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Concurrent
**SOCIAL
AUDITS**
in MGNREGS
in India



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Concurrent Social Audits in MGNREGS in India

MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) guarantees rural households 100 days of paid unskilled manual labour every year. A number of rights and entitlements are provided to the workers under this Act. The procedure, responsibilities and time frame have been set for the implementation of the schemes operated under it.

Social audits are a requisite tool under the Act to monitor and evaluate the works that are being carried out. Section 17 of MGNREGA envisages that independent social audits of the Gram Panchayats should be conducted once in every six months, facilitated by Social Audit Units (SAUs).

Schedule II of MGNREGA also mandates conduct of concurrent social audits on a regular basis. These audits should be participatory, including all village members to ensure that MGNREGS works are being carried out inclusively, fairly and in line with the annual plans. The objective of both social audit and concurrent social audit

is to support the achievement of the ultimate goal and objectives set under this Act.

After due effort from Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), social audits were institutionalised in all the States but concurrent social audits were not given importance.

Concurrent audit is very helpful in improving the quality of the implementation. The States should consider performing concurrent social audits even after the regular social audit process resumes in all Gram Panchayats

Once the MoRD lifted the lockdown restrictions on the MGNREGS works, the labour returned to the worksites in the first week of April, 2020. Though MGNREGS works are going on in all the States, it has not been possible for the social audit teams of the SAUs to facilitate regular social audits of the MGNREGA as per the Action Plan 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, it has been decided to start the process of concurrent social audit.

The objectives of concurrent social audits included community monitoring, awareness generation regarding the rights and entitlements, encouraging workers to work in MGNREGA, timely grievances redressal, making Panchayats active and sensitive to provide employment to the workers who are back from migration, ensuring worksite facilities, utility and quality of the works undertaken, timely wage payment to workers, etc.

A lot of labourers returned to their native villages and job cards have to be issued to them. The concurrent social audit process will be useful in checking whether the returned migrants were issued job cards and they were able to avail work under MGNREGA.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development released guidelines for conducting concurrent social audits on the 15th July, 2020. As per data from the Ministry, 15 States are conducting concurrent audits at present and the status is given in Table-1.

Recognising the importance of concurrent social audits, the Centre for



Social Audit team during door-to-door verification of beneficiaries

Social Audit, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj hosted the consultation with Directors and other representatives from each of the Social Audit Units on 3rd September, 2020. In this meeting, Social Audit Units shared their experiences on conducting concurrent social audits. The process of conduct of concurrent social audits in Jharkhand and Telangana are elaborated as shared in the consultative meet.

Concurrent Social Audit Process in Jharkhand

Jharkhand began conducting concurrent social audits from 1st June,

2020. The audit took place over five days by a five-member team (two empanelled resource persons from a different Panchayat and three persons from the same Gram Panchayat).

Online training was provided to the resource persons before they began the audit. Formats were created in the Google Sheets for data entry. The muster rolls of ongoing works and other MIS data were downloaded and given to the teams.

The team visited the ongoing worksites, made home visits to wage seekers listed in open muster rolls and visited the quarantine centres. Assistance was provided to people to get job cards and register demand form. Even though

there are no Gram Sabhas, the findings of the audit are shared among the people in small meetings. On the last day, a report is prepared for the Gram Panchayat and the Block Development Officer has to take action within 15 days.

The data is also entered in a Google spreadsheet. The entered data is immediately made available to the department team which has to take corrective action on serious issues within 48 hours (lodge FIR against JCB use, provide worksite facilities, question why muster roll has been issued when work is not going on or why the completed work is being shown again, etc.).

Since there are no public hearings, the government organises review meetings at the district level to follow up on the Action Taken Report. Audit paragraphs can only be dropped after review by the committee. A Google Meet of the ATR review committee to review the concurrent audit findings and action taken was arranged. Furthermore, as a check on the CSA process, 5 per cent of CSA are test audited by civil society members.



Verification of dug well at Baradaha, Jamtara district, Jharkhand by Social Audit team

Concurrent Social Audit Process in Telangana

Concurrent social audits started in Telangana from June 2020. The CSA team did a door-to-door verification and interacted with the stakeholders duly registering their grievances like pending payments, demand for work, request for new job cards/adding names in existing job card and group, splitting existing job card and forming/adding in worker group, etc.

The team provides a grievance receipt to the stakeholder concerned. They organise grievance redress desks at the Gram Panchayat offices to record grievances duly following COVID-19 protocols. The team also imparts awareness on precautions to be taken in the COVID-19 pandemic situation. They undertake verification of records and registers available at GP level.

They also carry out physical verification of ongoing work sites which includes activities like

- Verifying location with estimation (through mobile)
- Creating awareness on marking/measurements (per day wage)
- Utilisation of work and structure
- Creating awareness on worksite facilities
- Creating awareness on rights and entitlements of the wage seekers
- Muster verification: Roll call at work sites, for instance, recording the details of ongoing works.

At the end of the day, in each village, the grievances resolved are communicated to the stakeholders concerned and the follow up of the pending grievances is done over phone even after the CSA in the GP has been completed.

The Additional Programme Officer at Mandal Computer Centre level and Panchayat Secretary at GP level are responsible for resolving the pending

S. No	Name of the State/ UT	Total number of GPs with ongoing MGNREGS works	Total number Concurrent Social Audit planned	% of Concurrent Social Audit Planned against total GPs with ongoing works	Total Number of Concurrent Social Audits conducted	% of CSA conducted against planned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2726	1103	40.46	838	75.97
2.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	5940	2505	42.17	2012	80.32
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1852	887	47.89	829	93.46
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	2516	209	8.31	154	73.68
6.	Jharkhand	4121	3100	75.22	1842	59.42
7.	Kerala	103192	79202	76.75	69582	87.85
8.	Madhya Pradesh	21182	9899	46.73	4713	47.61
9.	Meghalaya	2278	700	30.73	688	98.29
10.	Odisha	6446	1973	30.61	1887	95.64
11.	Punjab	5603	706	12.60	706	100.00
12.	Sikkim	53	21	39.62	21	100.00
13.	Telangana	12604	2221	17.62	2179	98.11
14.	Uttar Pradesh	43459	46215	106.34	30140	65.22
15.	Uttarakhand	3422	360	10.52	379	105.28

issues and the social audit teams follow up on each issue with them.

The formats duly filled during door-to-door verification and at worksite are shared with MGNREGS Programme Officer concerned for resolving the issues and the data is submitted every week to the O/o the SSAAT through the Google Forms datasheets. A weekly status report on CSA is being submitted to MoRD on every Friday. Case studies are also being recorded during the process.

To conclude, as per MGNREGA, both social audits and concurrent social audits are mandated to be conducted. But concurrent social audits did not get institutionalised in any of the State before COVID -19 pandemic. The States that could not perform regular social audits due to the lockdown restrictions have started doing concurrent social audits.

Since concurrent audit is very helpful in improving the quality of the

implementation, the States should consider carrying out concurrent social audits even when the regular social audit process resumes in all Gram Panchayats.

In the words of Smt. Aradhana Patnaik, Secretary, RD&PR, Jharkhand, a general audit after the completion of the work is a fault-finding exercise - the discrepancies and defalcations are listed, FIRs have to be filed, disciplinary action has to be taken against officials concerned and recovery has to be done. However, as concurrent social audit is done on ongoing works, it allows for making course corrections in the initial stage itself without the need to take stringent actions at the end.

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NIRDPR conducts online national ToT on Conducting Community-based Participatory Research in Rural and Tribal Areas



The slides used in the training programme

A national training of trainers on Conducting Community-Based Participatory Research in Rural and Tribal Areas was conducted by Dr. Rubina Nusrat, Assistant Professor and Course Director, Centre for Equity and Social Development, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad during 19th to 21th October, 2020.

Participatory Research (PR) is a set of multidisciplinary approaches that are inherently based on the principles of participation. The approaches depend on the core philosophy of inclusivity, especially between the researchers and the community. This approach propagates the participation of all stakeholders in the process of research and develops a sense of ownership in the process and dissemination of knowledge generated through research.

There has been an enhanced usage of PR in the research processes of development agencies and academicians. This approach gained popularity as it makes research an implementable process during the process of conducting research and simultaneously sensitising

people into analysing their situation through their active involvement in the research process. As emphasised by PRIA International Academy, decision-makers, advocates of marginalised populations, researchers and people in the community have questioned the social and cultural validity of studies conducted by researchers who know little about the people, culture, and context in which the research was done. To transform conditions that influence and change the lives of people requires collaboration between academic and non-academic stakeholders.

Engagement of the intended users, beneficiaries and stakeholders in the research process enhances commitment for using research findings to act in order to improve their existing condition.

Keeping the need of the development professionals and academicians, there is a need of a course which is aimed at improving the competence of conducting community-based participatory research by orienting the learners on theories and principles of participatory research, using participatory methods for data collection, data analysis and dissemination and

some of the ways in which the research can be used to mobilise the community for taking collective action.

Against this backdrop, NIRDPR organised an online training of trainers on Conducting Community-Based Participatory Research in Rural and Tribal Areas.

The objectives of the ToT entails appreciating the history and origin of participatory research with a rural and tribal community perspective, developing a participatory research design in partnership with the community (with a focus on identifying research questions, methods of data collection and analysis, dissemination of findings for collective action and change) and developing skills for participatory methods of data collection and analysis.

It includes conducting participatory evaluation and monitoring to the developing strategies for using new research knowledge for collective action and change of rural and tribal communities.

In the inaugural session, Dr. Rubina Nusrat, Assistant Professor and Course Director, CESD, NIRDPR delivered the

welcome address and presented the background of the training programme.

The contents of the national training comprised varied spectrum of domains like tools of PRA, Participatory Learning and Action (PLA), Participatory Action Research, Participatory Research through Art Based methods, Methods of Data Analysis in Participatory Research, Participatory Evaluation and Monitoring, Behaviour Change Communication: Theory and Practice in Participatory Research and Ethics in Community Based Participatory Research.

In total, 130 participants from various States and international participants from countries like Kenya and Bangladesh attended the programme. The participants were mostly SIRD faculty, officials of Tribal Cell, PESA State implementing officials, Tribal Welfare Officers, Panchayat officials, officials from NGOs working in tribal areas and faculties from various universities.

The programme was designed to be participatory and interactive. It was a judicious mix of a wide spectrum of training methodologies like

lectures, audio visual screenings, class participation through discussion, quiz on subject matter, case studies and issue-based problem solving exercises, etc.

During the valedictory of the training, the participants shared their experiential learning and demanded for more training programmes on this particular issue in future.

Dr. Rubina Nusrat, Assistant Professor and Course Director, Centre for Equity and Social Development (CESD), organised the three-day national training of trainers programme.

Online workshop-cum-ToT for rural development professionals and faculty of SIRD Meghalaya on Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance



A slide from presentation used in the training programme

Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGGPA), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad organised an online workshop and training of trainers (ToT) for rural development professionals and faculty of SIRD Meghalaya on 'Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance' during 14th -16th, October, 2020.

Good Governance is about the processes for decision-making and implementing. It is not about making correct decisions, but about the best

possible process for making those decisions. Good Governance is a combination of characteristics, namely accountability, transparency, following the rule of law, responsive, equitable, inclusive, effective, efficient and participatory.

Social Accountability Tools enable development practitioners with the knowledge to generate demand and thus, ultimately improve governance at the local, regional, and national levels. Social accountability tools are essential for learning; many of the public policies

are increasingly goal oriented, aiming for measurable results, goals and decision centric.

The importance of the Good Governance will rely on successful delivery of the service to the public, especially reaching of all pro-poor government initiatives to rural poor. Improvement of governance is a daily affair and is a continuous process for government servants. Governance can be improved by using this social accountability tool at micro level to empower the community and bringing accountability.

Prospectus of the Programme

- This specialisation will give the participants the knowledge and tools that an organisation needs to record and produce professionalism in dispensing public services
- The participants will learn the technical aspects of assessing public issues, including the involvement of the stakeholders
- The application of tools stimulates achievement of goals, fulfilment of duties and responsibilities and promotes public faith and trust in public office
- The sponsoring organisation will obtain identity and improve vision.

Objectives

- To introduce participants to the concept of welfare state and its policies
- To identify governance deficits and gaps in existing policies
- To enable participants to learn different social accountability tools
- To apply those tools for analysing existing flagship programmes of rural development
- To verify and establish the tools
- To make the participants equipped

with knowledge and skills for social accountability tools for better service delivery.

The online workshop-cum-ToT covered 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 online programme was scheduled to cover topics like Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance. They were explained in the context of Rural Development, Social Accountability Tools for Accountability, Transparency and Public Participation, Social Accountability Tools- Public Expenditure Tracking (PETs), Social Accountability Tools & Techniques: Community Score Card (CSC) Tool & Key steps, Case Example: Successful example

of improved service delivery in PDS - An outcome of NIRDPR ToT on Community Score Card (CSC); An Introduction to CRC, Context and Rationale, Features, Applications, Introduction to CRC Methodology, Basic steps in a CRC process, Disseminating CRC findings and CRC Case examples.

The training programme contents were delivered through a judicious mix of lecture, discussion, debate and hands-on training on CRC, CSC, budget analysis. At the end of each session, a Q & A session was conducted and participants were given online tests to understand their learnings through the course. A total of 108 participants, including faculty of SIRD Meghalaya, RD&PR professionals, Block Development Officers, Programme Officer (Trg), APO-MGNREGA, Block Project Manager, Master Trainer, DPM MGNREGA, Gram Sevak, Principal ETC, DSARP, Social Audit Expert SAE, Social Audit Officer, District Social Audit Resource Person, Village Resource Person and Block Resource Person attended.

Dr. K. Prabhakar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Good Governance & Policy analysis (CGGPA) organised this online workshop-cum-ToT programme.

Online training on Social Audit of PMAY-G and NSAP for resource persons of SAU Jharkhand

Centre for Social Audit (CSA), NIRDPR organised a five-day online training programme on 'Social Audit of NSAP & PMAY-G' for the social audit resource persons of Jharkhand State from 28th September- 2nd October 2020, using WebEx platform. A total 111 participants, nominated by Social Audit Unit (SAU) Jharkhand, successfully attended this programme.

To operationalise the guidelines of Social Audit for PMAY-G and NSAP issued in November, 2019 by MoRD, Government of India. Centre for Social audit, NIRDPR is committed to provide training and hand holding support to

resource persons of SAUs. The centre has conducted five regional Training of Trainers (ToTs) from December 2019- February 2020, covering all States. Due to COVID-19, capacity building of remaining resource persons could not be continued. Hence, CSA, NIRDPR has planned a series of online training programmes on 'Social Audit of NSAP & PMAY-G' for Social Audit resource persons.

The five-day training programme was divided into 20 sessions. At the end each day, participants were given a quiz with ten questions through Google Form. E-copies of learning materials, PowerPoint presentations (PPT) and quiz questions

were provided in Hindi along with English language as majority participants were comfortable in Hindi.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Gurjeet Singh, Director, Social Audit Unit, Jharkhand. In his inaugural speech, Shri Gurjeet Singh emphasised on the need for transparency and accountability in current scenario and need for capacity and skill enhancement of Social Audit facilitators.

The programme began with the ice-breaking exercise to make the participants express themselves and get familiar with the training programme. Following topics were covered during



the training programme in the five-day period:

- 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 Programme
- Introduction to PMAY-G Guidelines

- Implementation challenges of PMAY-G
- Introduction to PMAY-G Social Audit Guidelines
- Experience of Social Audits during ToT of PMAY-G

All the sessions were video recorded. Interaction during and after the sessions and mandatory recap every morning made the programme highly participatory.

After completion of the training sessions, a programme evaluation was done on the final day. During this evaluation, participants gave their feedback on course content, practical orientation and course material, etc., as well as how they can apply these learnings and skills in their day to day work in future. Some participants shared that due to the interactive mode of

training, they felt as if they were taking face-to-face training. However, they also shared some challenges like poor internet connectivity in some locations, high data uses during the training, etc.

After that informal feedback session, a formal feedback was taken online through Training Management Portal (TMP). Training of resource persons nominated to the second batch will be organised from 9th to 13th November, 2020.

The training programme was coordinated by Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Assistant Professor and Dr. Srinivas Sajja, Assistant Professor, Centre for Social Audit, NIRDPR with support from Shri Mohd Arif, Consultant and Shri Shashidhar, Training Manager.

National training programme on Entrepreneurship Development in Livestock Sector

Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad organised a two-week National training programme on 'Entrepreneurship Development in Livestock Sector' during 5th – 19th October, 2020 using digital platform.

The objective of the training programme was to impart knowledge on opportunities in livestock sector, challenges and opportunities in

rural entrepreneurship, management, feeding and healthcare of livestock and backyard poultry, training on economics of dairy, value chain and FPO approaches, processing and products making and economics, to provide knowledge on financing, marketing, branding, ethics, morals and values in business and sharing the experiences and knowledge of livestock entrepreneurs with the participants.

Dr. Y. Ramana Reddy, Programme Director, Professor and Head, CHRD and Director, NRLM-RC enlightened

the participants about the objectives and importance of two-week training programme during his opening remarks.

During the training programme, the key areas covered were status of animal-sourced food production in India, future demand for animal-sourced foods, smallholders' role in animal-sourced food production, the importance of transforming smallholder crop-livestock systems through entrepreneurship promotion, opportunities and challenges in rural entrepreneurship, how to start

a rural entrepreneur unit, feeding, management and healthcare of dairy and small ruminants, backyard poultry for entrepreneurship, feed and fodder resources management, concept of value chain and Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs) for animal-sourced food production through enterprise, value addition to the milk, meat, egg and dung and economics, applied economics of dairy, bankable livestock business projects, financial and marketing strategies, packaging and branding of products and ethics, morals and values in business.

Further, an interaction session with dairy, sheep and backyard poultry entrepreneurs was also organised in order to make the trainees understand the problems in livestock enterprise and teach them how to overcome challenges and become successful in running livestock enterprise.

Out of the 80 confirmations received, 53 joined the programme on day one out of which 41 (male - 31 and female - 10) successfully completed the training and received the e-certificate by fulfilling the criteria of the training programme.



They included animal husbandry officers, teaching faculty from various agriculture, engineering, traditional and veterinary universities (Assistant Professors - 9, Associate Professors - 3, Professors - 1), three subject matter specialists of KVKs, faculty of RSETI and EDII (2), SRLM staff (2), research scholars/fellows (3), post graduates (5), consultants (1) NGOs (4), Gram Panchayat Pradhan (1) and others (5). State/UT-wise participants include one each from Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh,

Manipur and Odisha, two each from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, three each from Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and five each from Bihar and Haryana.

Dr. Y. Ramana Reddy, Programme Director delivered the valedictory address and interacted with the participants. Ms. Shefali Singh, Young Professional and Ms. Rimki Patgiri, Research Associate, NRLM-RC assisted the programme director in organising the training programme successfully.

NIRDPR celebrates Gandhi Jayanathi



Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, garlanding the Gandhi statue in the Administration block

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad celebrated the 151st birth anniversary Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, 2020 at the Institute.

Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General and Lt. Col. Ashutosh Kumar, Registrar & Director (Admin.)

garlanded the Gandhi statue in front of Mahatma Gandhi block on the campus and the employees present also paid their tribute.

Further, the DDG and Registrar administered cleanliness pledge to the employees in English and Hindi, respectively.

The DDG and Registrar also garlanded the Gandhi statue in the Administration block, which was followed by offering of floral tributes to the Father of the Nation by faculty members and non-academic staff.

- CDC initiatives

Five-day online training programme on Principles of Organic Farming, Certification and Marketing



A slide from the presentation on organic farming, certification and marketing

Sustainable development has caught the imagination and action at the global level. It is now a strong felt need that sustainable agriculture is the only way to attain the goal of sustainable development and to overcome the adverse effects of modern agricultural practices. Sustainable agriculture is the successful management of resources for agriculture to satisfy the changing human needs while maintaining or enhancing the quality of the environment and conserving natural resources.

Organic farming is one of the several approaches found to meet the objectives of sustainable agriculture. Therefore, key functionaries from agriculture and allied sectors, and rural development need to understand the organic farming practices, certification and marketing to promote and adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

In this context, a web-based training programme was designed to impart the knowledge that the organic agriculture is one of the sustainable agricultural practices which takes care of farm biodiversity, environmental safety,

a holistic farming approach, ensures good health, higher profit margins due to premium prices, scope to reduce the cost of production, and is a climate-smart agriculture.

The programme aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge on different sustainable farming methods and practices, understand the process and management practices involved in organic production, types of certification, process of certification and understand the institutions involved in the certification process.

The programme was also aimed to create awareness on the major government programmes and schemes for organic farming and certification and knowledge of branding, pricing strategies and marketing channels.

The programme started with the inaugural address by Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head(i/c), Centre for Agrarian Studies. She briefed the importance of sustainable agriculture, particularly the significance of organic agriculture in the present scenario. Dr. Nithya V. G., Course Director

and Assistant Professor, initiated the programme by explaining the background of the training, modalities and gave an overview of the five-day online training programme.

The online programme was designed to make it a most participatory learning experience with pre and post session polling with a break for questions every 60 minutes. A total of five modules were covered in this programme at the rate of one module per day.

The modules were: 1) Farming Practices in India and Models of Sustainable Agriculture Methods, 2) Organic Agriculture: Concept, Scenario, Principles and Practices, 3) Farmer collectives, marketing and branding strategies of organically grown produce, 4) Documentation, process and certification of organic produce, 5) Government Interventions to promote organic agriculture : existing schemes and programmes. Each module consists of two sessions with a duration of 75 minutes each. The programme was scheduled for three hours a day (10.00 AM to 01.00 PM) from 21st to 25th September,

2020. Participants had registered for the course through a pre-designed Google form.

The training was attended by 123 participants, sampling line department functionaries of agriculture and rural development, FPO implementing agencies, SIRDPR faculty, SRLM officials and NGOs. Dr. E. Vadivel, former Dean Horticulture, TNAU, Dr. Ramanjaneyulu, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Shri

Manoj Kumar Menon, Director, ICCOA, Shri Purushottham Rudraraju, ICRISAT, and Shri Vipin Kumar Bansal, Director, National Centre of Organic Farming were the resource persons and they delivered lectures on different aspects of sustainable agriculture, organic farming, certification and marketing.

Google feedback form was circulated online to all the participants for their feedback and suggestions. The

participants felt that the course was very timely, useful and served to bridge the knowledge gap during the lockdown period. They agreed to scrupulously adopt and promote the sustainable agricultural practices they learned in this training programme in their respective places. The programme was organised by Dr. Nithya V.G., Assistant Professor, CAS and Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head (i/c), CSA, NIRDPR.

Online training programme on Sustainable Models on Agriculture–Nutrition Linkages for Better Nutritional Outcomes



A slide from the presentation on sustainable models on agriculture nutrition linkages for better nutritional outcomes

The Centre for Agrarian Studies of NIRDPR organised a five-day online training programme on ‘Sustainable Models on Agriculture – Nutrition Linkages for better Nutritional Outcomes’ during 05th– 09th October, 2020. The major objectives of the programme were to: a) understand the development challenges in nutritional status of population in India, b) familiarise with the programmes and policies for addressing malnutrition in the country, c) understand the role and function of agricultural production systems in determining nutritional outcomes, d) introduce sustainable models for improving agriculture – nutrition linkages which will contribute to better nutritional outcomes.

The training programme was spread over five days, with two sessions of one-

and-half hour duration each in a day. Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head(i/c), Centre for Agrarian Studies delivered the inaugural address of the training programme. This was followed by session on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture by Dr. Nithya V.G., Centre for Agrarian Studies. She shared the different causes of malnutrition and the nutrition sensitive agriculture as an intervention to solve the problem.

The second day started with Dr. G. Subbarao, Deputy Director, National Institute of Nutrition talking about the need to have nutrition-based diet diversity and agriculture-based diet diversity for achieving healthy nutrition for population in the long run. He shared with the participants the results of four village studies, concluding the need

to improve nutrition knowledge and agriculture focussing on dietary diversity.

The second session on day two was on ‘Possibilities for leveraging agriculture and nutrition linkages: Lansa Framework’ by Dr. R. V. Bhavani from M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. She pointed the need to move biotechnology and eco-technology to nutrition security and gender mainstreaming. She shared the results from Lansa study in Koraput and Wardha village, suggesting the needed agricultural interventions and policy implications.

The third day started with the session on ‘CSR Models in Agriculture-Nutrition linkages’ by Dr. Ramakrishna of the Reliance Foundation. He presented the contribution of Reliance Foundation and its model of rural transformation

programme for food security and agriculture, focussing national priority mission and SDG.

The second session of day three was by Dr. Ruchira Bhattacharya on 'Gender Relations in Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages'. She emphasised on the need to design gender informed nutrition-sensitive agriculture and suggested target-based policy frameworks that would address the constraints and gender gaps. She further highlighted the benefits of Farming Systems for Nutrition (FSN) approach through group farming or community farming in empowering women and improving their nutrition intake.

On the fourth day, Dr. B. Dayakar Rao, Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Millet Research started with his session on 'Role of Millets in Agricultural Production Systems and Improving Nutritional Outcomes'. He shared how younger

population has become nutrient deficient in this country and suggested millet as a remedy, both in the face of malnutrition as well as efficient and less resource requiring agricultural production. The second session of the day was on 'Convergence of Agriculture and Nutrition Programmes' by Dr. Surjit Vikraman where he discussed the existing policy initiatives by government addressing the issue of malnutrition and health, especially among children and women such as ICDS scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan etc.

The last day's session was on 'Sustainable Models on Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages: Global Experience' by Dr. Surjit Vikraman, where he discussed the various initiatives happening globally to address the challenge of malnutrition through agriculture-nutrition linkages. The session discussed the school feeding initiative of Brazil and various strategies adopted in schools in Japan

to mainstream nutritional improvement in their day-to-day life. There was also a discussion on small initiatives happening in India which needs further scaling up and support.

The training programme concluded with an online assessment and feedback on various aspects of all the sessions in terms of its effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the programme and key learnings. Altogether 80 participants attended the programme. The participants were largely government officials from National and State training institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions, academicians and research scholars and representatives of voluntary organisations. All the participants who attended the sessions and participated in the online poll after each session were given e-certificates from NIRDPR. Dr. Surjit Vikraman and Dr. Nithya V. G. were the programme coordinators.

NIRDPR observes Vigilance Awareness Week, holds gender sensitisation workshop

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj observed the Vigilance Awareness Week from 27th October to 2nd November 2020. This was in line with the Central Vigilance Commission's decision to observe this year's Vigilance Awareness Week with the theme 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India.'

On 27th October 2020, the employees assembled in front of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar block, strictly adhering to COVID-19 protocols. Smt. Jaya Krishna Allamsetty, Manager, Vigilance briefed the gathering about the relevance of the occasion and Shri B. Srinivasa Rao, Assistant Registrar (Training) read out the President's message.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General stressed on the necessity of exercising integrity at all levels.

"When it comes to work, the productivity of an individual in developed



Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR administering the integrity pledge to staff

countries is 75 per cent, whereas in India, it is 30-40 per cent only. This is an area we need to focus," she noted. Further, she read out the Central Vigilance Commissions' message and administered the integrity pledge to the employees.

On 2nd November, a gender

sensitisation workshop was conducted by Dr. N. V. Madhuri, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Gender Studies and Development. Smt. Radhika Rastogi, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR, Lt. Col. Ashutosh Kumar, Registrar and Director (Admin.), NIRDPR also attended the event.

During the workshop Dr. N. V. Madhuri threw light on the difference between sex and gender. She also spoke about the gender stereotyping and its ill-effects on the society at large and conducted two interactive activities along with the audience to raise their awareness on the issue.

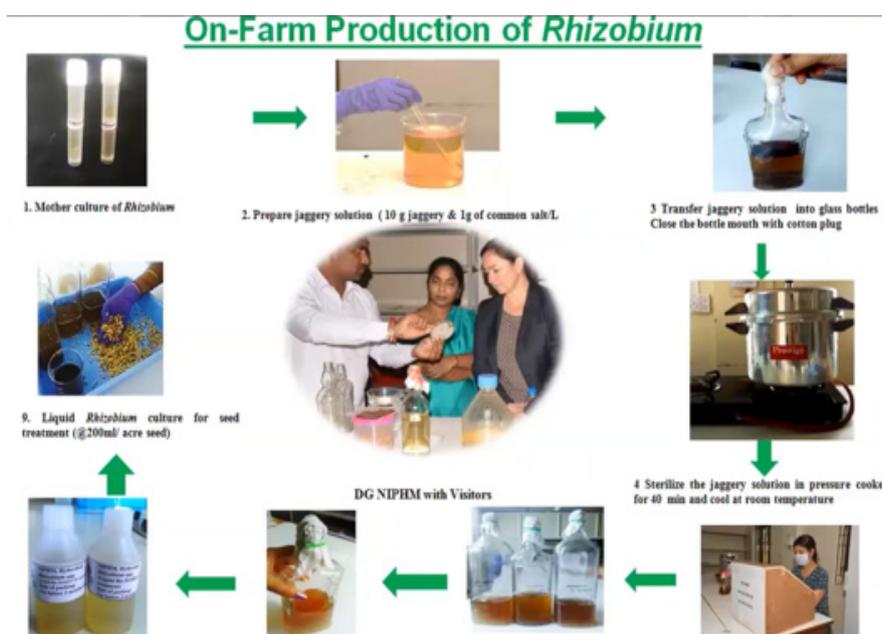
Later, Smt. Radhika Rastogi addressed the audience and put across

the point that kids learn behaviour by observing their parents. She said that boys also should be indulged in household chores. She also spoke about the Sarpanch-pati phenomena prevailing in the rural areas and how even after getting elected as people's representatives, women are facing hardships in executing their functions as their husbands take charge of the power.

Later, Lt. Col. Ashustosh Kumar, Registrar and Director (Admin.) handed over prizes to the winners of quiz competition conducted as a part of the vigilance awareness week. The winners are Shri Palla Aravind (1st Prize), Shri B.V. Srinivasulu (2nd prize), Shri Sunil Kumar Jha and Shri Anil Kumar (3rd prize).

- CDC initiatives

Webinar with NIPHM, Hyderabad on Preparation of Organic Plant Nutrition and Protection Materials through FPOs



A slide from the webinar on preparation of organic plant nutrition and protection materials

Operations of small farm are unsustainable is an open fact. Unless and until small producers, who are the core segment of our agriculture, collectivise certain parts of their value chain development activities, their agriculture operations will be loss making forever.

Centre for Agrarian Studies, NIRDPR is endeavouring to be the technical backstop facility for the upcoming FPOs. Institution building of FPOs, value chain development plans and facilitating the financial support through banks and government grants to finance these plans are three major thematic areas in which CAS is putting thrust.

Farmers are making unsustainable investments in the form of indiscriminate

use of chemicals and fertilisers which are causing multiple damages like cost intensive, environmental hazards and damage to the health of the consumer. Realising this burning agrarian crisis, Centre for Agrarian Studies, NIRDPR has joined hands with National Institute of Plant Health Management, Hyderabad to help farmers through their FPOs to turn into organic farming through use of farm made plant health and protection solutions.

NIPHM has been the strategic partner for NIRDPR to continue with the efforts to educate farmers in spreading the practices standardised by NIPHM.

Dr. Srilatha, Assistant Director and Dr. Damodarachari, Technical Expert, NIPHM were invited to handle the session

and guide the farmers and promoters of FPOs in developing and adapting the products and services standardised by NIPHM with regards to Plant Nutrition and Protection Management.

The technical session started with welcome address by Dr. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head (i/c), Centre for Agrarian Studies, NIRDPR.

Dr. Srilatha explained about the various biopesticides developed and standardised by NIPHM that are widely in use for individual farmer level application as well as at large scale commercial preparation and marketed through proper licensing. She explained how cost minimisation is possible with the preparation of various pest-specific solutions at FPO level.

The session was further handled by Dr. Damodarachari, explaining about using biofertilisers as substitutes for chemical fertilisers to ensure sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Damodarachari explained in detail about Azotobacter, Azo spirillum, rhizobium, blue green algae and phosphate solubilising bacteria. He explained the damages caused by

indiscriminate use of chemical nutrients in terms of reduction in soil enzymatic action, especially mineralising enzymes, heavy emission of N₂O and CO₂ including CH₄, adding that agricultural soils are becoming major sinks for environmental pollution, decrease in population and diversity of beneficial soil micro flora and missing of agriculturally important microorganisms.

The concluding session was devoted to the participants' questions and answers. It was decided to organise a follow-up training programme in the ToT mode with participants from all FPOs who can, in turn, train the local youth to establish the enterprise model of NIPHM. Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani thanked NIPHM and requested the participants to continue their engagement with NIPHM further.

Webinar with Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad on Value Chain Development of Millet crops

The Centre for Agrarian Studies, NIRDPR is working for the past three-and-a-half-years in building strong FPOs in the country. It is also functioning as the Resource Support Agency for NABARD of Andhra Pradesh wherein it is providing handholding and mentoring support services to 100 FPOs located in north coastal region.

Millet crops are dominantly grown in some of the hinterlands of FPOs, especially in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. Millets are also staple for tribal areas where some of the FPOs are located.

The Indian Institute of Millet Research is a specialised Agriculture Research Agency of ICAR located in Hyderabad and it is working along with NIRDPR in developing value chain of millet crops through FPOs.

There is a felt need for FPOs dealing with millet crops to develop its value chain reaching out to the end consumers. There is also a demand for nutritious food during COVID-19 period and market demand for millet-based value-added products is growing exponentially.

With this backdrop, a webinar was organised on the theme 'Millet Crops and Its Adaptation in FPOs' on 17th September, 2020.

Dr. Sangappa, M.Sc., (Ag), PhD, ARS

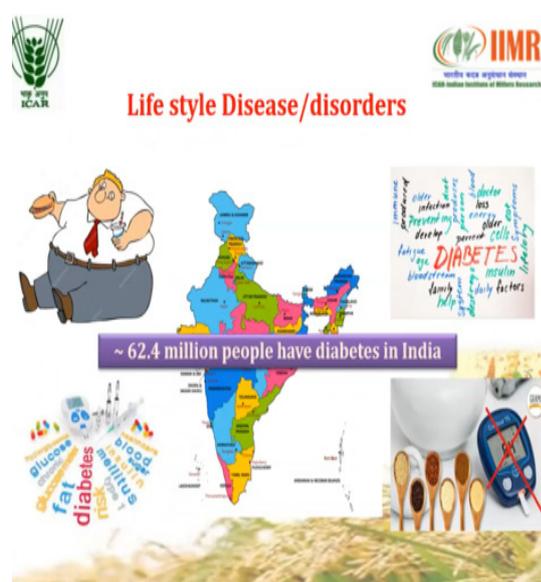
Scientist in IIMR was the chief Technical Resource Person for the webinar. The invitees were from FPOs, NGOs who promoted FPOs, and line department functionaries. The participants were from all over India and nearly 400 participants were benefited from this online course.

Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head (i/c), CAS, initiated the discussion emphasising the need for immediate value chain development efforts by the FPOs on millet crops keeping in view the growing urban demand for millet-based food products and also aiming at the doubling of farmers' income which can be easily doable with millet crops, as they have potential to reach higher yields, value

addition and reach to upper markets.

Dr. Sangappa, starting the technical discourse, assessed the present level of millet crop production and its value chain development efforts by FPOs. The representatives of FPOs promoted by the NGOs, CAVS in Srikakulam and SVDS in Visakhapatnam and Sabala NGO in Vizianagaram have shared how they are making millet biscuits, malts and other value-added products and marketing them in the local towns.

Appreciating the ongoing efforts of NGOs and FPOs, Dr. Sangappa emphasised the need to improve the value chain starting from seed up to consumer ready products. He dealt with the range of millet crops, classifying them into major millets



A slide from the presentation on tools for gender budgeting

practices for strengthening the CPRs and their management.

This training programme is being organised for the past three years jointly by CAS and CPRDPSSD. In the current year, the programme was organised online from 7th to 11th September 2020, due to nationwide COVID-19 crisis. Participants were line department functionaries of Agriculture, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and from NGOs. They were shortlisted in advance based on the details received from online registration process. Entire programme was organised through WebEx platform having facility for connecting through smart phones.

Dr. C. Kathiresan, Associate Professor and Head, CPRDPSSD delivered the inaugural address, briefing on the importance of CPRs in the present scenario and role of Panchayat in maintaining the available CPRs. Dr. Nithya V.G., Assistant Professor, CSA & Course Director oriented the participants about the training programme and handled a session on conceptual understanding of CPRs and contextualising it to livelihoods.

On day two, Shri Subrata Singh and his team from 'Foundation for Ecological Security' (FES) shared their experiences on commons and discussed

the case studies and existing policy aspect of commons. They also briefed the principles of natural conservation and local self-governance in order to accelerate ecological restoration, as well as improve the living conditions of the poor.

Third day of the training programme covered participatory planning, managing and conserving CPRs. Dr. Kathiresan explained the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) guidelines, and how GPs can prepare effective plan by Integrating CPR in the participatory planning process. He explained how to do micro plans by involving existing resources and user groups. He also briefed about NIRDPR Action Research Project on '100+ Cluster Development' and Project on 'Creating 250 Model GP Clusters'.

On the fourth day, Dr. Nithya V. G. covered the role of institutions in governing CPR through case studies, covering the importance of local institutions and community in governing the CPRs. Determining rights over common water resource – case study from Odisha, establishing community rights over forest resource – case from Odisha, and making groundwater a common resource – case from Karnataka. During the fourth day session, Dr. Shilpi

Sharma from Telangana State Biodiversity Board covered the Biodiversity Act and rules and role of Panchayats in conserving Biodiversity.

On the last day, Dr. Jyothis Satyapalan, Professor & Head, Centre for Wage Employment & Livelihoods discussed the topic of Maintaining CPR at Panchayat level through wage employment programme. He briefed the activities covered under MGNREGA, importance of MGNREGA in maintaining CPRs and convergence with other department programmes in maintaining commons through selective case studies.

The training programme was concluded with an online assessment and feedback on various aspects of all the sessions in terms of its effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the programme and key learnings. Participants of this online training have expressed their overall satisfaction on the content and sessions handled by experts.

All the participants who attended the sessions and the online poll on all the five-day were given e-certificates from NIRDPR. The training programme was organised by Dr. Nithya V.G. Assistant Professor, CAS and Dr. C. Kathiresan, Associate Professor and Head, CPRDPSSD, NIRDPR.

Video conference of Honourable Governor, Telangana on New Farm Acts and their Implications

Important Provisions

- Choice to farmer to sell produce for remunerative prices, barrier free trade and facilitate electronic trading platforms
- The jurisdiction of regulated market committees restricted to notified markets and yards
- Any trader can transact in agricultural commodities anywhere, if he has a PAN.
- Payment for the produce to be made within three days

A slide presented during the video conference on New Farm Acts and their implications

Three new Ordinances were promulgated by Government of India during June, i.e i) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and

Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 ii) The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 and iii) The

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. These three ordinances have created a buzz among the academic community, civil society and

also the farmers' organisations regarding their implications on farm markets.

In this context, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Honourable Governor of Telangana conducted a video conference on 30th September, 2020 in which

Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head (i/c), Centre for Agrarian Studies, NIRDPR participated and presented the likely concerns and benefits to farming community with respect to these ordinances.

The other three invitees in addition to her were Director, NAARM, Director CRIDA, CGM NABARD Telangana and Joint Secretary, Agriculture Marketing, Ministry of Agriculture.

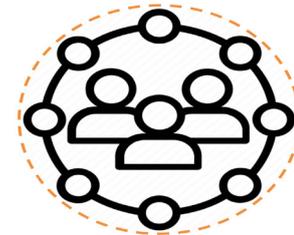
CPRDP&SSD conducts online refresher trainings on Participatory Learning Exercise



Household Data



Sector based community data



Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)/ PLA data

A slide from the presentation on participating learning exercise

The Centre for Panchayati Raj, Decentralised Planning, and Social Service Delivery, (CPRDP&SSD), NIRDPR completed the online refresher trainings on participatory learning exercise with focus on collection of primary data for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) for the programme coordinators and young fellows working in Assam, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra along with qualified professionals and cluster coordinators from Foundation for Ecological Security, Banwasi Seva Ashram, Institute of Regional Analysis, Gramin Samassya Mukti Trust and Mission Samridhi.

The refresher training was conducted under the action research project for 100+ clusters development programme. The training programme was aimed at understanding the approach, objectives and methodology of Participatory Learning Exercise (PLE) for preparing a strong database for quality Development Status Report (DSR) and GPDP. It also aimed at facilitating the creation of Model GP Clusters to motivate other GPs to observe the results, follow the Model GPs and replicate the good practices in their respective areas. Participatory

Learning Exercise at the community level and collecting primary data will reflect the real needs of the communities and the GP as a whole in DSR and quality GPDP. Conduct of Participatory Learning Exercise and collection of primary data will be crucial for understanding the existing situation on the ground and to identify development priorities of the people in any GP.

The training was conducted through online mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, in two slots- 07th October to 09th October and 20th October to 22nd October, 2020.

The refresher training on GPDP contributed towards improving the information base of the participants. The trainers and participants tried to make the training participatory. In spite of being it a web-based training, it has served its purpose- *Shri Pradyumna Kumar Acharya Programme Manager, Foundation for Ecological Security*

The three-day refresher training covered the following topics: i) Quality attributes of GPDP and means of achieving them, ii) The approach, objectives and methodology of

Participatory Learning Exercise (PLE), iii) Methodology of interaction with groups of households and collection of household data for quality GPDP, iv) Methodology of collection of sector-based community data for quality GPDP, v) PPC & ARP – Synchronised calendar of activities for October 2020 to January 2021 for quality GPDP, vi) Consolidation of the primary data and the secondary data and analysis of gaps, needs and priorities, vii) Data-based situational analysis and methodology of preparation of Development Status Report (DSR) and viii) Preparation of draft GPDP document.

Addressing the participants, the key trainers spoke about the importance of the Participatory Learning Exercise at the community level for preparation of GPDP and data-driven situational analysis and methodology of preparation of Development Status Report.

The programme was coordinated by Dr Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor, CPRDP&SSD, NIRDPR along with Shri Dilip Kumar Pal, Project Team Leader for Model GP Clusters, CPRDP&SSD, NIRDPR, and Project Management Unit Team for the Action Research Project for 100+ Clusters Development Programme.

RTP organises various virtual training programmes for entrepreneurs



Shri R. D. Raj, Founder of Annapurna Cottage Industries, explaining participants regarding manufacturing of leaf plate and cups

Recognising the importance of skill development and capacity building for the entrepreneurship development and aiming at creating self-employment opportunities in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre for Innovations and Appropriate Technologies for Skills and Jobs, NIRDPR, Hyderabad designed and organised four demand-based online training programmes on different technologies for the benefit of self-help group, budding entrepreneurs, trainers, NGOs, government agencies/institutions and the students across the country. The virtual learning programmes were designed aiming at providing the trainees an experience on hands-on training while removing the barriers of language making it easily understandable.

During the month of October, 2020 four training programmes were organised on the following technologies in association with technology partners of Rural Technology Park:

1. Electro Spark coating technology on 19th October, 2020.
2. Leaf plate and cup making on 21st October, 2020
3. Mushroom cultivation and processing on 28th October, 2020

4. Food processing through Solar Dehydration on 29th October, 2020

During the training programme on electro spark coating technology, Shri Sampath, Managing Director, Teewave Technologies explained in-depth about the technology and its utility in enhancing the shelf-life of the tools, equipment, especially the agriculture implements which save the financial resources of the agriculturist in a great way. Besides the same, the entrepreneurial model that can be adopted by unemployed youth to take it up as entrepreneurial activity was briefed. The economics of the activity, the credit linkage facilities, and marketing strategies were also explained. Apart from the above, a live demonstration of the electro spark coating was done for the greater understanding of the technology.

During the training programme on leaf plate and cup making, Shri R. D. Raj, Founder of Annapurna Cottage Industries dealt in detail on the need for promoting this technology, especially in the wake of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. During the sessions, the details with regard to the various

types of leaves that are useful for making the leaf plates and cups and their characteristics were explained while sharing with them the sources for the procurement. The different types of machinery, both manual and hydraulic, available for making the products were shown besides giving a practical demonstration of making different products. Detailed economics for the entrepreneurial activity was discussed and shared with the participants along with the schemes that are available from the financial institutions, etc., for the funding support. He assured handholding support for the interested participants and supply of the machinery.

During the training programme on mushroom cultivation, Dr. Prasuna, Promoter of S Mushroom, gave a vivid explanation of the nutrition values of mushrooms, deliberated in detail the cultivation and processing methodology of different types of mushrooms besides sharing economics for starting it as an entrepreneurial activity. Strategies for marketing, packaging techniques for better shelf-life of the end product and the schemes available in support of the technology and the activity were

also shared. A video with regard to the cultivation and entire processing was also screened for the benefit of the participants while giving them explanation at each stage.

During the training programme on food processing through solar dehydration, the resource person Shri Sampath, Managing Director, Teewave Technologies explained in detail the solar dehydration process of the fruits, vegetables, etc., which includes making of jellies, drying methodology and making powders and so on. A video on the entire process was screened while giving explanation at each stage of the said activity. The machinery was also exhibited along with the costs besides explaining the economics for the entrepreneurs for taking up as a entrepreneurship activity.

A total of 318 participants attended the above four programmes from different States and UTs, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Puducherry. They included farmers, members of SHGs, NGOs, government institutions like SRLMs, students, etc.

During the feedback session, many of the participants expressed their desire of sharing the knowledge acquired through these training programmes with the rural community and mobilise

the interested people for taking up the training in these technologies once the hands-on training commences at RTP, NIRDPR. The farmers and SHGs informed that they would start the activity in a small way and would like to expand further under the guidance of RTP, NIRDPR.

Dr. S. Ramesh Sakthivel, Associate Professor & Head, CIAT&SJ and Shri Mohammad Khan, Senior Consultant, CIAT&SJ held discussions with the participants regarding way forward and the opportunities for livelihood programmes to generate employment. They also shared with them various technologies showcased at Rural Technology Park and the advantages in taking them up in relevant areas in association with RTP, NIRDPR, Hyderabad. All the participants were issued digital certificates.


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