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No: 302

PRAGATI

Newsletter
July 2020



Intensification of Livestock Systems through Multidimensional Crop Improvement Programme for Better Livelihoods



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Intensification of Livestock Systems through Multidimensional Crop Improvement Programme for Better Livelihoods

Rising demand for milk, meat and eggs is a global phenomenon but there is a greater demand in South Asia (including India) and Sub-Saharan Africa. Scarcity of feed resources is one of the main constraints for improving the livestock productivity in India. Demand and supply scenario of feed resources assessed through secondary data sets such as land utilisation pattern, cropping pattern, livestock population and animal sourced foods produced in India revealed that there is a shortage of dry matter, energy and protein to an extent of 53 per cent, 50 per cent and 61 per cent, respectively.

Among the feed resources available, crop residues constitute about 71 per cent of the ruminant diet. The advantage of crop residue-based feeding system is no competition with food grains and do not require any additional allocation of natural resources such as land and water for their production.

The importance of crop residues is going to increase in the future due to dwindling of traditional feed

resources and increased demand for animal sourced foods. However, crop residues are often considered to be of deficit in protein, energy, minerals and vitamins and low in nutritive value, particularly cereal crop residues which can hardly support maintenance requirement of adult dairy animals.

The combination of higher stover yield and stover digestibility has additive effect on natural resource use efficiency and income to the farmer.

Attempts were made to improve the utilisation of crop residues by physical, chemical and biological means, but the uptake of the technologies by the livestock keepers was poor. This failure paved the way for an alternate multidimensional crop improvement programme through plant breeding for improving the quantity and quality of crop residues without compromising on grain yields.

Multidimensional crop improvement programme resulted in

the identification of superior cultivars of food-feed crops with higher grain/pod yields as well as higher quantity and quality of crop residues.

Price variation among cultivars of sorghum stover was observed in the urban and peri-urban fodder markets. Quality sorghum stover with five percentage units higher in digestibility (IVOMD) fetched 30 per cent premium price in the Hyderabad fodder market in 2004 (Figure 1).

When crop-livestock scientists targeted food-feed traits through plant breeding programmes in maize, maize cultivars with a stover yield of 6,600 to 9,700 kg/ha and stover digestibility of 45.4 per cent to 55.1 per cent were identified. Comparison of feeding stover to dairy cows (400 kg body weight; 4 per cent butter fat in milk) from cultivar yielding 9,700 kg stover/ha with cultivar yielding 6,600 kg stover/ha (assuming 90 per cent dry matter and 50 per cent digestibility in stovers of both the cultivars) resulted in additional 1,582



Sorghum stover trading in Hyderabad (the heap which is wheatish in color fetches 30 per cent premium in the market)

litres of milk and Rs. 37,968 (assuming milk price of Rs. 24/l with 4 per cent butter fat) to the dairy farmer or under similar energy production conditions land and water footprint will be lesser by 30 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively if the farmer selects cultivar with stover yield of 9,700 kg/ha than selecting the cultivar with stover yield of 6,600 kg/ha. Similarly, promoting a cultivar with five percentage units higher in digestibility (50% vs 55%) will result in a 65 per cent increase in milk production (2500 vs. 4133l) from one ha crop residue (assuming 90 per cent dry matter) with

an income difference of Rs. 39,192, saving natural resources such as land and water from 9 per cent to 10 per cent under similar energy production conditions and reduce methane (GHG) emission by 40 kg from a hectare stover. The combination of higher stover yield and stover digestibility have additive effect on natural resource use efficiency and income to the farmer.

Based on the current harvest indices, rice and wheat straw available as feed resource for livestock feeding was 113 and 78 million tonne, respectively, in India put together accounting for 67 per cent of total cereal straw production and 37 per

cent of the total available metabolisable energy (ME) from feed to the livestock. Here, three scenarios are presented for comparison so as to optimise food-feed traits through plant breeding programmes in rice and wheat straw.

Scenario 1 - A 10 per cent increase in straw yield from rice and wheat

Scenario 2 - A 10 per cent increase in energy content of rice and wheat straw

Scenario 3 - Combination of both

Under scenario 1, 23 million tonne of additional crop residue will be available whereas 138x10⁹ mega joules (MJ) of metabolizable energy (ME) will be available under scenario 2 for ruminant feeding. Scenario 3 results in additional 23 million tons of biomass plus 138x10⁹ MJ ME put together leading to availability of additional 291x10⁹ MJ ME for enhanced livestock derived food production through feeding.

When these additional straw and energy resources are translated into milk



Youth feeding livestock (file picture)

(excluding allowance for maintenance) and meat production, the additional energy in scenario 1 and 2 would result in 27.6 million tonne of milk or 9.2 million tonne of lamb meat and the respective values under scenario 3 would be 58.2 million tonne milk (value is Rs. 1,397 billion @ farm gate price of Rs. 24,000/lit milk) or 19.4 million tonne lamb meat (Rs. 9,700 billions @ farm gate price of 5,00,000/t meat) additional to the current level of production.

This amount totally goes to the farmers, which in turn, enhances their livelihoods and the said increased milk or meat production can be achieved simply by targeting food-feed traits in rice and wheat crops without any additional allocation of natural resources (land and water).

Different processing methods such as chopping with supplementation, block making, mashing and pelleting were employed to crop residue-based complete diets and tested for economics by feeding to the growing sheep taking performance, processing cost and transport cost into consideration (Table 1).

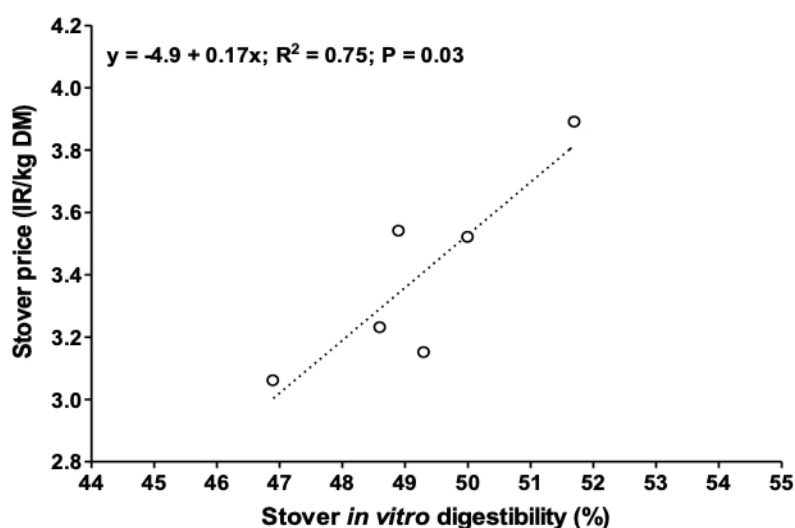







Figure 1: Relation between digestibility and price of sorghum stover

If the crop residues are utilised locally, simple chopping with supplementation is economical whereas if transported and utilised at more than 100 km distance mashing is advantageous over other methods of processing. International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) experiences from field trials indicate that simple chaffing and feeding to dairy animals increased the milk production by 0.4 kg/d.

Hence, transformation of mixed crop-livestock farming into an efficient system for better lives of smallholder livestock

keepers is possible for the policymakers through the multidimensional crop improvement programme by bringing together the plant breeders, livestock scientists, extension workers, traders/entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers onto a single innovative platform through investments and support for sustainable food security in India. Fortification and densification is next to the multidimensional crop improvement programme for further intensification of livestock production systems in low and middle income countries.

Table 1: Supplementation and processing of sweet sorghum bagasse and response in sheep

Parameter	Chopping	Concentrate	Block	Mash	Pellet
					
DMI (g/kg LW)	41.5 ^b		42.1 ^b	52.5 ^a	55.6 ^a
ADG (g / d)	81.3 ^b		89.5 ^b	132.7 ^a	130.4 ^a
Processing (Rs/t)	112.2		343.2	389.4	462
Transport (Rs/t/100 km)	891		343.2	435.6	382.8

Dr. Y. Ramana Reddy

Professor and Head
Centre for Human Resource
Development

Dr. K. Krishna Reddy

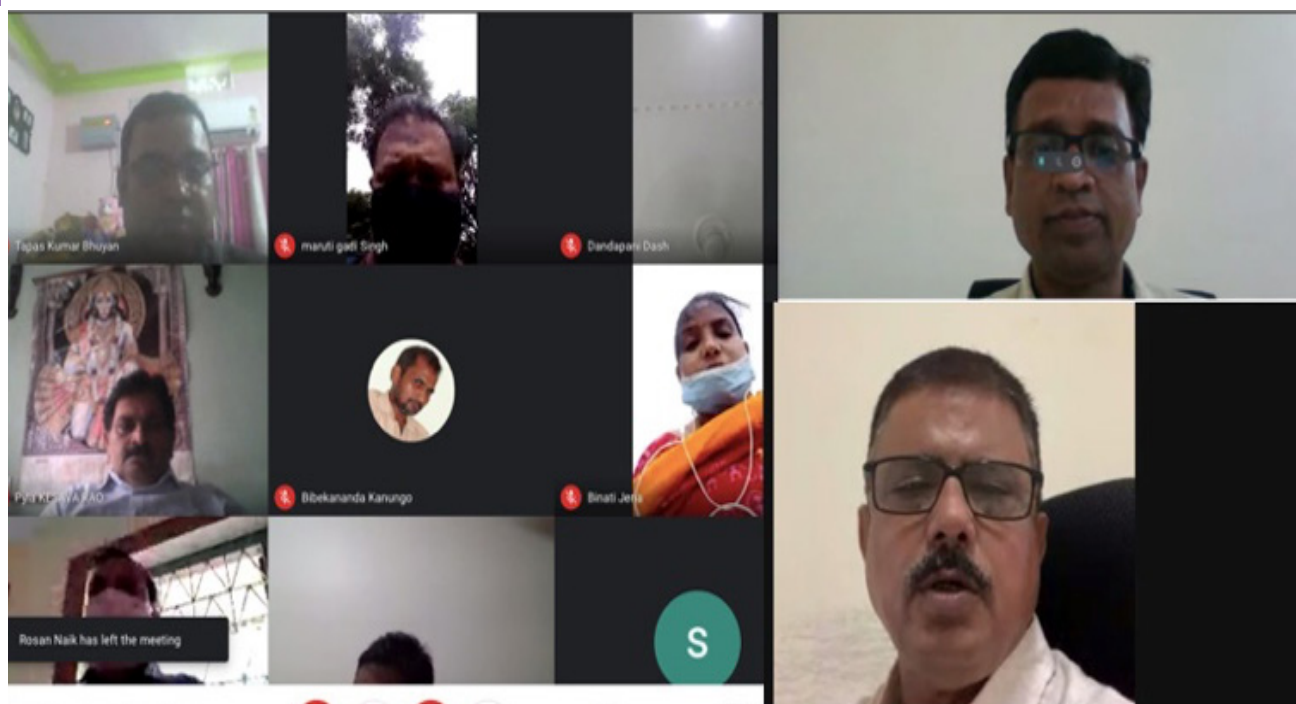
Associate Professor, Centre for
Natural Resource Management, Climate
Change and Disaster Mitigation

NIRDPR, and

M. Blümmel

International Livestock Research
Institute, Ethiopia

CGARD organises five-day online ToT on Spatial Planning for GPDP



(clockwise from top right) Dr. Subrat Kumar Mishra, Associate Professor, CNRM, CC & DM (top right) Shri Saroj Kr. Das, DD, SIRD, Odisha (bottom right) (top right) and Dr. P. Kesava Rao, Associate Professor and Head, CGARD (left middle) interacting with the participants.

Centre for Geoinformatics Applications in Rural Development (CGARD), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), organised a five-day online training programme for trainers on 'Spatial Planning for GPDP' for Training of the Trainers from the state of Odisha from 06th - 10th July, 2020.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Saroj Kr. Das, Deputy Director of SIRD, Odisha and Dr. P. Kesava Rao, Associate Professor & Head, CGARD, NIRDPR. Shri Saroj Kr. Das emphasised the importance of using of Spatial Technology tools in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and Dr. P. Kesava Rao briefed the importance of the technology while preparing the Gram Panchayat Development Plan.

On the first day, Dr. M. V. Ravibabu, Associate Professor, CGARD and Programme Director highlighted the five-day programme schedule and objectives such as concepts of Geoinformatics, mobile applications for asset mapping,

analysing the GIS data layers for planning and management of GPDP.

Dr. N. S. Prasad, Assistant Professor, CGARD and Co-Director of the programme outlined the key points of using GIS-based tools in the spatial planning such as Bhuvan Panchayat, Gram Manchitra and hands-on practical approach with field data collection from nearby assets using mobile-based applications.

A total of 93 officials (District Project Managers - 27, Computer Programmers - 64, SIRD Faculty - 1, Consultant-1) registered online and were approved by SIRD Coordinator Shri P. K. Mohapatro, SIRD, Odisha.

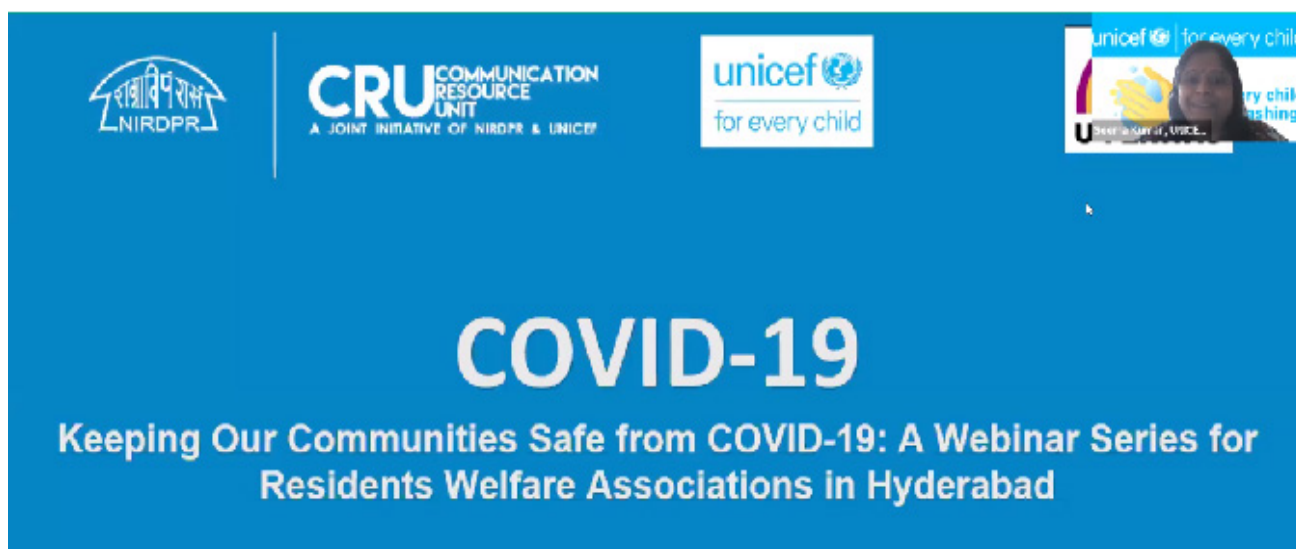
The programme consisted of a daily online quiz to test the trainer's knowledge on the sessions. The trainees prepared a template-based GPDP planning using tools learnt from all the sessions in which they were trained. All the trainers needed the minimum eligibility of clearing the quiz by obtaining 50 per cent of marks and compulsory attendance of 75 per

cent was made mandatory. Out of 93 registered trainees, only 52 participants successfully completed the course and were eligible for an e-certificate.

At the concluding session, Shri Saroj Kr. Das, Deputy Director, SIRD Odisha delivered the valedictory address and interacted with all participants. He highlighted the importance of spatial technology in the development of planning at Panchayat-level for infrastructure development, transparency, accountability while monitoring various rural development programmes. He also suggested using the technology in the day-to-day official activities in the field.

Later, Shri Saroj Kr. Das congratulated all participants and collected their valuable feedback. The programme was a success, as per the feedback received from the participants. All participants felt that the training programme was useful to prepare GPDP in the form of spatial planning.

Keeping Our Communities Safe from COVID-19: a capacity building webinar for residents' welfare associations in Hyderabad



Digital poster of the programme

The Communication Resource Unit-National Institute Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in collaboration with UNICEF Hyderabad office has been organising capacity building programmes on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) for various stakeholders on COVID-19 prevention and containment.

So far, various important stakeholders like Panchayati Raj Institutions, self-help groups, NSS, NYKS, NGOs, Community Radio Stations, TRIFED, UBA, DDU-GKY trainers and NRLM/SRLM staff members across the states were oriented. The purpose of the online training programmes is to equip the participants with right information and they, in turn, reach out to their internal audiences and communities to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

In this context, CRU-NIRDPR and UNICEF Hyderabad office in collaboration with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) organised a webinar for residential welfare associations (RWAs) on 25th July, 2020 on 'Keeping our communities safe from **Covid-19**'. Around 257 participants attended this

webinar. RWAs are citizen collectives that can play a great role in containing the pandemic by promoting safe behaviours among its residents. Residents are socially well-connected and exchange a lot of information and look up to an RWA for COVID-19 interventions and support. RWAs require necessary support to develop context-specific protocols to effectively manage COVID-19.

This was an interactive programme where the information needs were answered by an expert panel comprising of Dr. Sanjeev Upadhyaya, Health Specialist -UNICEF, Dr. Puttaraju, WHO and Dr. Rajan Shukla from Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). The session addressed the pre-compiled questions from the participants while registration as well the queries raised during the session.

The topics covered were home isolation, home quarantine, symptoms, testing, preventive measures, treatment and appropriate handling of COVID-19 waste. Ms. Meital Rusodia, Chief, UNICEF Hyderabad field office emphasised on the possible role of RWAs in addressing stigma and discrimination in the COVID-19 prevention efforts. Speaking

on the occasion, Shri Santosh, IAS, Additional Commissioner-Health-GHMC appreciated the efforts of CRU-NIRDPR and UNICEF for taking up this initiative with RWAs in GHMC area. Shri Shankaraiah, Additional Commissioner-Urban Community Development explained different activities of GHMC and requested UFERWAS (United Federation of Resident Welfare Associations) and others to coordinate for setting up of community quarantine centres in school buildings and community halls if needed. He requested the members to use GHMC toll free number 040-21111111 for any assistance.

While concluding the webinar, Ms. Seema Kumar, Communication for Development Specialist, UNICEF emphasised the need of engaging with citizen centric organisations like RWAs in prevention and mitigation of COVID-19. If needed, protocols and SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) may be developed through consultative process with GHMC and RWAs. This webinar was moderated by Shri Srinivas and Ms. Aravinda from CRU, NIRDPR.

CHRD online training programme on Research Methodology for Rural Development Professionals



NIRDPR Training Programme on Research Methodology for Rural Development Professionals

Digital banner of the programme

The Centre for Human Resource Development, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organised an online training programme on 'Research Methodology for Rural Development Professionals' in collaboration with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Rajya Gramya Vikas Sansthan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh during 29th June to 1st July, 2020.

As instructed by NIRDPR, A-View application was used to organise this programme. This programme was third in the series to achieve saturation in giving training on research methodology topic to faculty of Extension Training Centres/RIRDs/DIRDs.

The objectives of the programme were as follows: (1) To orient the participants on knowledge of research methodology to address the developmental issues, (2) To make the participants learn the basics of research methodology and statistical methods for carrying research, and, (3) To equip the participants on skills to prepare research design.

A total of 19 officials working as District Training Officer, Extension Training Officers, Senior Instructors, Assistant Director, core faculty of ETCs, RIRDs, DIRDs and SIRD of

Lucknow joined this programme.

In addition to the faculty from NIRDPR, a few eminent resource persons such as Prof. B. K. Bajpai, Director and Dr. Animesh Roy, Assistant Professor, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, and Prof. Madhulika Dube, Head Dept. of Statistics, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow were invited to take sessions.

Participants were welcomed by Dr. Y. Ramana Reddy, Professor and Head, Centre for Human Resource Development, NIRDPR, Hyderabad. He spoke about the importance of carrying out research and its use in conducting training programmes. He further noted that the faculty who do not publish their research work eventually would get perished.

Dr. D. C. Upadhyaya, Additional Director, DDUSIRD, Lucknow addressed the participants. He thanked NIRDPR for conducting online research methodology training programme for the faculty of SIRD, ETCs and DIRDs, and urged the participants to learn maximum basics of research and come out with research proposals. He reiterated that all participants must submit a small research proposal on grassroots issues to NIRDPR through DDUSIRD, Lucknow and the

findings could be used for designing of new programme or to modify existing one.

Dr. Lakhan Singh, Course Director briefed about course structure to the participants and requested them to follow the instructions judiciously in order to conduct the programme smoothly. Keeping in view the online mode of training, it was decided to have maximum three hours of sessions every day.

To achieve the objectives of the programme content and sessions were structured in such way that it covered all the basic concepts of research methodology. The contents of the programme covered were relevant to research in designing training programmes, identification and defining of research problem, writing research proposal, methodology: sample and sampling, data analysis : basics of descriptive and inferential statistics, types of research and data, concepts of social science research, basics of SPSS for data analysis, and tools for research study.

The programme was appreciated by the participants and they demanded NIRDPR to organise a specific programme which can handheld faculty in developing research proposal and writing research reports.

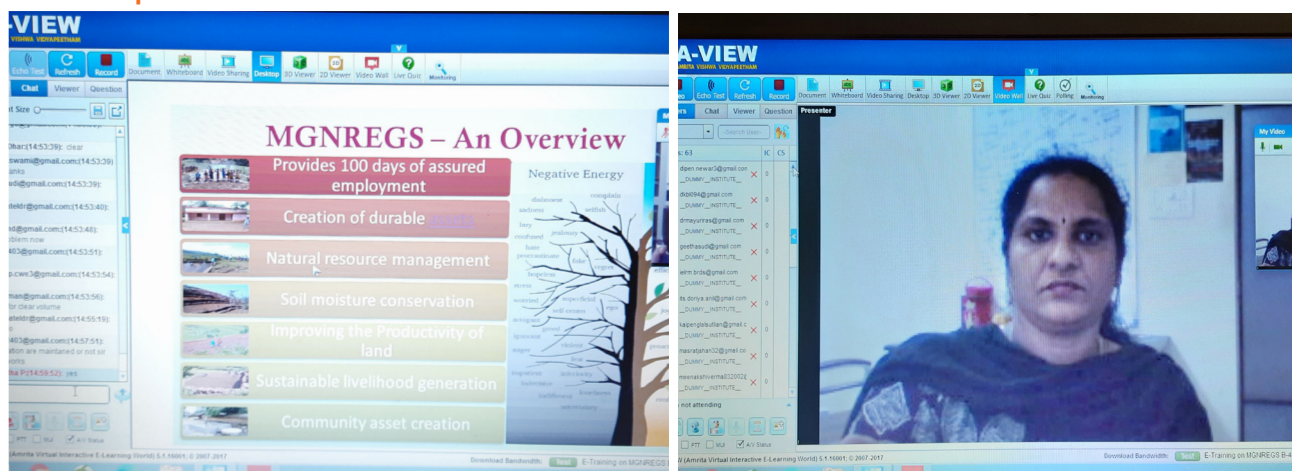
At the end, the programme was evaluated by the participants. From the report, it is evident that there is an improvement in all the three domains of a trainee, i.e. knowledge (90 per cent), skill (92 per cent), and attitude (90 per cent), after attending this programme. Overall effectiveness

of the programme was more than 90 per cent. The course team reiterated that all participants may utilise the research fund of NIRDPR in carrying out small scale research. They expressed interest to extend their assistance to faculty of SIRD, ETCs in preparing research proposals.

Many of the participants show their interest in developing research proposal.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development, and Dr. D. C. Upadhyaya, Additional Director, DDUSIRD, Lucknow.

CWE&L conducts three-day training programme on MGNREGS Planning and Implementation



Home page of the training programme(left) and Dr. Anuradha Palla, Assistant Professor, CWE&L handling a session(right)

A three-day training programme on 'MGNREGS Planning and Implementation: Training for Beginners on Act, Guidelines, Master Circulars and Implementation Process' was organised by the Centre for Wage Employment & Labour, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad during 27th-29th July, 2020. It was an online training programme using A-View software.

Objectives of the programme included, familiarising the participants with MGNREGS guidelines and implementation process, and sharing the best practices of MGNREGS. The topics covered in the training programme were MGNREGS planning, implementation of MGNREGS and best practices (convergence and livelihoods).

The centre received 1200 nominations from various departments. In order to train all the participants CWE&L team decided to divide them

into six batches and conduct training programmes in three slots. Training for Batches 1 & 2 was conducted during 27th-29th July, 2020. A total of 86 participants in Batch 1 and 112 participated in Batch 2. Training for Batch 3 and Batch 4 were conducted during 5th -7th August, 2020. A total of 124 participants attended in Batch 3 and Batch 4. Batch 5 and Batch 6 are scheduled from 12th -14th August, 2020 and invitations were given to 400 participants in A-View.

The participants were officials representing Rural Development and other line departments implementing MGNREGS at block and district level, SIRDPR and ETC faculty. All the participants will be provided e-certificates after the successful completion of the programme. It is mandatory to attend all the sessions and provide the online evaluation. The course team included Dr. Anuradha Palla, Dr. Digambar A. Chimankar, Dr. Jyothis Sathyapalan and Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, CWE&L, NIRDPR.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the state of India, as well as the Institute's management and the training programme team for this great effort, and for providing distinguished scientific and practical courses to enhance the interest us in our field.

Frag Mohamed Awid Elsbeay

Agricultural Faculty- Damiatta
University – Egypt



It was a wonderful opportunity for me to learn new things about MGNREGA and rural development functionaries, which I earlier was unaware of. The programme enhanced my knowledge and the understanding of government functionaries. It also boosted my confidence.

Rispaal Meena



My special thanks to Dr. Anuradha Palla, Course Director for the wonderful job and I appreciate the efforts and thank everyone who were involved in the preparation and execution of the training.

Ravinder Kumar

Computer Operator, MGNREGA,
DRDA, Rohtak, Haryana



As a participant, I received the basic knowledge about MGNREGA and a lot of practical information about implementation of MGNREGS in rural areas. The knowledge acquired from this training will help me in implementation as a Dy. Collector (EGS). Thanks to Dr. Anuradha madam and other mentors for giving conceptual training.

Vijaya Jadhav

Dy. Collector (EGS), Gadchiroli,
Maharashtra

Proceedings of three-day online programme on Inclusion of the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in SHGs



PwDs (left) and elderly self help-group members (right)

People living with vulnerabilities encounter many disadvantages in society and are often subjected to stigma and discrimination. To the marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities and elderly, livelihood issues become all the more important on account of the discriminatory attitudes of society and other complexities such as lack of accessibility of basic services to overcome various socio-economic constraints faced by them. The government of India has introduced a number of schemes to improve the livelihood and quality of life of elderly and PwDs. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) has a special focus on inclusion of the poorest of poor

and vulnerable sections such as elderly and people living with disabilities to improve their livelihood opportunities. In this connection, NRLM organised a three-day online training programme (27th -29th July, 2020) for the states of Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh for the block and district programme managers of Social Inclusion and Social Development (SI and SD). There were a total 106 participants, including 41 females and 65 were males. The primary objective of the training programme was to identify and assess the elderly and people with disabilities and inclusion in various activities like financial inclusion,

livelihoods, etc. Further, it was focussed on poverty alleviation by creating self help- groups (SHGs) of elderly and PwDs across the rural areas to provide them financial and livelihood security.

The programme started by delivering a welcome address by the programme co-ordinator, NRLMRC, NIRDPR and self-introduction of participants. A discussion was held on the vulnerability reduction funds and inclusion of PwDs and elderly people in SHGs to improve their livelihood opportunities. Shri Rajeshwar Devarakonda, Head Programmes & Mission Head - Livelihoods HelpAge India, the resource person, made a presentation on Social Inclusion and

Social Development: Combating Ageism - Elderly and their SHGs. The involvement of elderly people in SHGs is significant to secure their livelihoods and equity. Therefore, it is required for the identification of those people and involve them in economic activity. without the inclusion of the elderly people and PwDs in SHGs, NRLM cannot reach its targets. The main objective of the NRLM is poverty alleviation; so, one of the strategies of NRLM is involving the elderly people and PwDs in the mainstream through SHGs. The elderly people face various challenges such as failing health, economic insecurity, isolation, neglect, abuse, fear, boredom, low self-esteem, loss of control and are unprepared for old age. Therefore, it is significant to include them in financial activity to remove their multiple vulnerabilities.

Besides, there is a need to focus on the identification of elderly people and understand their problems. The Community Resource Person (CRP), with the help of District Programme Managers (DPMs) and Block Programme Managers (BPMs) of various states may provide the handholding support for identification and mobilisation of the elderly people in SHGs. The elderly people can be categorised into three groups for ESHGs and support them according to their requirements, i.e. 1. Working Elders (Livelihood support through ESHGs) 2. Destitute Elders (Sustenance & palliative care through Capacity Building Organisations) 3. Assisted Elders (Livelihood support through ESHGs + Healthcare). A Vulnerability Reduction Plan should be prepared based on the identified vulnerable groups, enumerated categories, individual needs, and preparation of thematic module, immersion training, and capacity building depending upon the theme of vulnerability.

Ms. V. Deepa Rajkamal, CEO, TNVRC & NRO, TNSRLM-Tamil Nadu shared experiences of inclusion of PwDs and

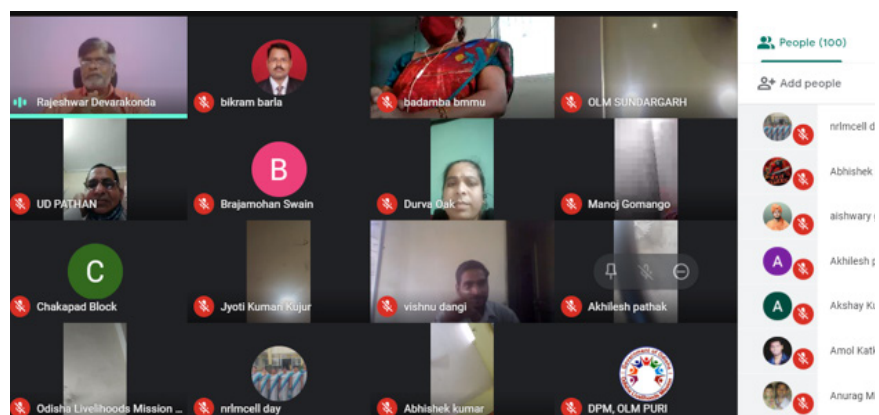
the elderly in SHGs of Tamil Nadu. The socially vulnerable people among the rural population struggle for existence due to acute poverty, lack of family and community support, old age, and ill-health. The vulnerable people are denied to access to their basic rights and entitlements. Therefore, there is a need to analyse poverty and vulnerability from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It is necessary to sensitise the family members about the importance of vulnerable groups and their contribution to their family because the elderly and PwDs are not unproductive. The states should develop a need assessment protocol for the facilitators to provide handholding support at the village level for the formation of SHGs of the elderly and PwDs. The inclusion of PwDs and the elderly will lead to increase in the productivity and human potential to the whole community as well as to the country.

There are various central and state schemes which are running parallel with the rural areas for the elderly people and PwDs, implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and state governments. However, the identification of PwD and the elderly is significant to include them in the mainstream. The Gram Sabha is the primary platform for identification of PwDs and the elderly, followed by need assessment camp, prioritisation list, entitlements through convergence and special group formation, etc. The capacity building and other training should be conducted to improve

the vulnerable groups' skills, comfort level, and address the diverse needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly.

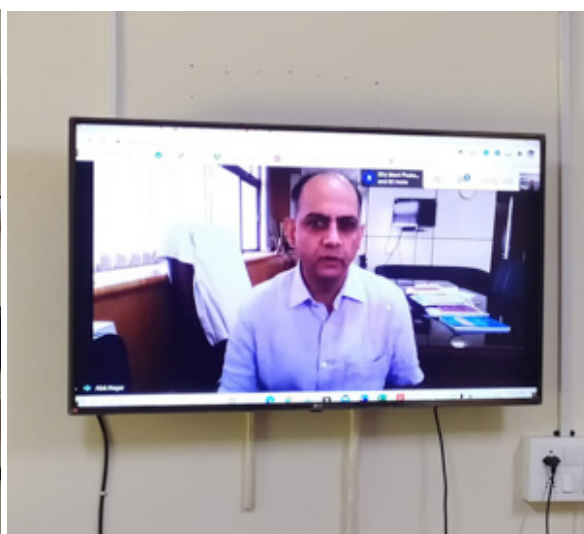
The individual assistant can be provided on priority-based, decided by the PwDs and the elderly. For the inclusion of PwDs and the elderly SHGs, the Gram Panchayat/SI and SD should identify a suitable community cadre to mobilise, the State Resource Person (SRP) and the District Resource Person (DRPs). Each state will be trained on the basic identification of vulnerable people, orientation, enumeration, categorisation, group formation, and vulnerability reduction plan. Rehabilitation training should be given to the community cadre and special group facilitator, to address the specific individual physical and psychological problems. The SRP and DRPs along with NRPs can provide training to CRPs to mobilise the household and social workers. The major challenges for the inclusion of vulnerable people SHGs are mobilisation and identification. The SEC data can be taken as a base for the identification of vulnerable people. The criteria of group formation can be heterogeneous, all age groups (under the age of 18, one among the parent will be the guardian), a minimum of five members, and any type of disability.

The programme was concluded with the discussion on timelines to be carried out for the inclusion of PwDs and the elderly. This programme was coordinated by Dr. Y. Ramana Reddy, Director, NRLMC and team.



Presentation on including elderly into SHGs by Dr. Rajeshwar Devarakonda

Model GP clusters online orientation training programme for State Nodal Officers, State-Level Master Trainers and District-Level Master Trainers



Action research project team members at NIRDPR (left) and Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (right)

The Centre for Panchayati Raj, Decentralised Planning and Social Service Delivery (CPRDP&SSD), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) conducted a three-day online orientation training for State Nodal Officers (SNO), State-Level Master Trainers (SLMTs) and District-Level Master trainers (DLMTs) on the project for Model GP Clusters during 29th to 31st July, 2020. The participants were from the states of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT). The aim of the training programme was to orient the participants on the goals and objectives, approach, distinctive character, methodology of implementation, key outcomes and milestones of the project for creating Model GP clusters and roles and responsibilities of key functionaries, partner institutions and other stakeholders, who are associated with the project for creating 250 Model GP Clusters across India. It was an online training programme considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The keynote address was delivered by Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India set a tone for the three-day orientation training programme. He spoke about the importance of developing a

perspective plan along with annual Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) at GP level in a participatory manner. He further highlighted, "Young Fellows are like the fulcrum of the project, who will be crucial in realising the project objectives."

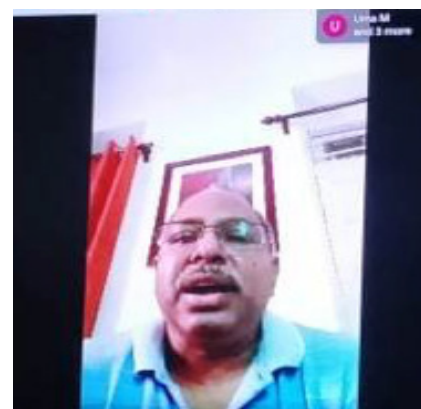
Welcome address was delivered by Shri S. S. Prasad, Director, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India on the second day of the training. During his address, he highlighted that the project is novel and there are high expectations in terms of its outcomes. He further mentioned that the support and ownership of SNOs, SLMTs and DLMTs is crucial for the success of the project.

The training programme covered the following topics: i) GPDP as a strategy of achieving holistic and sustainable development ii) Quality issues in GPDP and means to achieve them iii) The goals and objectives, the methodology of implementation, key outcomes and milestones of the project for creating Model GP Clusters iv) Institutional strengthening of the project GPs as a prerequisite for quality GPDP v) Relevance of Mission Antyodaya data and e-Gram Swaraj portal of the MoPR in the context of effective GP functioning vi) Community-based, community-managed and community-owned process of development, based on voluntary actions vii) Role of

the project in meeting challenges of economic development, social justice and SDGs and triggering positive differences in the effective functioning of GPs and creation of Model GPs.

The participants asked questions regarding the implementation arrangements, funding mechanism and the role of states. All the questions were answered in detail and participants were provided with all the materials related to the project for further learning.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Anjan Kumar Bhanja, Associate Professor, CPRDP&SSD, NIRDPR along with Shri Dilip Kumar Pal, Project Team Leader and PMU team of project team for Model GP Clusters.



Shri S. S. Prasad, Director, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, delivering welcome address on the second day of the training programme




 राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं
 पंचायती राज संस्थान
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Published By:

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 on behalf of the NIRDPR,
 Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030.

