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Cover Story

Panchayati Raj and Development

"If we would see our dream of Panchayati Raj, that is, true democracy realised, we would regard the humblest and lowest Indian as being equally the ruler of India with the tallest in the land."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Panchayati Raj Institutions as units of self-governance continue to do the agency functions by implementing all Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Programmes, across Ministries and key sectors viz. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Health, Education, Housing, and Rural Electrification etc., at the cutting edge level i.e. Gram Panchayat.

All the States have fulfilled the first generation reforms by conducting Panchayat elections. They constituted State Election Commission, State Finance Commission, prepared activity mapping (not implemented), and devolved some functions desirable for the State through legislation. At present the agenda is to strengthen these PRIs through second generation reforms.

- i) By and large, the States have prepared activity mapping on the basis of the Schedule XI - 29 functions and clearly defined roles and functions at all the levels.
- ii) Providing Panchayati Raj window from both the Central and State Government budgets to commensurate with the devolved functions.



- iii) Keeping in view that the 14th Finance Commission funds are exclusively granted to the Gram Panchayat, preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) needs to be strengthened in an integrated and convergence mode.
- iv) Bringing in a qualitative improvement in Capacity Building of the PRI functionaries, with networking and sharing of material.

As per Article 243(b), of the part XI of the Indian Constitution, Gram Sabha with all registered voters of the Panchayat area need to have role and understanding in identification of beneficiaries, works, planning, implementation, monitoring and social audit of all programmes of economic development and social justice. In an effort to strengthen the institution of Gram Sabha, three key Ministries viz Agriculture, Social Justice and Empowerment, and

Panchayati Raj have collectively proposed to celebrate the National Panchayati Raj Day as a movement from April 14 to 24, 2016 under Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan (GUBUA).

'Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan' (village emergence and development to Bharat emergence and development) was conducted across the country, beginning with the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on April 14, 2016, culminating in 'National Panchayati Raj Day' on April 24, 2016. The aim of this campaign was to make nationwide efforts to strengthen Panchayati Raj and through it, boost social harmony in the villages, promote Rural Development and foster farmers' welfare and livelihoods of the poor. Panchayats across the country conducted the campaign. Honourable Prime Minister inaugurated the campaign on April 14, 2016 at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, and addressed all Gram

Sabhas on April 24, 2016. During the campaign, Panchayats held programmes across the country, and the following events were organised:

- Social Harmony Programmes (April 14 - 16, 2016)
- Gram Kisan Sabha (April 17 - 20, 2016)
- Gram Sabha (April 21-24, 2016)

In order to implement this movement, both Government of India and respective State government officials were roped in to visit 300 identified districts in all the 23 States and one Union Territory of Chandigarh. The States going in for polls were not included. In this context, thirty districts were allotted to NIRD&PR faculty members who have visited and documented on Gram Sabhas organised on issues related to Social Harmony, Kisan Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayat Gram Sabhas. These reports were submitted to the Ministries.

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad deputed 29 faculty members to observe and document the above three events that were conducted across the country between April 14 to 24, 2016. As many as 29 districts from 15 States were visited by NIRD&PR faculty members. Under the Social Harmony Programme, Chemaldhari Gram Panchayat (GP) in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana State was visited. Likewise, eight different GPs from Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Jharkhand States were visited for documenting Gram Kisan Sabhas. To observe and document the Gram Sabhas held from



Social Harmony: Oath Taking in Ranga Reddy Distrist

April 21 to 24, 2016, a total of 30 GPs in 11 States were visited.

Social Harmony Programme (April 14-16, 2016)

On the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the people residing in the respective all Gram Panchayats paid homage to Dr. B.R Ambedkar, and garlanded the statue or portrait of him. The assembled villagers and officials resolved to strengthen social harmony and took oath. Dr. B.R Ambedkar's life and his views about National unity were discussed, and literature regarding Dr. B.R Ambedkar was distributed. On this day, information about the schemes run by the government to promote social equity was given and exhibitions were organised.

In a meeting held at Ranga Reddy district of Telangana State, as part of the programme, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's life and achievements were discussed by the school children, village elders and government officials. The

students performed cultural programmes and recited patriotic songs and poetry on the achievements of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Similarly, the people in Belagavi Gram Panchayat, in Bailhongal Gram Panchayat and Belgaum district of Karnataka, also felicitated deserving students and elders who have been actively involved in extending help to the deserving and needy, and organised a huge rally in the Gram Panchayat.

Gram Kisan Sabha (April 17-20, 2016): Meetings of farmers were organised in every Gram Panchayat under the Gram Kisan Sabha. Information regarding schemes in the agriculture sector was shared and suggestions to improve agriculture were invited from farmers. On this occasion, members from NIRD&PR visited eight different GPs in Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Jharkhand.

In all the GPs, awareness campaigns regarding Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme (PMFBY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi

Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana (PKVY), Gokul Mission and Mobile Agriculture Apps (NAM, Kisan Suvidha) were organised. The farmers were suggested to use the water optimally in order to raise production with less investment and more yields. During Kisan Gram Sabhas, people requested that a discussion on crop insurance may be taken up in the presence of key revenue officials. Bankers were present in the meeting and citizens complained that bankers tried not to release insurance amount to loan defaulters.

Gram Sabha or Village Assembly (April 21-24, 2016)

To celebrate the National Panchayati Raj Day, Gram Sabhas were held in each Gram Panchayat from April 21 to 24, 2016. To document the Gram Sabhas, faculty members from NIRD&PR visited 30 different Gram Panchayats in Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh. Documentation of Gram Sabhas was conducted regarding the issues on Gram Panchayat development plan for local economic development, proper utilisation of funds by Panchayats, safe drinking water and sanitation, role of women in Rural Development, social inclusion including welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

During the Gram Sabhas, villagers took an oath for the development of the village and the country. Preparatory activities such as Prabhat Pheri, felicitation of the

senior citizens for their achievements, folk songs and folk plays were organised at the Gram Panchayat premises. Through folk songs, the artists conveyed the message of Gram Uday se Bharat Uday Abhiyan, and discussed all the Rural Development programmes such as PMGSY, MGNREGA, Sukanya Samrudhi Yojana, etc. Special emphasis was given to Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY).

The feedback received through reports states that this has enabled common man to have direct interaction not only with cutting edge functionaries (agriculture assistant, ICDS staff and Anganwadi Workers, Aasha Workers, Bankers, SHGs members, Agriculture Officer, Social Welfare Officer and staff working in the area but also District Collectors, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla

Parishad, District Panchayat, Janpad Panchayat/Taluk/Panchayat Samithi members and other senior officials. People were of the opinion that such Gram Sabhas may involve other key sectoral departments viz., Animal Husbandry, Education, Minor Irrigation, Revenue, etc.

On the basis of these visits, a consolidated report is being prepared on issues related to the role of NIRD&PR, regarding training plan, key research issues to be addressed, and action research projects. A presentation is proposed to be made by Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR, in a national forum. GUBUA Gram Sabha activities were coordinated and consolidated reports were prepared by the School of Local Governance - faculty Dr. K. Jayalakshmi, Dr. Y.B. Rao, Dr. C. Dheeraja and Dr. Dr Pratyusna Patnaik.



Nehargaon and Sirrikurdh : Gariyaband Dist. Chhattisgarh

Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan

NIRD&PR Faculty visit Chhattisgarh villages to observe Gram Sabhas

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) has deputed the faculty members to observe the Gram Sabha meetings under Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan 2016 in selected districts of various States. Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development, visited Gariyaband district along with Dr. P. Raj Kumar, faculty of NIRD&PR on April 22 and 23, 2016.

The team visited Nahargaon Village Panchayat in Gariyaband block and Sirrikurdh Village Panchayat (open defecation free village) in Fingeshwar block of Gariyaband district and attended the Gram Sabha Meetings. It is observed that nearly 190 people have participated in Nahargaon Gram Sabha Meeting, and 250 people participated in Sirrikurdh Gram Sabha Meeting. In both the meetings, there was a representation from all sections of the community such as Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Castes (OBC).

In both the Gram Sabhas, the discussions were facilitated by the respective village Sarpanchs and the items of agenda for discussion were given by the department. The details of the agenda items included Gram Panchayat Development Plan, Nal Jal



Yojana, PMGSY, PMJGB, Janani Suraskha Yojana, PMKSY and also additional items like SSA, Mid-day Meals and problems in school.

In Nahargaon Gram Panchayat, the farmers of the village while participating in discussions on strengthening of quality of Mid-day Meal, resolved to donate the first harvesting crop of their vegetable crops to support the Mid-day Meal. The School Management Committee President and Vice-President voluntarily came forward to take the responsibility of cleanliness maintenance and drinking water supply in the school. The Panchayat functionary accepted the responsibility of teaching Mathematics in middle school of Nahargaon, as the Mathematics teacher post was lying vacant.

In Gariyaband district of Chhattisgarh, the CEO of Zilla

Panchayat has taken up lot of awareness activities and arrangements for the smooth conduct of Gram Sabha Meetings under Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan 2016, under the guidance of District Collector. Further, it was also observed that the CEO Zilla Panchayat, CEO Janpath Panchayat, the Nodal Officers of Gram Sabha meetings, Sarpanch and other elected representatives of Villages Panchayats along with the functionaries of line departments attended the Gram Sabha Meetings and motivated the villagers for effective participation in development of the Gram Panchayats. The Gram Sabha Meetings in Gariyaband district were observed by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development and Dr. P. Raj Kumar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Livelihoods of NIRD&PR.

A Method of Own Fund Generation at GP Level

Progressive devolution of powers and funds to the local bodies is one of the prime indicators of success of the local governance system. The 14th Finance Commission (FFC) made a giant stride in financial devolution by recommending a hike in the share of States in the Centre's tax revenue from the current 32 per cent to 42 per cent. This is indeed the single largest increase ever recommended by a Finance Commission. Another significant point about FFC is the provision of 'Performance Grant' to selected GPs, besides the Basic Grant given to all the GPs.

How to become eligible in order to avail the Performance Grant? One important requisite is that, any GP that shows its own internal revenues higher (over the preceding year), becomes eligible. This challenge has really made the Gram Panchayats (especially those GPs where people's representatives, the youth and the SHGs are active) step up own funds and claim the Performance Grant, in order to take up extra development work.

One of the examples for such initiatives is Halpura Gram Panchayat in Uttar Pradesh that Dr. R. Ramesh, Assistant Professor from CRI visited during the Panchayati Raj Day Celebrations. He reports that one of the interesting things reported by the local community at Halpura Gram Panchayat, in Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh during Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan Celebrations was the steps that GP has taken to



A woman operating Water ATM

augment the local revenue of the Gram Panchayat. They did it in two ways. First, they dug a pond of 400 x 400 square meters using MGNREGA workers. It has been dug for cultivating fish which can be sold to build up the own funds of the GP. Secondly, the place looks pleasant with plenty of fruit-bearing trees such as Mango, Guava, and Coconut besides some Timber trees that are planted around the pond. All of these trees and plants are on the bund of the pond covering at least five metres from the rim of the pond. The pond

has been fenced with brick construction up to chest level, and barbed wires over it, so as not to allow easy entry. An elderly woman serves as watch woman who also waters these trees and plants.

During this visit (April 2016), the trees are found to have grown up to 10 – 12 feet. With trees and decorative plants all around the pond, the place is comfortably shady and pleasant to sit and watch. Cement benches have been installed in many places on the bund, with which it also serves as a local park or as a children's park. There is also a small wooden fishing boat on the water that can carry one or two persons. A pair of oar is used to move about and sail in the water. It was not sure if the boat was decorative or functional, yet they offer to take visitors for a sail.

The GP has introduced fish in the pond. The fish are said to be grown up to weight more than one kg now. This has made the place clean and a place that can be proudly presented to any visitor to the village, while it enhances revenue of the GP as well. It in turn has the potential to help the GP claiming the Performance Grant from FFC. The need for Gram Panchayats to strengthen their internal financial strength has been constantly mentioned, but the FFC has introduced an innovative idea (Performance Grant) that really incentivises GPs to perform. It really seems to work in Halpura Gram Panchayat in UP.

Mobile Phone is on the priority, but toilet is not. Why?

It was the Census-2011 that brought to light that majority of the Indian population does not have a toilet at home, but more than half of the population owns a telephone. As of March 2014, India had 933 million telephone subscribers (wireless and landline). Annual cell phone addition (2010 – 2011) was 227.27 million, while annual toilet addition was just about 4 – 5 million. Though the teledensity is considered an important indicator of development, this paradox invites comparison.

Given the wide gap between two factors, this comparison between mobile phone ownership and toilet ownership also makes sense. It may appear similar to the comparison between apples and oranges. Yet, what invites comparison is our inquisitiveness to figure out the logic behind their priorities and preferences of the Indian mindset.

Owning a mobile phone has become a social norm. In social norms there are things that are spoken about (exhibited), and those that are not discussed explicitly. Social norms can be enforced formally (e.g. through sanctions in a Gram Sabha/Community Association), or informally (e.g. through body language and non-verbal communication cues). The non-verbal cue or body language that we have observed is ‘talking about toilets and defecating’ is an undesirable social norm.

This can be observed clearly when menstrual hygiene is to be discussed by a health worker. He counts who are all present, to make sure there is no one from his family



around; and the location it is discussed, etc. Although his duty demands him to talk about it, the social norm (the way he has been socialised) makes him feel uncomfortable.

The cultural expectation or social norm is that either he should not mention about it in public, or he should talk about it very superficially and finish off. This is more so especially when the health educator is a male. This goes with the social norm that expects you to have a ‘contact number’. This is about what behaviour the group (or a society) approves of and deems important. Social norms are so strong that one may starve inside his house, but makes efforts to present himself as if he is very ‘normal’.

In some of the villages in Telangana and in other parts of India as well, drinking water is supplied through water vending machines installed by NGOs, and CSR wings. Each household has a Water ATM card, which you need to recharge

every month ranging from ₹ 50 to ₹ 150. For every swipe of the card you get 20 litres of water, and an agreed amount gets deducted from the card until it runs to zero balance, when it has to be recharged again. People have got used to this practice, and it has become a ‘normal practice’ (example, Ibrahimpur in Medak district, Telangana).

That means to say that social norms can also be enforced formally through local sanctions such as Gram Sabha resolution and community approvals. A Panchayat can withhold or give out resources (deliver services) in response to members’ adherence to the officially approved norms, effectively controlling member behaviour through rewards and operant conditioning.

This is explicitly outlining and implementing behavioural expectations for social good. The market has been able to cut in a mindset to make people think that everybody else in the society expects me to have a cell phone. It is almost a

social norm that we are expected to adhere to. People tend to internalise norms by accepting them as reasonable and proper standards for behaviour within a given society. Once firmly established, a norm becomes a part of the community's operational structure. With regard to phones, the market has devised ways to entice people and has also provided excellent availability and access to a whole range of it. When it comes to making toilet-use as a social norm, we need to focus on influencing behaviours while the 'facilitate the organising' is required to accelerate the pace. Mission 'Clean India' is

possible, if only we focus on establishing a social norm that keeps buzzing in one's ears that 'doing it in the open' is not desirable anymore in Indian society. This will trigger a social norm that 'open defecation' is socially undesirable.

Habits are stronger than reasons and logic. How to rewrite it so as to revise the undesirable social norms that expects you to be silent about, or not to mention about it in public, allowing this hazardous thing to go on? This is a real challenge. This is the reason behind the emphasis given for Behavioural Change

Communication (BCC) and Inter-Personal Communication (IPC) under Swachh Bharat Mission.

How effective our IEC tools are, depends on our understanding of the behavioural components. Tools per se don't do any magic. Making the IEC tools eloquent is in our understanding of the cultural context in which we work, and social norms that govern social behaviour. The CRI of the NIRD&PR is conducting a series of training programmes on 'Behavioural Change Communication for the SBM facilitators'.

Writeshop

Writeshop on State Plans for Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, along with UNDP and Capacity Building cell of NIC organised writeshop on State Plans for Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) on April 1 and 2, 2016 at NIRD&PR.

Around 75 delegates, representing fifteen States and one UT, Andaman and Nicobar Islands attended the programme. Shri S.M. Vijayanand, Secretary MoPR, interacted with participants through a Video Conference and provided guidance on RGSA, networking of SIRDs and role of Mentor Institutions, tracking Panchayat level fund flow.

Smt. Sarada Muraleedharan, Joint Secretary, MoPR, Government of India led the writeshop, made a presentation on State specific



progress on GPDP 2016, followed by discussions with respective States. Writeshop sessions included capacity building (CB) for GPDP, convergence, MGNREGA, sustainable development goals, and other CB strategies. An exclusive session on PESA was organised and plans were prepared. On the second day, session was chaired by Shri S.M. Vijayanand, Secretary MoPR and Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General,

NIRD&PR and Action Plan presentations were made by the States. A discussion on India Panchayat Knowledge Portal (IPKP) and consolidation of draft plans by respective States were prepared and shared with MoPR. School of Local Governance faculty members Dr K. Jayalakshmi, Dr. Y. Bhaskar Rao, and Dr C. Dheeraja coordinated the programme.

Workshop

Designing Curriculum for the Certificate Programme

A two-day national level consultative workshop was organised by the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGG&PA) on April 27 and 28, 2016. The Director General Dr. W R Reddy, IAS inaugurated the workshop. Sharing his personal

experiences on how social accountability builds good governance, the Director General had set the deliberations to move in a right direction. Seven different modules were discussed mainly on importance of Social Accountability Tools and Techniques. At the end of the

workshop, a draft of academic curriculum design for Certificate Programme on Social Accountability Tools for Good Governance was brought out. Dr. Sarumathy, Head of the Centre and Dr. K. Prabhakar, Asst. Professor, co-ordinated the programme.

Training

TOT Programme for Barefoot Technicians on MGNREGS

The NIRD&PR organised a ten day Training of Trainers (TOT) programme on 'Barefoot Technicians of MGNREGS' sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, from April 18 to 27, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The programme aimed at promoting technical-knowledge oriented grassroots functionaries while implementing schemes under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

In order to generate State level resource, the Centre for Wage Employment is scheduled to organise four TOT programmes during 2016-17. The first programme in the series meant for the resource persons from Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh was organised from April 18 to 27, 2016. A total of 58 participants from Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh



States have attended the programme. Participants were oriented on all technical aspects related works taken-up under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Taking the technical aspects in to consideration, three resource persons

were exclusively drafted to orient the participants. The training programme is directed by Dr. G. Rajani Kanth, Associate Professor, Head, I/C, Centre for Wage Employment, NIRD&PR.

Training Programme on Gender Budgeting

Gender Budgeting is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women and men equally. It is not an accounting exercise but an ongoing process of keeping a gender perspective in policy/ programme formulation, its implementation and review. It entails dissection of the Government budgets to establish its gender differential impacts and to ensure that gender commitments are translated into budgetary commitments.

The rationale for gender budgeting arises from recognition of the fact that national budgets impact men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation. In view of this, Gender Budgeting, as a tool for achieving gender mainstreaming, has been propagated. A training programme on 'Gender Budgeting' for implementing officials

was held at SIRD, Gujarat from April 25 to 28, 2016. A total of 34 officers across the State comprising government officers who are Trainers, CDPO, ATDO, Deputy DDO, Extension Officer, Accounts Officer, etc., participated in the programme.

The objective of the training programme was to orient the participants on the various thematic areas and methodology of Gender Budgeting.

- To sensitise the participants about the need for Gender Budgeting
- To impart the skill of Gender Budgeting
- To expose the participants to Gender Budgeting exercises in various Rural Development programmes.

Various pertinent subjects on Concept of Gender, Gender and

Development, Terms, Concepts and Approaches of Gender Budgeting, Gender Sensitisation, Gujarat GEP Structure, Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in Government, Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) - Role of NGOs/Government Officers (Planning/Budget), Gender Budget Analysis with PRIs, etc. were dealt with. Dr. N.V. Madhuri, the course coordinator, Dr. Shila Trivedi, course team member from SIRD, Gujarat, took the participants to the Gender Resource Cell of Gujarat and familiarised them with the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) initiatives. The participants found the training programme very useful. Further, many participants, during the course of feedback requested to organise more such programmes. The programme was coordinated by Dr. N.V. Madhuri from CGSD, NIRD&PR and Dr. Shila Trivedi from SIRD, Gujarat.

Training Programme on Planning and Management of Micro-enterprises for SHGs

Keeping in mind the importance of self-employment activities for generating income and improving quality of life of the rural people, a training programme on Planning and Management of Micro-enterprises for SHGs was held at DDUSIRD, Lucknow from April 25 to 29, 2016. A total of 30 officers across the State comprising Government officers,

Bank Officers and faculty members of the different Rural Development Institutes of UP Government attended the programme. The important objectives of the programme inter alia, were to equip the participants with the knowledge of organising rural poor for self-help, to impart basic knowledge about planning and implementation of income generation projects for SHGs, to share innovative

experience and strategies in managing the SHG based micro-enterprises and to equip the participants with the skill of M&E of SHG projects.

The training programme was designed in such a way that participants could implement SHG related income generation projects meticulously. In view of this, various topics like capacity building, PRA and

participatory identification of poor, social mobilisation, capacity building, poverty issues, innovative project identification, monitoring and evaluation, gender issues, marketing aspects etc., were included. Field based cases on income generation projects of SHGs were also shared with the participants through film shows. Further, one-day field visit was organised near Lucknow, where 12 educated women, by forming a SHG under the umbrella of an NGO viz., Chetna Shakti Swalamban Sansthan, have been promoting

micro-enterprises among the rural women by organising training - sometimes in Lucknow or in villages. Training is imparted to produce products like pickle, fruits squash, balm, tooth powder, etc.

The sessions were dealt by Dr. Shankar Chatterjee and local speakers who had wide experience in developing of micro-enterprises. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Vardani, Additional Director of DDUSIRD, who stressed the need for organising such programmes as SHG

strategy could address issues of poverty through collective works by involving all the poor women. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the training programme as interaction was in Hindi. It was reflected in evaluation schedules also. Further, many participants in their feedback, have requested to organise more such programmes at different places of Uttar Pradesh. The programme was conducted by Dr. Shankar Chatterjee (NIRD&PR), Dr. Vardani (SIRD), Rakesh Ranjan, and Dr. R.K. Srivastava of DDUSIRD.

TOT Course on Participatory Tools and Techniques for Professionals of Rural Livelihoods

The Centre for Livelihood conducted a TOT course on 'Participatory tools and techniques for professionals of Rural Livelihoods' from April 18 to 23 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The course aimed at familiarising the participants with the use of various tools and techniques for planning and management of village/local development and has introduced participatory tools and techniques such as PRA, RRA and PLA. As many as 27 officers representing 11 States participated in the course.

Prof. P. SivaRam, Head, Centre for Livelihoods inaugurated the course and delivered the keynote address. In his address, he stressed the need and importance of participatory methods for local development such as participatory rural appraisal, rapid rural appraisal and participatory learning action.

The course had two important objectives, i.e

1. Providing concepts and techniques for improved participation of people in development programmes.
2. Equipping the participants with skills of participatory tools and techniques through 'hands-on experience'.

Training methods of the course included a combination of lecture-cum-discussions, panel discussions, group exercises, role-plays; energisers, games, mock exercises, audio-visual presentations, etc. They were used in the classroom sessions. In addition to these, a one-day field-visit has been organised in Himayath Sagar Village of Ranga Reddy District to expose and have hands-on experience in participatory learning action.

During this week-long course, various thematic areas namely social mapping, seasonal mapping, resource mapping, matrix ranking and micro-level planning were imparted by CFL faculty and PRA expert, Prof. Narayansamy who is also the Dean of Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu.

The Programme broadly covered the concepts, methods and applications of PRA relating to local planning/development. The operating methodologies and various inbuilt features were also covered to familiarise the participants with technical skills for the application of PRA in village planning and management.

The course was coordinated by Dr. Raj Kumar Pammi, Assistant Professor, Dr. P. SivaRam, Prof. & Head, and Dr. U. Hemantha Kumar, Associate Professor, Centre for Livelihoods, NIRD&PR.

NIRD&PR Initiative

NIRD&PR ties up with Syngenta Foundation India to promote Agriculture Technology Assistants

Technology and extension are the key determinants of productivity in agriculture. The challenge however lies in improving farmers' access to the right kind of timely information and its reach to all farmers. Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) has been successfully implementing a range of models, designed to improve the farming practices and livelihoods of resource-poor smallholders.

To scale up these models, the SFI has entered into a partnership with National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), an apex institution of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), to promote Agriculture Technology Assistants (ATA's) at the village level and to provide incubation support for Agri-entrepreneurs, bringing together the rural technologies, credit and market linkages.

The scope of the partnership includes, capacity building of rural youth as ATA's and Agri-entrepreneurs, and to offer placement support and link-up with related companies. The foundation course designed for ATA's is for 60 days and it will be administered in the organisations empanelled with NIRD&PR and SFI.



Post-training, the candidates will be presented a certificate and grade sheet by NIRD&PR and SFI, along with Agriculture Skills Council of India (ASCI) Certification. As part of the understanding, in the first year i.e 2016-17, at least 500 ATA's will be identified and trained across the country. This will be taken up in a cascading manner from the next year onwards.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Dr. W. R. Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR and Dr. Bhaskar Reddy, Executive Director, SFI in the presence of Mr. Marco Ferrani,

Executive Director, Syngenta Foundation and Mr. Prakash Apte, Chairman, Syngenta Foundation India.

Syngenta Foundation India (SFI) is a non-profit making company registered under section 25, Companies Act, envisioned to create value for resource-poor small farmers in developing countries through innovation in sustainable agriculture and the activation of value chains. SFI is technology neutral, company neutral and in no way involved in any product promotion and works with all Agri-businesses.

Distinguished Visitors

Afghanistan's top Rural Development official calls on Director General of NIRD&PR

Shri Mukhtar Gafarzoy, Executive Director, Afghanistan Institute of Rural Development, Director, Reform Process/Advisor, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, visited the NIRD&PR campus on April, 4, 2016 and had a meeting with Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, in his office in Hyderabad.

This meeting was held to discuss several matters including the establishment of Rural Technology Park in Afghanistan, issues related to offering a distance mode-Post Graduate Diploma in Sustainable



Rural Development (PGD-SRD). The agenda of the discussions also included the development of mutual

relations as per the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both the institutions.

Karnataka's fourth State Finance Commission team visits NIRD&PR

A team of six members of 4th State Finance Commission, Government of Karnataka visited the NIRD&PR on April, 1 and 2, 2016. The team was led by Shri G. Chinnaswamy, Chairman SFC, Karnataka, along with two members and officials. Advisor, faculty members of School of Local Governance (SLG) made presentations on templates related to SFC State reports. Certain documents were shared with the members. SFC team interacted with Dr. W. R. Reddy,

DG, NIRD&PR, and it was agreed upon to take up any academic task related to SFC by the SLG.

SFC team members were taken by SLG faculty members to discuss with Secretary, PR&RD Department and the members of State Finance Commission, Government of Andhra Pradesh. SFC members made a presentation on formats, indicators, tentative templates prepared by them for data collection. Similarly, on the

second day, RD&PR officials of Government of Telangana made a presentation on Grama Jyothi, *Mana Vooru Mana Pranalika*, templates prepared for data collection, strategies adopted to increase own source revenue in the State by Shri Wesselly and Smt. Padmaja, ETC, Principal, Rajendranagar. Workshop cum visit by SFC members was coordinated by school of Local Governance Faculty Dr. K Jayalakshmi, Dr. Y. Bhaskar Rao, and Dr. C. Dheeraja.

NIRD&PR Events



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations at NIRD&PR



Stress Management Session by Dr. B.V. Pattabhiram



Inauguration of e-Office



Session on Art-of-living for NIRD&PR employees



Update for JRD

The Journal of Rural Development, a quarterly journal published by NIRD&PR would be going online with regard to the submission of papers. Henceforth, the contributors are requested to follow the procedure given in Online Journal Management System (OJMS). One can access the OJMS site on the link <http://nirdprojms.in>.

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Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, CDC, Editor : Dr. K. Papamma, Asst. Editor : Jeevan Kumar Durgam

Photographs : P. Subrahmanyam; Cover Design : V. G. Bhat: Published by Dr. Gyanmudra , Professor and Head,
CDC on behalf of the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030
and printed at M/s. Vaishnavi Laser Graphics, Hyderabad.