysis, Fund utilisation and Participatory budgeting
- Application of Social Accountability Tools Techniques – Community Score Card (CSC)

- Application of Social Accountability Tools Techniques – Citizen Report Card (CRC)

The training programme contents were delivered through a judicious mix of lecture-cum-discussion, role playing, debate, hands-on training on CRC, CSC, budget analysis, group exercises and presentation by groups. Field test was planned for after completion of the classroom teaching of each tool.

Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR inaugurated the ToT programme. In his address, he highlighted the importance of good governance, especially in delivering the service to the public. He also pointed that as a government servant, improvement of governance is an everyday affair.

"In fact, it is an every minute affair and also a continuous process. The governance can be improved by using these social accountability tools, which can make tremendous difference for the stakeholders, customers and consumers," he said. He also highlighted the importance of one of the social accountability tools - social audit, which plays a major control to bring down the corruption.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. W. R. Reddy said that a large number of tools have already arrived. "They are not the end of all. Anyone can invent the tools

as per the requirement. The systematic improvement in the governance can really help the clientele and that will come when we are in love with our work," he added.

Totally, 17 participants from different parts of the country along with the officials and faculty of SIRDs and ETCs, scholars, faculty members and NGO partners and an international participant from Afghanistan, who is pursuing his master's degree from Osmania University, Hyderabad attended the programme.

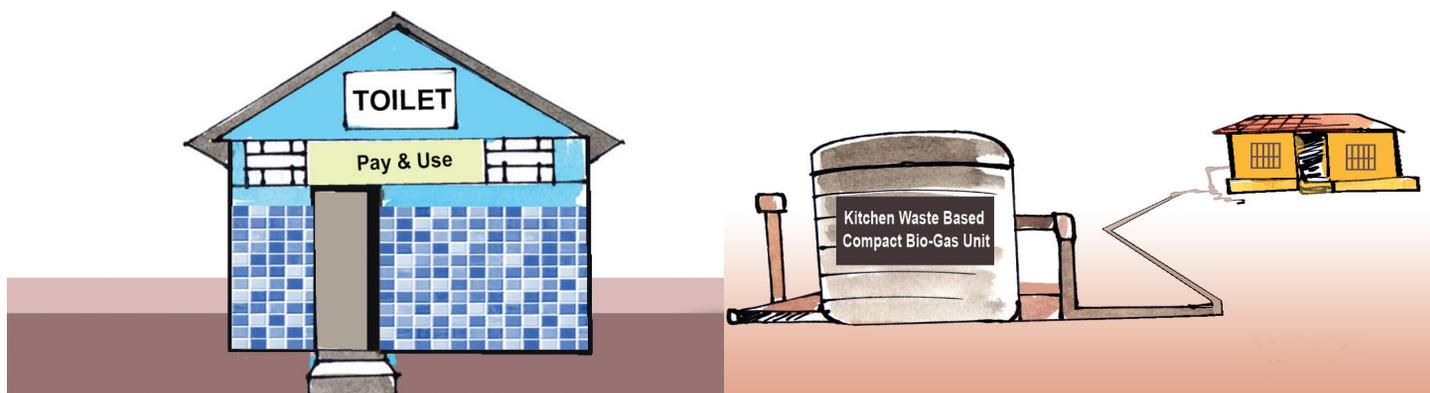
On the final day, participants made a presentation on their learnings from training and field visit, especially focussing on Citizen Report Card (CRC) and Community Score Card (CSC) learning experiences.

During the valedictory of the course, participants said the knowledge gained from the training programme will be taken forward by self-awareness of the importance of social accountability tools, disseminating the knowledge of the tools among colleagues and sensitising service providers, wherever possible, to go for SA tools for service delivery assessment. They added that people in academics can include this tool as part of lessons on monitoring and evaluation.

Dr. K. Prabhakar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Good Governance & Policy Analysis (CGGPA) organised the five-day certificate training programme.

Identifying small business potentials around sanitation

Toilet Maintenance Services



Swachh Bharat Mission-G

Are we aware that '17 States' of India have already been announced as open defecation-free (ODF) States? We have nearly 400 ODF districts. There was a time when hardly 20 per cent of the rural households in India had access to toilets. As in June, 2018, we have overturned the situation – hardly 14 per cent of the households 'do not' have toilets. Over 86 per cent rural households have toilet facility. India is making remarkable progress in terms of sanitation coverage for households in rural areas. The menace of open defecation has spectacularly come down. Evidently, the Swachh Bharat Mission-G has brought about a brilliant change in the mindset of rural people towards sanitation and cleanliness. In rural India today, the attitude towards sanitation in general and the use of latrines in particular, is very much favourable towards developing healthy surroundings. Latrine-use from being 'optional' has come to be referred to as a matter of 'human dignity and civility'. Approaches such as CLTS and CAS are triggering latrine use to become a universal social norm in rural India. Before October 2014, hardly 38 per cent of rural households owned toilets, whereas over 86 per cent have toilets (as in June 2018), thanks to the widespread awakening brought about by the Swachh Bharat Mission-G.

Supply Chain Management under SBM-G

Since the start of the SBM-G, supply chain management (bricks, perforated cement rings, toilet pans, ready-to-fix doors, roofing materials, etc.) for toilet construction goes seamlessly yet very silently. There are States (e.g. West Bengal) that have started cluster level Rural Sanitary Marts that deal exclusively in products meant for toilet construction. This, besides promoting many small entrepreneurs, has made many SHG women also involve in small business around sanitation. For instance, they manufacture and sell personal hygiene products such as sanitary napkins, and toilet cleaning products such as phenoyl. There are also CSR ventures that recognise and support such efforts, in their commitment to contribute to the cause of Swachh Bharat Mission.

There is a continuous demand for building materials and tools for toilet construction, as it is for various cleaning products, and sanitation services such as septage cleaning. The same holds good with regard to demand for masons who are trained in constructing twin pit toilets. The overall awareness among rural households on the need to stop defecating in open places has significantly improved, which has helped the mission to yield the results desired. When every gram panchayat is turning to be open defecation-free (ODF), the next important challenges are: (i) sustaining

the behaviour of the people to continue to use toilet – not reverting back to open defecation; (ii) educating the people to maintain toilets neat and clean; (iii) and developing hand washing practice; (iv) putting in place a system for waste management at gram panchayat level, etc. All these have several small business potential around it.

In other words, when States declare ODF status one after the other, and the overall rural toilet coverage is almost 80 per cent, conceivably, the focus has to hopefully shift to the 'next level' now. What entails the 'next level'? It entails technical sustainability; sustaining toilet use; maintaining the toilet neat and clean; nurturing the habit of hand washing with soap; menstrual hygiene management; faecal sludge management; in-situ waste segregation; putting in place a waste collection mechanism and providing at the household/community levels complete waste management technologies/solutions. All these throw open vast small business opportunities in, and in the vicinity of rural areas. This paper puts across, in brief, the immense (a) business/rural livelihoods diversification opportunities that sanitation sector has; (b) how it can be tapped, and (c) why it must be nurtured and promoted. It provides the programmatic strategy that looks promising to spell success not only in rural sanitation but also in rural livelihoods diversification endeavours, contributing to healthy living and poverty reduction.

Business Development/Livelihoods Diversification Prospects with Sanitation

There are bundle of products and services one can identify in sanitation sector that create value, and thus business. The Swachh Bharat Mission-G has already demonstrated the business potentials of Rural Sanitary Marts. Similarly, there are other potential business ideas ranging from manufacturing and sales of eco-friendly toilet cleaning products to faecal sludge management solutions; and ranging from producing eco-friendly waste bins (in place of plastic bins) to composting technologies at varied scales and sizes - suitable for households and communities. Some of them are listed below. The list given below is only suggestive and not exhaustive in any case.

- [Eco-friendly] toilet cleaning products
- Faecal sludge management services
- [Cost-efficient] sanitary pads for menstrual hygiene
- [Eco-friendly] soaps for hand washing (toilet soap and detergents)
- [Eco-friendly] liquid hand wash (liquid soap)
- Floor cleaning products [green cleaning]
- [Non-chemical] dish wash powder
- Managing pay-and-use toilets
- School & office toilet maintenance services
- Bio-gas from human waste
- Bio-gas from kitchen waste / food waste at hostels and restaurants
- Make and supply eco-friendly waste baskets (in place of plastic waste bins)
- Sale of a range of recycled products / products from waste materials
- Operating e-waste collection centre
- Operating dry resource recovery centre
- Make and sell home composters (such as Kambha home composters)
- Sale of composting powder (for home composting)
- Sale of vermicompost
- Sale of ordinary compost
- Sale of microorganisms
- Power generation from wastes (waste to energy projects)

- Waste to energy [gas] generation (for cooking)
- Reusing construction and demolition waste for making building materials

This list can be expanded through brain storming, and possibly elaborated through internal workshops with experts from sanitation sector, and entrepreneurship development sector. These small business ventures can be taken up by individual sanitation entrepreneurs, or by self-help groups and youth groups. Adequate training and capacity build support must be made available to them. This stems from the success of masons training, and mobile masons training that helped produce the required number of masons for constructing twin-pit toilets in some of the States (e.g. Chhattisgarh). Therefore, it is highly desirable, training institutions can design short-term certificate programmes on the business potentials of resource recovery from waste, and on technology options for solid waste management. This can also infuse the idea of viewing waste as a resource, and that any household refuse can be reused and recycled into usable products. Similarly, there is a great need of / demand for various sanitation services, yet such services are either in short supply or not developed adequately to meet the demand.

Convergence of SBM-G and SRLM

It's time SBM-G, takes the direction of business development and livelihoods diversification around sanitation, and waste management. This is very much possible if SBM-G converged with the State Livelihoods Mission

(SRLM). This paper chalks out ideas for business development and livelihood diversification around sanitation, and how roping in the strength of the Rural Livelihoods Mission can contribute to the sustainability of the results expected of the SBM-G, while at the same time, offers a fertile ground for State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLMs) for small business development that has immense livelihoods promotion potentials and practical relevance. This convergence points out the potential of hitting two birds with one stone.

The business and livelihoods promotion potential of sanitation sector can be beneficially tapped by the SRLM. SRLM needs to design training and capacity building activities pertaining to this. The SBM-G can develop a manual listing out the rural livelihoods diversification potentials of sanitation sector. This must also include the role of technology and rural marketing strategies. This can serve as a guidebook (training agenda) for SRLM officials to consider seriously, and design training courses for rural youth and SHGs on sanitation entrepreneurship. This precisely means that these two major programmes of the government [SBM-G and NRLM] have the prospects of reinforcing each other. If pragmatic steps could be taken in this direction, the overall development effect reported by these two major programmes can be remarkable.

Certain key considerations

Any new idea for a start-up in sanitation sector, must also take into consideration what business model



is likely to make sanitation business sustainable. Business Model Generation workshops that consider identifying the key partnerships, revenue streams, cost structure, etc., could be organised to start with. It must consider: Which ones are most cost-efficient? How are we integrating our business with people's routines / and what people value paying for?

Alternatively, Social Enterprise Model Generation workshops can also be organised. This is because often NRLM/SRLM endeavours to promote for-profit business models that propel economic change at household level, whereas social enterprises advance solutions to address social problems in order to make life better for many (e.g. toilet use and maintenance, hand washing with soap, composting kitchen waste, menstrual hygiene). If social enterprises in sanitation and waste management can be promoted on social enterprise models they would be workable models

too. Gram Panchayats, SHGs, Youth Groups and cooperatives can be trained to take up such tasks. They can earn just enough surplus (revenues) to meet out the expenditures incurred including the manpower costs. There are already examples where cross-subsidy model social enterprises are run successfully. For instance, the loss incurred in providing waste management services in Mudichur Gram Panchayat (Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu) is offset by the surplus earned from running an RO plant to supply drinking water to the same community. Such models can become contagious significantly improving the society's capacity to address problems such as open defecation and indiscriminate disposal of wastes. Therefore, when technologies, of course, are essential, management models that can make the system sustainable is important as well.

The role of NIRD&PR

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

(NIRD&PR) has a Rural Technology Park that has some of the demonstration units (such as vermicomposting, packaging and sale of vermicompost, vermishash, manufacturing of eco-friendly cleaning agents, Bio-gas from kitchen waste, eco-friendly mud-block making, etc.). They serve as practical ground for trainees who attend short-term courses on 'ODF Sustainability & Solid and Liquid Waste Management'. The Sanitation Park at the NIRD&PR has proposed to expand the sanitation park installing functional models of technologies for various waste management practices. The proposal includes solid waste, liquid waste and faecal sludge management, etc. Setting up these units is promising to offer additional strength and effectiveness to training programmes and workshops at NIRD&PR in the field of rural sanitation, and waste management.

Dr. R Ramesh

Associate Professor, CRI

Illustrations: V G Bhat



Hindi workshop at National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

A one-day Hindi workshop was organised for reclassified Group 'C' employees of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad. Shri E. Ramesh, Senior Hindi Translator welcomed the guest and participants. Smt. Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (OL) briefed the participants about the workshop.

Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Associate

Professor and Head, CDC, inaugurated the workshop. In her address, she noted that several prominent people in the country had knowledge of more than one language.

"There is no age bar for learning. Being a Central government employee, it is obligatory for the staff to learn Hindi, the official language, and use it in our daily work. We should increase the use of

Hindi in official work," she said.

Shri Kamalluddin, Senior Hindi Pradhyapak, Hindi Teaching Scheme, handled a session on functional Hindi. In the second session, Dr. C. S. Singhal, Senior Professor of the Institute shared health-related information with the employees in Hindi. Hindi Section staff assisted the workshop. Shri E. Ramesh proposed a vote of thanks.



Off-campus regional ToT course on Value Chains and Marketing Strategies for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

The Centre for Livelihoods (CFL) organised an off-campus regional TOT course on 'Value Chains and Marketing Strategies for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods' at Thakur Perelal State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (TPSIPRD), Nimora, Raipur, Chhattisgarh during June 25-29, 2018. Altogether, 28 participants attended the programme. The participants included senior and middle level officials from Extension Training Centres, State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD), State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM), District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and Community Resource Persons (CRP).

The course design was briefly presented by Dr. Hemantha Kumar, Course Director and Associate Professor, CFL. The course started with an ice-breaking session by Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, CFL and it comprised seed-mixing and participatory exercises to help participants know each other.

The following topics were dealt by NIRD&PR faculty members and guest faculty:

- Sector-specific value chains in farm sector
- Value chain in NTFT

- Value chain in mushroom cultivation
- Marketing strategies and technologies for promotion of market enterprise in rural India
- Sector-specific value chain linkages
- Promotion of agri-entrepreneurship and innovations
- NRLM and its ongoing market linkages (Bihan project)
- Skills for increasing promotion of productivity, value chain and income generation
- Field-cum-exposure visit to mushroom production unit and its value chain process at Raipur
- Field-cum-exposure visit to fisheries production and its value chain process at Dhamteri district
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and its sustainability
- Concept of gender and importance of gender in livelihoods development
- Team building, team work, positive attitude and participatory group exercises through various activities/games.

Training methods

A variety of conventional and participatory training methods were used in the training programme. They include

lecture-cum-discussion, role plays, Large Scale Interactive Event (LSIE), video film-based discussion, flash card exercises, energies, field-cum-exposure visits, group discussions, case presentations, group exercises and games, etc.

Field-cum-exposure visits

One-day field visits were organised to mushroom production unit and its value chain process (Raipur) and fisheries production and its value chain process (Dhamteri district). The participants interacted with the entrepreneurs of the two value chain units.

In the valedictory session, the participants said that they have upgraded knowledge, skills and attitudes in the area of value chain and marketing strategies for rural livelihoods development. Furthermore, they highlighted that they would organise training programmes at district and block levels in the back-home situation. They also appreciated the faculty members of NIRD&PR and TPSIPRD for conducting the training programme.

The course team for the training programme comprised Dr. U. Hemantha Kumar, Associate Professor, Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, Centre for Livelihoods and Shri Anand Raguwanshi, senior faculty member, TPSIPRD, Nimora, New Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Consultative workshop on Finalisation of Framework for Implementation of RGSA



A two-day national level consultative workshop on 'Finalisation of Framework for Implementation of Newly Restructured Schemes of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)' was organised at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad during June 4-5, 2018. Senior officials including Principal Secretaries, Additional Commissioner, Director, Deputy Director and senior faculty of the SIRDs, BDOs, officials of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Nodal Officers, State Project Managers and State Team Leader of RGSA, State consultants from 28 States and selected sarpanches from few States participated in the workshop. Senior-most officials of Ministries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj like Shri Jaideep Govind, Special Secretary, MoPR, Smt. Shalini Prasad, Special Secretary, MoPR, Shri Bala Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoPR, Shri Khushwant Singh Sethi, Joint Secretary, MoPR, Shri S.S. Prasad, Director, MoPR, Smt. Sujata Sharma, Economic Adviser, MoPR, Shri Sanjay Kumar Upadhyaya, Under Secretary, MoPR, Shri Puneet Sharma, Under Secretary, MoPR, Shri Harkesh Chander, Under Secretary, MoPR and consultants of MoPR

participated actively to discuss and finalise the revised RGSA implementation document. Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj participated in this workshop by delivering inaugural address through video conference.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by lighting the lamp. Dr. W R Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR delivered the welcome address. In his address, he mentioned that RGSA is an igniting programme. "In terms of financial outlay, it may not be a big flagship programme like MGNREGA but a small spark is good enough to light the whole thing," he said. He perceived RGSA a catalyst to trigger the ultimate final outcome, adding that the feedback of delegates in firming up the framework would go a long way in the smooth implementation of the whole programme. He considered the GPDP as the fulcrum and the fundamental foundation stone of the whole edifice of local governments.

Shri Khushwant Singh Sethi, Joint Secretary, MoPR presented a brief overview of the framework for implementation of newly restructured

schemes of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. He mentioned that 115 inspirational districts of NITI Aayog and 50,000 gram panchayats under the Mission Antyodaya would be covered under RGSA and impetus would be given to PRI-SHG partnership to increase effectiveness of rural local governments. He also mentioned that small size of panchayat is not viable simply because the funds, manpower resources and the infrastructure available with them become unviable so they are not able to discharge their duties and their service delivery to the citizens effectively.

Dr. Bala Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoPR in his speech mentioned that 73rd Amendment has given a structured framework to Panchayati Raj and moreover, Panchayati Raj has become a part of our culture and civilisation, and has contributed a lot for the development of rural areas. He also said that the restructured schemes of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan aim at developing governance capabilities of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Smt. Shalini Prasad, Special Secretary, MoPR in her keynote address stressed that gram panchayat leaders, together with

government bodies, should think out of the box and gram panchayats should work as the partners of the government to provide good citizen-friendly services in their areas and RGSA is going to help GP leaders in achieving the goal.

She further requested all the delegates to present their idea freely and comfortably no matter how abstract doubts and questions as these things are going to help to build better RGSA.

Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, MoRD delivered the inaugural address via video conferencing from MoRD, New Delhi. Shri Amarjeet Sinha considered the present conference to be a very important activity both for panchayat and rural development. He further said that Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan can be seen as a platform which can help improve the delivery of public programmes with the involvement of panchayats and with the cooperation

of community organisations like self-help groups. The RGSA document was very exhaustive in its coverage of all the necessary essential dimensions to strengthen PRIs with substantial support for CB&T infrastructure.

The second day was completely devoted for discussion on Gram Panchayat Development Plan and PES.

Dr. Joy Elamon, Director, KILA made an elaborate presentation on GPDP. Making a cue on the presentation of Dr. Joy, Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR stressed more on labour budget of MGNREGA which should flow from GPDP plan. Different dimensions of GPDP were deliberated like GPDP and SDGs; GPDP and Convergence and the status of GPDP and its implications in States.

Shri D C Misra, Deputy Director General, National Informatics Centre made a detailed presentation on PES

applications, covering the key features of individual application, available mobile apps, present status of implementation across the country and future plans. Dr. W R Reddy made a brief presentation on the multi-pronged approach for building ownership and accountability of gram panchayats. He explained the key activities being undertaken by NIRD&PR, including HR needs assessment at GP level, competency mapping, skill gap analysis and capacity building framework for various levels.

The two-day workshop was concluded with a vote of thanks by Smt. Radhika Rastogi, Deputy Director General, NIRD&PR.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor and Workshop Director, under the guidance of Dr. Y Bhaskar Rao, Professor & Head, Centre for Panchayati Raj.



SAMARTHYA training programme under SAGY at NIRD&PR

SAMARTHYA training programme - a comprehensive capacity building programme of SAGY functionaries of Phase-II and Phase-III gram panchayats on various aspects of the participatory planning process and effective implementation of the programme - was organised at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad during

June 6-7, 2018. The two-day programme was the last of a series of capacity building sessions which has been organised in three different locations of the country.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, CHRD and Nodal Officer, SAGY spoke about the role of NIRD&PR.

“The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad is a think tank for the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. The Institute is one of the major stakeholders of this entire programme. The Institute has rich experience in training and capacity building. Therefore,

Ministry has summoned the responsibility of training and capacity building for the charge officers of SAGY programme," she said.

Dr. Gyanmudra also welcomed Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, Shri Kamran Rizvi, Joint Secretary (Skills), MoRD, Gol, Shri Anant Prakash Pandey, Director, DDU-GKY, MoRD, Gol and Smt. Roop Avtar Kaur, Director, SAGY, MoRD, Gol.

Altogether, 101 participants from seven States, viz. Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar and Telangana attended. The participants include State Nodal Officers, State Trainers and Charge Officers under SAGY programme.

Shri Kamran Rizvi, Joint Secretary (Skills), Ministry of Rural Development coined out the challenges on implementing SAGY activities. He told coordination with all departments has become a challenging job for a charge officer. But it can be overcome by motivating MP who has hold on all the line departments. And then DC/DM should be motivated and convinced for the activities. He asked all the SNOs and charge officers to start with skill programmes in their respective GPs and appeal for a saturated approach for skill development programme. Shri Kamran Rizvi said he believes that livelihood is very crucial aspect in enhancing the quality of life of the villagers.

Shri Anant Prakash Pandey, Director, DDU-GKY, MoRD also reiterated the importance of skill development programme, especially DDU-GKY. He informed that there are approximately 40 skill development programmes facilitated by different ministries. The charge officer may take the help of these schemes to develop the individual's life and in turn the scenario of the GP. He asked all participants to use the Kaushal Panjee Application for registering the candidate. According to him, SOP of

DDU-GKY programme is very strong as it involves private party as training partner. Shri Anant Prakash Pandey also informed that this wage link programme would change the attitude of the rural youth.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. W R Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR informed that the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana is not a scheme or any programme, it is a platform which helps to bring all the Central and State sponsored schemes and help to build a better environment in rural India. He noted that the main threat to SAGY programme is absence of dedicated fund. "Every scheme has huge amount of fund. People should know how to converge the schemes from the line department," he said. He also supported the fact that the force behind each SAGY charge officer is the MP who adopted the GP. Dr. Reddy also said that through SAGY platform one can lay out multiple scalable schemes. Most important tool for the SAGY is Village Development Plan or VDP. A holistic development plan is required for sustainable development. He asked to empower each panchayat and let them implement all the schemes. He tried to motivate all the charge officers by conveying the fact that the extra responsibilities of SAGY should be taken as job plus factor.

Later, Smt. Roop Avtar Kaur, Director, SAGY, MoRD shared the experiences of past three training programmes which were held at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, NERC-NIRDPR, Guwahati and DDU-SIRD, Lucknow. She requested the participants to attend this two-day programme and get maximum knowledge from the resource persons.

Dr. Rajanikanth, Senior Consultant, NIRD&PR and Shri R Suryanarayana Reddy, Senior Consultant, NIRD&PR were invited as resource persons for this two-day training programme.

Dr. Gyanmudra started the session by sharing the experiences of SAGY

Programmes in the last three years. She pointed out various challenges as well as success stories built up during those years. She briefly shared the activities of NIRD&PR carried out during 2014-17 under SAGY programme. An analysis of domain-wise activities, which took place during the last three years, was presented by Dr. Gyanmudra.

Shri R Suryanarayana Reddy, who has long association with various rural development programmes, handled a session on key process involved in preparation of Village Development Plan (VDP) followed by a session on listing prioritised needs and projectisation in the form of VDP.

Dr. Rajanikanth, a retired professor of NIRD&PR, focused on various techniques of participatory planning. He kept all the participants engaged in a comprehensive discussion mode. He also pointed out various success stories through participatory planning. Baseline survey techniques taught by him were very helpful for the participants.

Dr. Gyanmudra elaborated the use of SAMANVAY in SAGY programme. She also highlighted various publications carried out to assist the charge officers in implementing SAGY programmes. The last session of the first day was coordinated by MoRD representative. The session was designed to demonstrate the Saanjhi portal and Saanjhi support system.

Second day of the programme started with a presentation on uploading of baseline survey data on SAGY portal by NIC and MoRD teams. Resource persons engaged all the participants in a group activity for half a day. Each group was asked to prepare a Village Development Plan (VDP) on a given format and to present the plan before resource persons and other groups. They also discussed all issues in detail. The last day ended with valedictory session.

SAMARTHYA training programme under SAGY at NERC, Guwahati and DDU-SIRD, Lucknow

The second and third programmes of SAMARTHYA training programme series - a comprehensive capacity building programme of SAGY functionaries of Phase-II and Phase-III gram panchayats on various aspects of the participatory planning process and effective implementation of the programme - were organised at North Eastern Regional Centre- NIRD&PR, Guwahati, Assam and Deendayal Upadhyaya State Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow during May 9-10 and May 23-24, 2018, respectively.

Programme at NERC, Guwahati

Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, CHRD briefed about the programme and greeted the participants. Dr. R M Pant, Director NERC, NIRD&PR, Guwahati formally welcomed the participants and highlighted the need of qualitative leadership for the success of the programme. He also urged the participants to complete all the activities mentioned in village development plan.

A total of 90 participants from 14 States, viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura participated in this programme. The participants included State Nodal Officers, State trainers and charge officers under SAGY programme.

Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Joint Secretary (Policy Planning & Monitoring and SAGY), MoRD, New Delhi welcomed the facilitators (NIRD&PR) and the participants from the States, and shared the expectations of the Ministry. He stressed upon the importance of role of charge officers and State Nodal Officers in making this programme a huge success. Stating that such kind of training programmes for charge officers are very much need before leveraging their duties, he has also mentioned that the data/indicators available through Mission Antyodaya and Aspirational district programme can also be used to prepare Village Development Plan (VDP) and prioritising the basic needs of the village. He reminded the participants that SAGY can be integrated with Mission Antyodaya, Aspirational District and Gram Swaraj Yojana. He further requested the participants to prepare VDP with all seriousness and help Hon'ble MPs



in creating model villages. Ms. Roop Avatar Kaur, Director, SAGY, MoRD was also present on both days of the training programme.

Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, CHRD and Nodal Officer, SAGY addressed the participants through video conference from NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. In her presentation, she talked about the framework and current status of SAGY programme in the country.

Dr. Kanak Haloi, former Professor, NERC-NIRD&PR was invited as Resource Person for sharing his experience on criticality of Village Development Plan for success of SAGY and the tools for participatory rural appraisal. Dr. Haloi provided his inputs in VDP prepared by participants in a group exercise.

The representatives from National Informatics Centre and MoRD, New Delhi demonstrated the procedures for uploading baseline survey data of SAGY village, Village Development Plan on SAGY support portal, and also explained about the Panchayat Darpan data uploaded on SAGY portal. At the end of the programme, certificates were distributed to participants and Dr. Lakhan Singh proposed a vote of thanks.

Programme at DDU-SIRD, Lucknow

The third programme of the SAGY was conducted at Deendayal Upadhyaya State Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow during May 23-24, 2018. Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, CHRD briefed about the programme and the role of NIRD&PR in SAGY programme. He also welcomed all the officials participating in the programme.

The programme was inaugurated

by Dr. Harish Chandra, OSD to Special Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh by lighting the lamp with other dignitaries on dais. Dr. Rakesh Ranjan, Deputy Director, DDU-SIRD formally welcomed the participants on behalf of his institute. Shri Rajesh Kanaujia, Under Secretary, MoRD, Government of India shared the present status of SAGY and requested all officers to accelerate their work to achieve the target by March, 2019.

Dr. Harish Chandra, OSD to Special Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh addressed the gathering. He requested all the participants to sincerely attend the training programme and clear their doubt whatever arises. He told the officers that they have to saturate all the activities proposed under VDP and upload the same on the website by March, 2019 as per the instruction from MoRD, Government of India. He urged all officers to start work as soon as possible and address the gap with available government schemes.

In total, 76 participants from different districts of Uttar Pradesh attended. The participants included State Nodal Officer, State Trainers and Charge Officer under SAGY programme.

Dr. R Suryanarayana Reddy, Consultant, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad was invited as a resource person to share his experiences on importance of VDP in SAGY and Dr. Vardani, former Additional Director, DDU-SIRD, Lucknow was invited as resource person to handle the session on participatory tools and techniques of PRA. Dr. Vardani started his session by singing a self-written song on SAGY



to motivate all the participants. He explained all the PRA methods with practical examples.

On the second day, the participants were addressed by Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Joint Secretary, MoRD, Government of India and Shri Anurag Srivastava, Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Director General, DDU-SIRD, Lucknow.

Shri Anurag Srivastava shared the status of SAGY programme in the State and asked the participants to address the gap with convergent mode. He added

that the State government is ready to provide any kind of help in saturating all the activities proposed for SAGY villages. He ensured that the Uttar Pradesh will achieve the targets of SAGY.

Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari asked to carry out sustainable activities in the GPs. He asked all officers to make use of all the State and Centrally sponsored schemes for accomplishing the VDP in a saturation mode. He revealed that Adarsh Gram is not just fulfilling or accomplishing the activities, but it has to be sustainable and to be of best quality. Citing the example of construction of a school in SAGY GP, he said building

the school is not enough; one has to check whether all children are attending schools or not, teachers are regularly coming to schools on time, quality education is being given, etc. He cited a few of success stories of SAGY gram panchayat to motivate others to do in the same spirit. Further, he interacted with participants in an open session and responded to their questions related to SAGY.

The technical session related to SAGY was coordinated by representatives from MoRD and NIC. They demonstrated the procedure of uploading Baseline Survey data and VDP on SAGY support portal. They discussed all the issues in detail.

In practical sessions, participants in groups were asked to prepare VDP and make a presentation on the same. Inputs were provided by resource persons to improve the VDP.

The programme ended with distribution of certificates. Dr. Lakhan Singh proposed a vote of thanks.

Both the programmes were coordinated by Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor and Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, Centre for Human Resource Development, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.

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पंचायती राज संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030
Phone: (040) 24008473, Fax: (040) 24008473
E-mail: cdc.nird@gov.in, Website: www.nird.org.in

Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR
Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRD&PR

Editor: Dr. K. Papamma
Asst. Editors: Krishna Raj K.S.
Victor Paul

Published By:
Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Associate Professor and Head, CDC
on behalf of the NIRD&PR,
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030.

Printed at:
Vaishnavi Laser Graphics
H.No.3-4-489/1, Barkathpura Main Road,
Hyderabad. Ph : 040-27552178



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