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Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages for Better Nutritional Outcomes



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Tribal women in Koraput district of Odisha selling vegetables produced in their farm

Agriculture-Nutrition Linkages for Better Nutritional Outcomes

India faces a great development challenge with respect to the nutritional status of its population. Malnutrition levels among the population, particularly among women and children in India is very high even compared to many Asian and African countries, and is a matter of grave concern.

Nutrition as a development challenge

The share of underweight children in India is almost double than that in Sub-Saharan Africa. The recent report on 'Food and Nutritional Security Analysis, India, 2019' states that although there has been a reduction in levels of chronic malnutrition and underweight children age 0-59 months, the prevalence of acute malnutrition (measured by wasting) has marginally increased. Malnutrition contributed one-third to

one-half of the child deaths in India, and the annual economic losses due to malnutrition levels are estimated to be about three per cent of the country's GDP. Given the large population size, addressing the challenges of malnutrition levels of the population to

Several Asian countries having less impressive economic growth and development than India have better nutritional achievements.

ensure nutritional security in the country is a mammoth task. It is also to be noted that many of the Asian countries having less impressive economic growth and development than India have better nutritional achievements. This makes

the task of improving nutritional status more challenging and the pathways for bringing transformation on the nutritional front very complex. However, this will be the most critical development challenge that needs to be addressed to keep up our commitments towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Agriculture-nutrition linkages for better nutritional outcomes

Although the Indian economy has undergone several transformations over the last six decades, agriculture remains the key sector that directly and indirectly supports the livelihoods of a significant share of the population. Hence, any sustainable rural transformation in the country has to focus on interventions that transform the agriculture sector. The strategies and programmes to address



Anganwadi worker serving food to children at an ICDS centre in Ganjam district of Odisha

the challenges on the nutritional front are no different from that. The way in which food is produced, distributed and consumed has direct and indirect linkages with the nutritional outcomes of the population. There exists a strong linkage (direct and indirect) between farming systems in rural areas and the nutritional status of the population that depends on it. Hence, identifying the issues around farming system nutrition (FSN) linkages, its constraints and potential in realising better nutritional outcomes is crucial for achieving nutritional security.

There have been several scholarly studies that have identified the pathways through which farming system nutrition linkages can contribute to nutritional security and a farming system nutrition framework has been developed for better nutritional outcomes. The most important ones are those developed by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) approach developed by M. S. Swaminathan Research

Foundation (MSSRF) in the Indian context. The FSN approach talks about an “agriculture-nutrition disconnect” that perverts the strategies and programmes that address malnutrition in India. These frameworks have outlined the components and pathways of agriculture –nutrition linkages and the possible ways of strengthening and improving the linkages to leverage the potential of these linkages in achieving better nutritional outcomes. The FSN approach has laid out six major steps in developing a suitable strategy for setting up a farming system to address the nutritional challenges. They are:

- a) Survey the area to identify the main nutritional problems
- b) Identify suitable agricultural solutions (crop-livestock integration, cultivation of pulses and biofortified crops)
- c) Include specific nutritional criteria in the design of the farming system
- d) Improve small farm productivity and profitability

e) Nutrition awareness

f) Introduce monitoring systems (impact on nutrition status)

These steps will help us in developing a suitable farming system that can support the interventions for meeting the malnutrition challenges in a particular region. In India, there are several interventions over the last several decades that have focused on improving the nutritional status of the population. However, malnutrition is a multidimensional problem that requires multi-sectoral interventions. A complex interaction of food availability, food intake, water quality, care practices, disease burden, sanitation and health services as well as the deeper social, economic and political processes that drive these intermediate outcomes have an impact on nutrition. The interventions so far to address malnutrition like the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programmes, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Vaccination and Public Health programmes, etc., have largely focused on the supply side of the problem. There

has not been much attention on the demand- side factors that influence the nutritional outcomes.

International experience in leveraging agriculture-nutrition linkages for nutrition programmes

Globally, countries that have impressive achievements on the nutritional front have long back identified the importance and strength of agriculture-nutrition linkages and has adopted policies and programmes to effectively utilise this synergy to address malnutrition problems. Japan is such an example, which has one of the lowest Infant Mortality Rates (IMR) among countries in the world.

In addition to the economic growth and development, Japan's impressive achievement on the nutritional front is indicated by its lowest levels of IMR and prevalence of stunting and wasting among children up to the age of five years. A significant role is played by the policies and programmes aimed at leveraging

the synergy of agriculture-nutrition linkages that was followed over the last four decades behind this achievement. Japan has a long history of State-led programmes and policies focusing on the achievement of better nutritional status of its population, particularly children. As early as the 1970s, they have emphasised on the inclusion of locally produced food items in their school feeding programme. Realising the role of agriculture in directly and indirectly contributing to the nutritional outcomes, they ensured that nearly one-fourth of the food items supplied in schools come from the local agricultural production systems. Over the years, this proportion has improved and at present, nearly 30 per cent of the food items are from the local food production systems. This is an example of a sustainable public-private partnership strategy that takes care of the supply and demand side factors to improve the nutritional outcomes. This strategy has been strengthened with the legislation of Basic Law on Food

Education (Shoku-iku) enacted in 2005 and is promoted and followed in public and private schools. A key component of this programme is to provide dietary education to teachers, children, parents and local communities. The school feeding programme is utilised as a platform to impart education on nutrition to children. Teachers in the schools have organised classroom session during the lunch time to teach the children about the benefits of having a diversified diets, cleanliness, sanitation and importance of local agricultural production systems in ensuring a well nourished and healthy life. The policy direction is to improve the childhood dietary education and increase the share of locally produced food in the programme which can address many of the nutrition challenges that the country is facing.

An equally important experience is the Brazilian National School Feeding programme. The unique feature of the programme was that, in addition to procurement of central food stocks for



Garos women selling a wide variety of vegetables from their shifting cultivation fields in Tura, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya



A farmer in Ganjam district of Odisha growing diverse crops (maize, onion and yam) as part of risk minimising strategy and maximising returns

price stabilisation and food security, it also created marketing channels for local procurement of food through farmers' organisations and other local networks for sale to locally food insecure populations in various ways. Carefully planned initiatives were taken to create opportunities for farmers to produce and sell vegetables, native fruits, grains, nuts, milk and other nutritious food items to the school feeding programmes in their locality. Food items procured from farmers through the programme were supplied to food insecure households as well as to schools for their school feeding programmes. This has created a lot of demand for agricultural produce of small and marginal farmers which had a multiplier effect in the local economy, and savings in terms of avoiding circular movement of food commodities. Along with this, it facilitated the creation of improved nutritional outcomes among the most vulnerable population.

Agriculture-nutrition linkages: Indian experience

Given the socio-economic characteristics of our country and the global experiences in nutritional programmes and policies, there are three key components which are essential

for a sustainable strategy for a better nutritional outcome. They are:

- a) Sustained focus on improving female literacy levels, specifically nutritional literacy
- b) Leveraging the synergy of agriculture-nutrition linkages
- c) Enhancing the local entrepreneurial capabilities, particularly among women and engaging them on public programmes focusing on nutrition

In India, there have been several attempts by the States to leverage the synergy of agriculture-nutrition linkages through various programmes and policies. These efforts are at a preliminary stage and need further focused interventions to strengthen the linkages. States like Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat and Rajasthan have been promoting the women SHGs by involving them in the provision of supplementary nutrition material distributed through ICDS programmes. These States are engaging women groups at different levels and capacities, and are trying to build entrepreneurial capabilities among them. Each State has adopted its own unique models in the mode of engaging women in the process and linking the

public programmes on nutrition to the agricultural production system. This will indirectly contribute to better nutritional outcomes through improving livelihoods, creating nutritional awareness and ensuring high-quality nutritious food for the vulnerable population.

However, a major limitation of these efforts is the lack of credible linkages of these programmes with the local agricultural production systems. In a country like India where there is a significant dependency on agriculture, strengthening agriculture-nutrition linkages, and programmes and policies leveraging the synergies have great potential in addressing the challenges of malnutrition. This needs to be given due importance for creating sustainable programmes and policies to address the development challenges on the nutritional front.

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International training programme on Participatory Planning for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development



Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR (6th from left), Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR (7th from left) and Dr. Chinnadurai, Associate Professor, Centre for Decentralised Planning, NIRDPR (8th from left) along with the participants

An International Training Programme on 'Participatory Planning for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development' sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India was organised during 7th January to 3rd February, 2020 at NIRDPR with the following objectives:

- To discuss the participatory planning approaches, strategies, models and techniques of rural development.
- To impart knowledge and skills on the methodology of participatory planning for poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- To discuss the participatory techniques on effective implementation and management of rural development programmes.
- To familiarise the participants in methods and techniques on monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes.
- To discuss the Indian experiences on poverty alleviation and rural development.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad and Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General,

NIRDPR inaugurated the programme. Dr. W. R. Reddy in his inaugural address highlighted the major programmes and strategies of Govt. of India for poverty alleviation and also shared some of the success stories of innovative projects implemented in India and felicitated the participants to learn with a dedicated mindset and take home important achievements from India in the context of poverty reduction and sustainable development. The programme comprised of eight modules, namely

- i. Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development Strategies
- ii. Decentralised Planning - Concepts and Approaches
- iii. Participatory Planning
- iv. Spatial Planning
- v. Resource Management
- vi. Planning for Infrastructure
- vii. Planning for Income Generating Projects
- viii. Field Study.

This programme was attended by 28 senior officials belonging to 22 countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean regions. During the programme, participants were given enough opportunities to present their

respective country's papers and they shared the approaches and methodology of planning followed in implementation of various rural development programmes. After completion of in-depth discussions on crucial topics related to planning, project management and rural development, the participants had exposure to some of the successful rural development projects implemented in Telangana during the weekends.

An exclusive study visit was arranged to Karnataka during 18th-24th January, 2020. The participants were taken to Malangi Gram Panchayat in Mysuru district and they interacted with the Zilla Panchayati elected representatives along with the District Collector. The team visited few villages and worksites of RD programme in Kolar district. The study tour was organised to understand the ground realities in planning and implementation of rural development projects at the grassroots level, and also to critically examine the possibility of their sustainability and replicability in other parts of the world. During the study tour, the delegates visited a number of SHGs, RUDSETI, RSETI, Woman Self-Employment Enterprises, PRIs,

Rural Development programmes and interacted with the people, beneficiaries, implementing officials as well as media. Focus Group Discussions with the members of SHGs and other beneficiaries covered under various schemes of rural development at the village level in both the districts were held. At the end of the study visit, the participants shared their field observations with the local officers and further compared the Indian experience with that of their countries.

All the participants gave positive feedback on the efforts of the NIRDPR in supporting the developing and under-developed countries for building the capacity of their development functionaries.

Further, they added that the classroom inputs and study visits together

provided a better understanding about the strategies and programmes for poverty reduction and sustainable development on one side and deeper insights into the ground realities on the other.

The valedictory of the programme was chaired by Dr. Franklin Laltinkhuma, IAS, Registrar & Director (Admin), NIRDPR. Addressing the participants, he noted expressed that India was also finding many difficulties in funding all its rural development schemes to cover the large area and massive population. "Even then, India could be able to achieve commendable progress in many areas with a special focus on poverty reduction and sustainable development," he said.

The Registrar further encouraged the participants to take home the

learning from the NIRDPR and implement them in their respective countries for the betterment of rural poor.

The programme team was highly appreciated on the successful conduct of the programme with well-framed strategies, academic inputs and better logistics for the participants. This programme was organised by Dr. R. Chinnadurai, Associate Professor, Centre for Decentralised Planning, NIRDPR with the support of Dr. R. Aruna Jayamani, Assistant Professor, CGG&PA, NIRDPR. Majority of the participants shared their learning experiences, which boosted their morale India's Gandhian approach of rural development and the philosophy of 'Truth and Non-violence' impressed all and it was one of the most important lifetime learning, they said.

International training on Empowerment of Women for Rural Development



Participants taking part in a self-help group solidarity meeting

The Centre for Gender Studies and Development, NIRDPR, Hyderabad conducted a month-long training programme on 'Empowerment of Women for Rural Development' for officers and development practitioners of low and middle income countries with the sponsorship of Ministry of External

Affairs from 31st January-27th February, 2020. As many as 26 participants from 19 developing countries, namely Nepal, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Mauritius, Niger, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Palestine, Zambia, Oman and Egypt participated in the programme.

The first two days after the initiation were utilised to train the participants about the concept of gender and its linkages with development issues by the faculty of CGSD. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. N. V. Madhuri, Associate Professor and Head, CGSD on 3rd February, 2020. The technical sessions started on 4th February,

2020. The participants were introduced to interventions and programmes addressing gender gap in India such as NRLM, MKSP, initiatives on SHG and Federations, skilling programmes, etc. The sessions also included non-governmental initiatives that address gender issues such as Bhumika Collective, – which works towards women safety and Mahila Samakhya which unionised women into community groups. The linkages of gender to different sectors such as nutrition, water and sanitation, labour issues, agriculture, trade, food security, etc., were discussed over the next week through several internal and external resource persons. Outside the structured sessions, Smt. Radhika Rastogi, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR interacted with the participants and discussed India's performance and progress in creating gender-sensitive public policies. The participants were also introduced to technical sessions such as constructing gender-budget, using geo-informatics for planning and policy and so on.

The field visits

Apart from the classroom sessions, two field works – a week-long field visit and a half-day study visit were organised by the course team. Participants were taken to Bala Vikasa Organisation at Warangal district, which is a non-profit making professional and community development organisation. The main objective of the organisation is to promote community development activities and empower destitute women who are vulnerable and living in extreme poverty. The participants not only observed but, also took part in the community development programmes.

Participants took part in the self-help group (SHG) solidarity meetings. In order to promote sanitation and access to clean water to all households, the Bala Vikasa was initiated water purification development programme. Participants were taken to the water purification centres where the water is distilled and

is made available through the Any Time Water kiosk at the rate of Rs. 1 for 20 litres of water. The beneficiaries hold card to access the water services and this money collected is used as a revolving fund to pay the wages of poor and destitute women who are recruited for the operation of the ATW kiosk.

Participants were also taken to an organic farm where they interacted with the farmers in a focus group discussion on how to grow crops organically.

The solidarity programmes for women and orphaned children were an important exposure for the participants to the grassroots level problems of women in India. The programme has helped the widows to be more confident and independent. The widows are empowered to integrate in the mainstream of the society through the fierce sensitisation campaign conducted by the Bala Vikasa in the eradication of the socially constructed beliefs. Participants also visited Malkanoor where they studied the women cooperative closely and received firsthand exposure to milk cooperative.

Other than the sessions that used several mixed methods of training such as lecture, panel discussion, group exercises,

group discussions, exposure visits, etc., the participants were also encouraged to present the development scenarios of their respective countries at the end of each day in the presence of an internal observer of NIRDPR. The participants were engaged in group presentations in thematic areas of rural development which they experienced during the field visits in order to promote cross-learning and development feedback.

The training programme received a good feedback from the participants with an average effectiveness score of 83 per cent with 96 per cent in knowledge creation, 94 per cent in skill development and a 96 per cent score in attitudinal change. The participants belonging to varied backgrounds had come to the training with different levels of understanding about the women's status in India. But the training programme, especially the field visit to Warangal, was a major exposure to Indian society for them. With the expectation that the participants will use the knowledge gained in NIRDPR in their own respective countries, a session on action plan was conducted on the final day. The programme concluded with presentation of these action plans and a detailed feedback from the participants.



Participants at the Malkanoor Milk Cooperative

International training programme on Training Methodology for Development Professionals



Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR at the inaugural of the training programme. Also seen are Dr. P. SivaRam, P & H, CHRD, Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, Dr. Chinnadurai, Associate Professor, CDP and Dr. Ramesh Sakthivel, Associate Professor, CIAT

The Centre for Human Resource Development organised a four-week International Training Programme on Training Methodology for Development Professionals from 7th January to 3rd February, 2020. This programme was sponsored under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi. The objectives of the programme were to state the trends in training and capacity building approaches and strategies for rural development; use of various training methods and aids; plan and manage the training programmes, and describe the efforts and experiences in application of training methodologies for capacity building of development professionals with special reference to Indian experiences.

The participants were welcomed by Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor & Course Director. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General and Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR. She stressed upon the broad objectives of ITEC programme and the importance of understanding the cultural heritage of other countries in the development activities. She also focused on the

importance of one-week study tour allocated in the programme for gaining the practical experiences of grassroots level issues, which can help in solving the problems of rural areas immensely.

Extending a warm welcome to all the participants Dr. W. R. Reddy, spoke on three issues. He motivated all the participants to work passionately for whatever task they are assigned to perform. He urged all participants to capitalise on this one-time opportunity of 28 days at the Institution and learn the best from here. He also focused on the significance of having the right attitude determining development. And the third point which he mentioned was to use the international trainees as our brand ambassadors and also to use them as resource persons for international training programmes by using the latest training aids.

The entire sessions of the programme were divided into four modules, each module of one-week duration. The modules are as follows:

- Training Approaches and Trends
- Training and Development
- Training Methodology
- Exposure cum study visits

In total, 24 participants representing

14 countries (Afghanistan-3, Algeria-1, Iraq-4, Kenya-1, Mauritius-3, South Sudan-1, Sudan-2, Sri Lanka-1, Tanzania-1, Bhutan-1, Syria-1, Palestine-1, Ethiopia-3, and Seychelles-1) attended this programme.

As mentioned above, the programme consisted of three modules followed by a week-long study tour to Bengaluru and Mysuru districts, of Karnataka. Majority of the training sessions of the three modules were handled by faculty of NIRDPR. However, a few of national-level resource persons from reputed institutions such as the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) Hyderabad, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) Hyderabad, IIM Bangalore, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, and a retired Professor of NIRDPR, NIMSME and other professionals were also invited to handle some of the important sessions.

Following are the institutions visited during the study tour:

Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC), University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore:

Participants interacted with the resource persons of the ATIC and learned how ATIC is creating a platform for optimistic

interaction between farmers and subject matter specialists for effective technology transfer and livelihood improvement.

Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore: The participants were also taken to IIM, Bangalore to introduce them to the quality of management institutions in India which uses 'Case' as a method of teaching and training.

Dr. Ritu Tripathi, faculty of IIM-B took a session on how a 'Case' can be used as an effective tool for imparting training/teaching on any specific subject. She presented a case on 'Managing People across Cultures' to make the participants learn how a culture of one context to another context affects thinking and decision-making differently.

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Bengaluru: On 21st January, 2020, the participants were taken to NIPCCD, Bengaluru to expose them to the training and research in the field of women and child development being carried out by the organisation. The Director of the institute has interacted with the participants and made a detailed presentation on NIPCCD.

Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI), Bengaluru Rural: Participants were also taken to showcase the model of RUDSETI which is a unique model of identifying, motivating, training

and facilitating the rural unemployed youth to take up self-employment after rigorous training at RUDSETI. The participants learned the genesis of this institute and how it functions. They further interacted with one of trainee who had already undergone entrepreneur training at RUDSETI and become millionaire.

Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mysuru: The participants were taken to State Institute of Rural Development, Mysuru to provide them an opportunity to understand the functions, activities and contribution of SIRD in rural development. The participants also got an opportunity to visit the satellite based studio located within the institute which is extensively being used in telecasting live training programmes to the grassroots level officers.

A visit was organised to **Harohalli Gram Panchayat, Mysuru** by Shri Venkatesh. T. Patil, faculty of SIRD. The Gram Panchayat has its own strategic development plan which was shared with participants. Participants also learned about the process of democratic election of Gram Panchayat president and its members. They interacted with the members of Gram Panchayat along with water committee. Later, Block Development Officer of the area took all the participants on a transact walk of the village. The participants also interacted with primary school kids of the village.

After the field visit, participants were asked to make presentation on the learning acquired during the study visit.

At the end, participants were asked to evaluate this programme at training management portal. Evaluation results show that 94 per cent, 96 per cent and 96 per cent reported improvement in their knowledge, skill improvement and a change in their attitude, respectively.

Dr. Franklin Laltinkhuma, IAS, Registrar and Director (Admn.), NIRDPR gave the valedictory speech. He distributed certificates to the participants of the programme. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor, Centre for Human Resource Development Dr. P. SivaRam, Professor & Head, and Dr. R. Ramesh, Associate Professor, Centre for Rural Infrastructure, NIRDPR.

The observations of a few of participants about this programme were as follows:



I have attended several training programmes before, but I cannot recall any of them having such a strong impact. I was particularly impressed by the expertise of the resource persons, they were inspiring, knowledgeable and hugely helpful. I have the opportunity to see and to be part of incredible India in this little period of time.

-Ms. Hadjer Touati, Algeria



I am strongly recommending this ITEC programme to other officials who want to deliver tangible results in this globalised world. It is hand to hand linked with the United Nations Agenda 2030 with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

-Shri Mussa Ali Kkumbo, Tanzania



Participants attending a lecture at IIM - Bangalore

National Colloquium of State Secretaries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Heads of SIRDPRs held at NIRDPR



Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, MoRD (1st from right), Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, MoPR (2nd from right) and Dr. W. R. Reddy, Director General, NIRDPR (3rd from right) awarding Jal Sangrah book (a compendium of case studies on water conservation) to the director of SIRD of Maharashtra

The national colloquium of Secretaries of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Heads of State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for the year 2019-20 was held during 14th-15th February, 2020 at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.

Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Ms. Juthika Patankar, Additional Secretary, MoSDE, Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary (MoPR), senior officials of MoPR and MoRD, State secretaries of RD and PR, senior Central and State government officials, representatives from NGOs, faculty of SIRDPRs and NIRDPR participated in the colloquium.

The colloquium is organised annually to review research, capacity building and training programmes of SIRDPRs which are critical for the effective implementation of the various initiatives for rural development and panchayati raj.

It provides an opportunity to States and SIRDPRs for sharing their experiences, including best practices. The colloquium acts as a forum to deliberate upon issues and concerns of training institutions, based on their previous experiences, current priorities and needs. Also, it gives direction to SIRDPRs in the planning of training and research activities for the ensuing year, and for effective implementation of various flagship programmes meant for developing rural areas and strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR, extended welcomed the distinguished guests. Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR in his opening address said that the national colloquium is an annual occasion to basically take a look at the status of work done during the last 10 months of the financial year and also draw lessons, issues and the problems faced so that they can be added to the academic calendars not only for training and research but also to share experiments

and views based on our experiences and infuse some elements into our approach towards sustainable development.

Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, MoPR, expressed his pleasure to be amongst the delegates for such a noble cause. In his inaugural address, he shared that apart from taking stock of the things in terms of what we achieved and what we could not achieve, this national colloquium also provides an opportunity to share our ideas, our vision and what we understand rural development should be all about.

Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary (RD) while addressing the delegates shared that most of the programmes of MoRD, MoPR and Department of Land Resources, which together form a sector of RD and PR, have not changed. No radically changed programmes have been launched during the last few years but what has changed is the focus within these programmes. Therefore, any training and research institution must reflect those changed priorities as the focus keeps on changing and that must

happen. Every programme of RD must be dynamic and respond to the current challenges. In the context, he shared how priorities have been changing in MGNREGA, NRLM, PMAY-G and how NIRDPR and SIRDs should respond to that.

A brief presentation on training and research performance of SIRDPRs for the last three years was made by Dr. Kiran Jalem, Assistant Professor, Centre for Research Training Coordination and Networking of NIRDPR. The review focused on the performance of SIRDPRs in training and research activities, extent of utilisation and gaps with particular reference to the training of functionaries and elected representatives of PRIs in the emerging context of rural development.

As a cross-learning measure, representatives of the Central and State government officials, PRI and RD officials, NGOs and faculty of SIRDPRs and NIRDPR made presentations on the conceptual framework of certain issues and best practices adopted in the sphere of PR and RD.

Ms. Juthika Patankar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship made a presentation on 'Skill India – Skill Development Planning for Gram Panchayats'. Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint

Secretary, MoPR made a presentation on 'Model GPDP in a cluster of GPs'. Shri D. K. Pal, Sr. Consultant made a presentation on 'Action Research Project for Holistic and Sustainable Development through Institutional Strengthening of GPs and Enablement of Quality GPDP'.

Dr. Jyothis Sathyapalan made a presentation on the 'Integration of Labor Budget (MGNREGS) with GPDP' and emphasised that there is a need for an alignment between Labour Budget (MGNREGS) and GPDP. Shri Ram Pappu of Mission Samridhi made a presentation on 'Holistic Community Development'.

Dr. C. Dheeraja presented on 'Capacity Building initiatives of Social Audit and Internal audit'.

Shri Dilip Kumar Pal, Consultant, CPR presented on 'NIRDPR Action Research Project on 100+ Cluster Panchayat Development Programme and sample DSR/GPDP by Young Fellows' and his presentation was on Model Training Modules prepared by NIRDPR on Induction Level Orientation of New ERs and SIRDs Preparedness to deliver the trainings. Dr. Pratyusna Patnaik, Assistant Professor, CPR, NIRDPR presented the status of Induction Training of PRIs: a case study of J&K. Shri Shashi Bhusan, Director Finance and his team shared the status on PFMS. Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Associate

Professor and Head, CDC, presented on Library Resources of NIRDPR for SIRDPRs and media outreach for the dissemination of information.

Five working groups comprising the heads, faculty and representatives of SIRDPRs were formed to discuss the agenda issues concerning training institutions and research activities and strengthening of PRIs along with preparation of Model GPDP in the cluster of Panchayats and make recommendations for further action. The Agenda items were: Group-1: Developing a framework for Panchayati Raj statistics: present status and way forward; Group-2: Administrative issues and augmenting support from Ministries and State Government; Group-3: Scaling up of quality training and capacity building to reach out all stakeholders: best practices and way forward; Group 4: Training Need Analysis (TNA): present status and future steps; and Group 5: Model Cluster GPDP: approaches and Structures. The groups reviewed the policies, administrative and qualitative issues concerning training and capacity building of ERs and functionaries of PR and RD. They shared their experiences and worked out proposals and recommendations for action. The colloquium concluded with action to be taken as follow-up.



Shri Rajesh Bhusan, Secretary (MoRD) addressing the audience. Also seen from the left to right are, Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, MoPR and Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR

Common Conclave of RSETI Directors and Nodal Officers from Banks Sponsoring less than 10 RSETIs



Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR lighting the lamp. Also seen are (from left) Shri Rohtash Singh Consultant, MoRD, GOI, D. V. Satyanarayana, ED, DDU-GKY, Shri Vasudev, Director, NACER

The annual common conclave of Rural Self Employment Training Institute directors and nodal officers of banks sponsoring less than 10 RSETIs was organised by the RSETI team on 11th and 12th February, 2020 at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad. The purpose of this conclave was to review RSETI's performance to date, guide the RSETI directors and nodal officers in their future course of action and enable them to achieve the objectives and expectations of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is skilling rural youth for taking up self-employment ventures.

A total of 22 RSETI directors and three nodal officers from 10 different banks, namely Tripura Grameen Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, IDBI Bank, Corporation Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, ICICI Bank, Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, DCC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank participated in the conclave. The participants came from various States across India.

The two-day conclave started with the lighting of lamp by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR. The welcome address was given by Dr. W. R. Reddy, who emphasised the role

that can be played by banks in rural self-employment with active involvement in the preparation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). This, in turn, will help the banks to decide the right skill training for self-employment and subsequent credit linkage for starting the self-employment ventures, he said.

The following resource persons participated in the conclave:

1. Shri Virendra Sharma, Director Skills, Shri Rohtash Singh, Consultant, MoRD, GOI, New Delhi. They appraised the participants about the expectations of MoRD, GOI.
2. Shri P. Santhosh, National Director of RSETIs from National Centre for Excellence of RSETIs (NACER), Bengaluru, along with Shri Vasudev Kalkundri, Director, Shri Gopal Bhandiwad and Shri Gangadhara Murthy, faculty members. They reviewed the performance of RSETIs in areas of providing skill training to the rural unemployed youth, related settlement and credit linkage of trainees.
3. Shri R. R. Singh, Director General, National Academy of RUDSETIs (NAR), Bengaluru, appraised the participants about the latest guidelines of MoRD pertaining to CNN (Common Norms Notification) for RSETIs, the SOPs

(Standard Operating Procedures), assessment and certification of trainees and other important points pertaining to RSETI grading process.

4. Ms. P. Champakavalli, Project Director, RSETI Project, NIRDPR made a presentation on MoRD's guidelines pertaining to RSETI building construction project. She also reviewed the status of MoRD grant aid released to RSETIs for the construction of RSETI buildings. She appraised the participants about the latest expectations of MoRD pertaining to the utilisation of grant aid released to banks. She requested the banks to complete construction of RSETI buildings at the earliest to have a full-fledged infrastructure for imparting the better quality of skill training to the rural unemployed poor.

During the two-day conclave, all the RSETI directors and nodal officers made presentations of their RSETI's performance during the FY 2019-20. Their performance was reviewed in depth by the resource persons and valuable suggestions were given to RSETI directors for preparing their Annual Action Plan (AAPs) for the forthcoming FY 2020-21.

A notable aspect of the conclave was that two banks, namely ICICI Bank and Bank of Maharashtra, who are sponsoring the top three award winning RSETIs in the country, were also present to share their success stories and best practices that enabled them to win the awards. Ms. P. Champakavalli, Project Director, NIRDPR particularly appreciated the efforts and best practices of ICICI Bank and Bank of Maharashtra and suggested the other RSETIs could also adopt their best practices for better performance and aim for the awards in the coming years.

Dr. Kathiresan, Associate Professor and Head, Centre of Panchayati Raj (CPR), NIRDPR made a presentation on the Mission Antodaya framework. He also created awareness about the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDPs),

Local Development Directory (LDD) and how they can help the banks in achieving their broader goals of empowering rural poor through self-employment training.

The participants of the conclave were taken on a tour of Rural Technology Park.

Shri M. D. Khan, Consultant-RTP, NIRDPR gave to the participants an overview about the various facilities available at RTP and suggested the participants to make the best use of them for their training programmes. He also suggested the participants to identify potential and needy rural unemployed youth in their districts and motivate them to undergo training at RTP for self-employment/wage employment opportunities.

During the feedback session, the participants expressed that the programme was well designed and



(from left) Ms. P. Champakavalli, Project Director, RSETI, NIRDPR, Shri K. V. Satyanarayana, Executive Director, DDU-GKY, Shri Virendra Sharma, Director Skills, MoRD, Shri R. R. Singh, Director General, NAR and Shri Rohtash Singh, Consultant, MoRD

executed. They were thankful to NIRDPR for the fact that all the top officials from all verticals and levels related to the functioning of RSETIs, Dr. W. R. Reddy, DG, NIRDPR, K. V. Satyanarayana, ED-DDU-GKY, NIRDPR, Virendra Sharma, Director Skills MoRD, P. Santhosh, National Director, NACER (National

Center for Excellence of RSETIs), R. R. Singh, Director General, NAR (National Academy for RSETIs), P. Champakavalli, Project Director, RSETI, NIRDPR and other officials were present at the conclave to enlighten, motivate and guide the participants in their functioning and future activities.

Rajbhasha workshop organised at IIOR, Hyderabad



Participants of the Rajbhasha workshop organised at Indian Institute of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad

Under the aegis of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee-2, a workshop was organised at the Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad for the officials and members of the member office of TOLIC-2. Dr. S. K. Som, Joint Director, National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Rajendranagar presided over the programme. Addressing the gathering, he said that organising such workshops regularly would increase the effective use of Hindi in official works.

Shri Sitanshu Kumar, Senior Administrative Officer, IIOR, welcomed the participants and explained how Hindi work has increased in various sections

of IIOR. He opined that the finance and accounts sections are progressing well beyond the target and other sections should follow them. Along with this, the purpose of the programmes was also addressed.

Smt. Anita Pandey, Member Secretary, TOLIC-2, requested all the offices to nominate members for the five-day programmes being run by the Hindi Teaching Scheme, Hyderabad in regards to working on computers in Hindi. Smt. Akanksha Shukla, Associate Professor and in-charge Rajbhasha, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj spoke on working towards the plastic-free office complex, highlighting the importance of such an

event.

In the second technical session of the programme, Dr. Pradyuman Yadav, Senior Scientist, IIOR gave his presentation on edible oil and its misconceptions. He threw light on many myths related to edible oils and also dispelled the doubts of the participants. Shri Ranga Sai, Assistant General Manager, State Bank of India, Hyderabad gave a presentation on the latest technology of working on computers in Hindi. He gave a detailed description of various online translation facilities and voice typing. The problems and queries of the participants associated with them were also addressed. The workshop was concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Pradeep Singh, Assistant Director (Rajbhasha), IIOR.

All India Official Language Seminar held at NIRDPR- NERC



The participants of all India Official Language Seminar organised at NIRDPR- NERC, Guwahati along with Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR and Dr. R. M. Pant, Director, NIRDPR-NERC

The all India Official Language Seminar was organised at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati from 24th-25th February, 2020. Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Associate Professor, NIRDPR- NERC attended the programme as the Chairman. "the subjects which were covered in the Official Language Seminar organised under the guidance of Dr. R. M. Pant, Director, are also our requirement today. Whatever ideas will come through this seminar, we will also get to learn a lot from it," he said.

Shri Vinod Kumar Sandalesh, Joint Director, Central Translation Bureau, New Delhi, who was present as the Chief Guest at the seminar, expressed his views on various aspects including the relevance of Official Language, expression of mother tongue, the advancement of office through Official Language, Progress of Official Language in the Northeast, Gandhi's contribution in rural development and Leonardo da Vinci's ideas. He chaired two technical sessions, namely 'Role of Hindi in National Integration' 'Role of Tourism in Rural Development' and subsequently presented a review of both the sessions.

Shri Deepak Kumar Shaw, Hindi Officer and Member Secretary, Narakas, Guwahati attended as a guest.

Addressing the gathering, he said that the various topics covered in this seminar are related to our daily lives. He wished the programme to be a success and during the programme he chaired a technical session on "Relevance of Official Language in the 21st Century".

On the occasion of the seminar, Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Development Documentation and Communication NIRDPR, Hyderabad, shared her personal views and experiences on the official language. During the two-day seminar, she presented a review of the technical session i.e., "Contribution of Gandhian philosophy in rural development"

Smt. Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (Official Language) coordinated the conference as a member of the organising committee. She gave comments on articles submitted before presentation, conducted official inspection and guided Shri Deepak Kumar, Hindi translator in preparing the outline for organising the seminar.

The two-day programme was divided into five sessions, with the inaugural session and four technical sessions. A total of 15 papers were presented session-wise during the two-day programme. The presentations were very useful for Official Language Officers.

Information was saved for future work and action plan.

Shri E. Ramesh, Senior Hindi Translator from Headquarters conducted the inaugural session, two technical sessions and presented his paper on the theme "Role of Hindi in the unity of India".

Smt. Radha Madhavi, Assistant Librarian from Headquarters, presented her paper on "The Relevance of Official Language in the 21st Century".

Smt. V. Annapurna, Junior Hindi Translator, Headquarters also conducted the technical session and fully supported the two-day seminar.

At the valedictory of the programme, Shri Arup Jyoti Sharma, Administrative officer of the Institute, Shri Deepak Kumar Shaw, Member Secretary, TOLIC, Guwahati along with Shri Vinod Kumar Sandalesh, Joint Director, Central Translation Bureau distributed certificates to all the paper presenters.

This two-day seminar was organised under the complete guidance of Dr. R. M. Pant. Shri Deepak Kumar, Junior Hindi Translator thanked all the guests and participants including Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General of the Institute and wished for similar cooperation in the future.

Rural Entrepreneurship and Micro Finance: Connecting the Dots in Financial Inclusion



Training programme in progress

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has been conducting training programmes in collaboration with the Centre for International Cooperation and Training in Agricultural Banking, Pune for the last 15 years and has successfully conducted 16 such international programmes in the past. As a part of this collaboration, a five-day international training programme on 'Rural Entrepreneurship and Micro Finance: Connecting the Dots in financial Inclusion' was conducted during 24th-28th February, 2020 at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

Dr. D. Ravi, Consultant, CICTAB and Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor and Head, CFIE inaugurated the programme and gave a brief account on how the NIRDPR has been working to alleviate the rural poverty and bring in overall development through its innovative initiatives of training, research and consultancy channels. Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor and Head of Centre for Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship briefed the participants about the programme and spelt out its objectives.

He emphasised that this training programme is unique in its nature as it included many field visits. This is based on the premise "seeing is believing". A total number of 22 participants attended the programme from three countries, viz. Bangladesh, Nepal and India. The participants were mainly from RMDC, Nepal; ADBL, Nepal; NEFSCUN, Nepal; NCBL Nepal; Central Bank, Bangladesh and NCUI, India. Dr. K. K. Tripathy, IES, Director General, CICTAB had an interaction with the participants on 25th February, 2020. He explained the role played by CICTAB in training participants from various SAARC countries to bring about development in agriculture and rural development in these countries.

The following are the objectives of the programme:

- Financial inclusion for rural development with a case study
- Microfinance and microenterprises – opportunities and challenges
- Skilling and sustainable rural livelihoods
- Self-Help Groups for financial inclusion

- Rural entrepreneurship and frugal innovations for financial inclusion
- StreeNidhi- a digital innovation in Indian microfinance sector
- Cooperative Business Model and Rural Development
- Country Paper Presentations on rural entrepreneurship, micro finance, and financial inclusion

CFIE's in-house faculty members and a pool of experts from the Institute in development sector, who are subject matter specialists-cum-practitioners in the areas of financial inclusion, micro finance, SHG-BLP, StreeNidhi contributed to the programme. A wide range of training methodologies like video clips, short films and discussions were used during the programme in consonance with the objectives. Also, field visit/exposure to Agro-Bio-tech Foundation, GMR Varalaxmi Foundation, Indian Institute of Millet Research, RTP and Model Village- Malkapur for the Stree Nidhi initiatives in Micro-Finance were conducted.

Besides, the participants made presentations on the practices followed

in their respective countries related to rural finance and cooperatives. The following field visits were organised to impart practical knowledge and help the participants to reinforce the learning made in the classroom:

A. Agri Bio-Tech Foundation: This is an autonomous foundation which was earlier AP-Netherlands Foundation. This organisation is engaged in three main activities: 1. Development of crop varieties which are resistant for pests, diseases. 2. Manufacture of Bio fertilisers and pesticides. 3. Production of seedlings through Tissue culture Technique: In addition, this foundation also trains researchers and entrepreneurs interested in the above activities.

B. GMR Varalaxmi Foundation: GMR group started this as an initiative under CSR mainly to take care of the welfare of people living in the villages surrounding Hyderabad airport. The foundation is focussed on education, sanitation, health skilling and entrepreneurship development.

In education front, it runs a school, Chinmaya Vidyalaya and also some coaching centres. It takes care of the total education-expenditure of the selected students. As regards health it maintains

health centre in the cluster of villages and also runs mobile health centres. It trains both male and female school dropouts in eight different trades like tailoring, AC & refrigeration, electrician, solar panel installation, false ceiling and dry walls, motorcycle mechanic, domestic data entry etc. This foundation not only trains these people but also ensures that they are placed either with Hyderabad airport or with the companies with whom they have MOUs.

C. Indian Institute of Millet Research: IIMR is a research station, working under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The basic areas in which this institute works are:

1. Research and development of crop varieties of various millet crops: bajra (pearl millet), jowar (sorghum), ragi (finger millet), barri (proso/common millet), jhangora (barnyard millet), kangni (foxtail/ Italian millet), kodra (kodo millet).
2. Manufacturing of valued added products of different millets and selling them under a trade name "eat rite".
3. Training entrepreneurs who are interested in making millet products.

D. Malkapur: Malkapur, a village in Toopran mandal, Medak district of Telangana was adopted under Gram

Jyoti Programme in 2015. The village has a population of 2050 and 502 households. It was adjudged as the Best Panchayat in 2016 and won a cash prize of Rs.10,016. The Gram Panchayat had achieved the following remarkable targets with the effective work culture of all the villagers in general, and youth in particular:

1. 100 per cent toilet construction and ODF.
2. 100 per cent plantation in Telangana Haritha Haram.
3. 100 per cent tax collection.
4. 100 per cent no child labour in the village.
5. Swachh Bharath for 167 weeks continuously.
6. 100 per cent water supply through tap connections under Mission Bhageeratha programme.
7. 100 per cent of water bodies restoration under Mission Kakatiya.

The other important observations in the village were:

1. All the vegetables were raised under Panadal system with plastic mulching and drip irrigation, which has improved both quality and productivity.
2. The GP has converted an abandoned hillock into a Rock Garden.
3. Effective Solid Waste Management is established whereby the village is producing tonnes of Vermicompost.
4. Effective Liquid Management: Each house has a soak pit and the excess rainwater in the village is collected in the village tank through an underground drainage system.

The participants were happy with all the four field visits and promised to emulate these happenings in their countries also.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. M. Srikanth, Associate Professor and Head-CFIE, with the assistance of Shri G Anjaneyulu, Project Consultant and Shri Chandan Kumar, Research Assistant.



Participants of the training programme during the field visit

NIRDPR hosts the 2nd international Conference on Water and Wastewater



(from left) Dr. R. Ramesh, Associate Professor, CRI, Dr. Prakasam Tata, Executive Director, CWT, Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, hosted the 2nd International Conference on Water and Wastewater at NIRDPR, Hyderabad on 19th and 20th February, 2020. This was conducted in collaboration with WWM-USA. The two-day international conference threw open the technology options available for water and waste management globally.

The Institute had invited more than 30 delegates from the USA, Germany, Sweden and Thailand to participate in the two-day conference, besides an equal number of Indian delegates from Rural Development and Panchayati Raj departments, Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G) and State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) from various States.

Delivering the welcome address, Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR said, “technologies to address the issue of waste generation is only part of the story, when it comes to the question of ‘responsible well-being’ we have many discomfoting questions, but no comforting answers. Behavioural change is imperative, apart from what technology can do for us.”

Delivering the inaugural address, Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, said, “today when I take notice

of the myriad technologies and models that help address a single problem, what is perplexing is not the solution to a given problem – be it solid waste or wastewater, but about the ingenuity required to ‘choose among the countless alternative solutions presented to us, bearing in view the common denominator: contextual suitability and global sustainability.”

The following were a few of the interesting topics covered in the conference:

- Groundwater Bank - A scenario Implemented in Thailand
- Water from air - A fantasy or exciting frontier to help address the global water crisis
- Decentralised Wastewater Systems (DEWATS) and Constructed Wetlands from India
- Zero Waste - Hierarchy of Highest and Best Use
- Case Studies in Wastewater Reclamation and Reuse Technologies
- Advancing Sustainability through Recycling Resource value of Residuals at Wastewater Treatment Plants

Ms. Marry C. Eggert from Global Water Works. Org (USA) brought a technology called Water from Air. This is a technology that helps turning the moisture in air to water. This technology,

as of now, is used especially in desert-like areas. Ms. Eggert argues that cost-wise it’s not expensive and very efficient.

Shri Shravan from BlueDrop Enviro Pvt. Ltd. brought a technology he calls, Engineered Wetlands, which is a solution to wastewater problem. Ms. Rohini from CDD Society Bangalore shared a technology called DEWATS as a solution not only against wastewater but also addresses the issue of faecal sludge.

Ms. Ruth Abbe and Pal Martensson from USA and Sweden, respectively, gave an approach called Zero Waste Communities, where they follow an approach to ensure zero-landfill areas.

Shri Thanet Natisri from Thailand shared a success story of what he called establishing Groundwater Bank, which he implemented in Thailand. He shared the experiences of how he went about doing it. He has proved through his work in a small community in Thailand that our deposits can be more than our withdrawal, whereas, at the moment, we enjoy overdraft unmindful of sustainability of the source. His success has made the Thailand government implement the concept all over Thailand. Thanet is helping the communities in the USA to implement the same.

The International Conference took place at the most appropriate time in India when the Swachh Bharat Mission-

Gramin has taken on the direction of managing solid waste and wastewater issues in rural as well as urban areas. Thus, the deliberations and outcome of this international conference threw open the expertise, technologies, innovations and opportunities available in this sector.

In the valedictory, Shri Arun Baroka, IAS, Additional Secretary, Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin, Ministry of Jal Sakthi, (Government of India), interacted with participants through video conferencing. He explained the New

Sanitation Policy of Govt. of India 2019-29, where the importance is given for management of solid waste, wastewater, and faecal sludge management, besides retrofitting of dysfunctional toilets. He sought NIRDPR's support in training and capacity building efforts of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin division of the Jal Sakthi Ministry. Highlighting the unique aspect of the conference, Dr. R. Ramesh, Associate Professor and Head-in-charge, Centre for Rural Infrastructure, NIRDPR said that this conference contributes to

achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 6, 11, 12, and 17 which are about overall health and well-being, water and sanitation, sustainable communities and global partnerships.

The conference was planned in continuation of the 1st International Conference on Water and Wastewater conducted in 2019, by a team of wastewater professionals from the USA (<http://www.wastewatermanagement.com/>). This is a collaborative programme of WWM USA and NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

Library Talks : Dr. Jyothis delivers talk on One Decade of MGNREGA



Dr. Jyothis Satyapalan, Professor and Head, CWE addressing the audience at the library talk

Dr. Jyothis Satyapalan, Professor and Head, Centre for Wage Employment, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj delivered a library talk on 'Decade of MGNREGA Status and Issues' on 28th February, 2020 at the Library building on the campus.

Introducing the topic, Dr. Jyothis said that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Act is a statutory programme passed by an Act in 2005. According to the preamble of the Act, it

provides livelihood security to the people by providing 100 days of employment, by paying a minimum wage. Creation of durable assets is also an objective of this programme.

The Act was passed to promote inclusiveness by including SC, ST and small landholders. It talks about strengthening of decentralised governance at the grassroots level, he said.

The basic objectives of study were

to assess the impact of MGNREGS on the wage employment opportunities, rural governance and effectiveness of MGNREGA management. For this study, around 500 documents and books were collected over the last ten years covering the aspects, related to MGNREGA.

Background of the Study

In the beginning, only 200 districts in the country were part of the programme. Later, districts across the whole country were involved in the programme. A total

of nine organisations have been involved with this study. Primary data from 10,000 households were collected; out of which 7000 household data were used for the study.

Secondary data like MIS and DMU have also been used for the study. Data have been selected from across various time blocks. Major variables used were financial outlay, participation, anticipated demand and actual demand. There are

so many aspects such as union budget allocation were included.

Findings:

The impact of MGNREGA is differential. The results are divided into few categories; some of them are listed below:

1. Livelihood Sustainability
2. Durable Assests
3. Social Inclusion

4. Strengthening of Decentralised Governance

MGNREGA has impacted on rural governance. The event was attended by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR and other faculty. The talk was followed by a Q&A session, where the speaker addressed all the questions. Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Associate Professor & Head, CDC, staff and students attended.

-CDC Initiatives

Regional ToT for NE States on Social Audit of PMAY(G) and NSAP at NERC, Guwahati



(from the left) Dr. N. K. Sahoo, Associate Professor, NIRDPR- NERC, Dr. S. M. Pant and Dr. Rajesh K. Sinha, Associate Professor, NIRDPR along with the participants

The Centre for Social Audit (CSA), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj organised a six-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on 'Social audit of PMAY (G) and NSAP' during 6th to 11th January, 2020 at NIRDPR-NERC, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam. The participants belonged to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and Nagaland. The participants attended were from both SAUs and SIRDs. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Nazrul Islam, IAS, Secretary, Panchayati Raj & Rural Development.

Addressing the participants Anand the Secretary spoke about the importance of the Social Audit in Rural Development programmes and shared his experience

in Social Audit. He added that before going to the audit, Social Auditors must conduct an entry level meeting with all the implementing agency officials and the Ward Sabha and Gram Sabha should be conducted to create awareness among the people.

The training programme covered following topics: (i) Social audit – approach, process, issues and challenges, (ii) Orientation on NSAP Guidelines, (iii) Orientation on NSAP Social Audit Guidelines, (iv) Orientation on PMAY (G) Guidelines, (v) Orientation on PMAY(G) Social Audit Guidelines, (vi) Sharing of experiences in NSAP pilot audit in five States and issues emerged, (vii) Working on Social Audit Formats and Secondary data obtained from MIS, (viii) Planning for

pilot Social Audit, (ix) Social Audit Gram Sabha and Presentation and (x) Action plan to conduct the ToT programme in North- Eastern States. Training was imparted through lectures, group work and State-wise presentations. Classroom sessions were followed by conduct of pilot social audit of NSAP and PMAY(G) in Bishnupur Balisatra village, Rangia block of Kamrup district by participants. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Rajesh Kumar. Sinha, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR, Dr. Srinivas Sajja, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR and Dr. Narayan Sahoo, Associate Professor, NIRDPR-NERC with support from Shri P. P. Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, Shri Papi Reddy, Social Audit Consultant and Shri Shashidar, Training Manager.

Regional ToT on Social Audit of PMAY(G) and NSAP for Eastern States at SIRD, Ranchi



(from the left) Shri Gurjeet Singh, Director, Social Audit, Jharkhand, Dr. Rajesh. K. Sinha, Associate Professor, NIRDPR and Dr. Anil Yadava, Assistant Director, SIRD(1st from the right)

The Centre for Social Audit (CSA), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj organised a six-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on 'Social Audit of PMAY (G) and NSAP' during 27th January to 1st February, 2020 at SIRD Ranchi, Jharkhand. The participants were mainly from Social Audit Unit (SAU) and a few implementing agency officials of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. While inaugurating the programme Shri Ravi Ranjan, IFS, Director, SIRD Ranchi spoke about the importance of the Social Audit in Rural Development programmes. He emphasised on the opportunity for all States to exchange ideas, experience and learnings. He also emphasised that it is also an opportunity to provide inputs for the training programme and its facilitation process to make it more effective.

The training programme covered following topics: (i) Social audit – approach, process, issues and challenges, (ii) Orientation on NSAP Guidelines, (iii) Orientation on NSAP Social Audit

Guidelines, (iv) Orientation on PMAY (G) Guidelines, (v) Orientation on PMAY(G) Social Audit Guidelines, (vi) Sharing of experiences in NSAP pilot audit in five States and issues emerged, (vii) Working on Social Audit Formats and Secondary data obtained from MIS, (viii) Planning for pilot Social Audit, (ix) Social Audit Gram Sabha and presentation and (x) Action plan to conduct the ToT programme in North Eastern States. Training was imparted through lectures, group work and State-wise presentations.

Classroom sessions were followed by conduct of pilot social audit of NSAP and PMAY(G) in Naro Gram Panchayat of Nagdi block in Ranchi district by participants. Naro Gram Panchayat consists of three villages with 284 NSAP beneficiaries and 90 houses completed under PMAY(G). The broad issues observed in the pilot social audit were: existence of deceased persons' names in the list and transfer of pensions into their account, delay in disbursement of pension, pensioner without their name in MIS, delay in completion of

PMAY-G houses, demanding money from beneficiary before geo-tagging of under construction houses, etc. The Block Development Officer of Nagdi block made a commitment to look into the matter and promised to take necessary action to solve all the issues within 15 days and the same has been recorded in the Decision Taken Format. Approximately, 250 villagers attended the Gram Sabha. The programme team and Social Audit Unit's members explained the people about their rights and entitlements under both schemes in the GP level public hearing. After coming back from the GP, all the participants shared their experiences and learning through group presentations. At the end of the programme, participants presented and submitted the action plan of ToT programme for their respective States. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Assistant Professor, NIRDPR along with Dr. Anil Kumar Yadav, Assistant Director, SIRD, Jharkhand with support from Shri Gurjeet Singh, Director, Social Audit, Jharkhand Shri Arif, Social Audit Consultant and Shri Papi Reddy, Social Audit Consultant.

National Training on Strategies for Effective Implementation of PESA Act



(from left) Dr. Satya Ranjan Mahakul, Assistant Professor and Co- Course Director, CESD, NIRDPR, Dr. Rubina Nusrat, Assistant Professor and Course Director, CESD, NIRDPR (3rd from left), Dr. Dasari Srinivasulu, IAS (Retd)(4th from left) Shri Bala Prasad, Former Additional Secretary (5th from left), at the inaugural session with Dr. S. N. Rao, Associate Professor & Head, CESD, NIRDPR(1st from right)

A 'National Training on Strategies for Effective Implementation of PESA Act' was conducted from 24th -28th February, 2020 by Dr. Rubina Nusrat, Associate Professor and Course Director, Centre for Equity and Social Development at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.

The provision of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 in conformity with the traditional tribal practice of local governance was formulated to cover those Scheduled Areas.

All the 10 states having Scheduled (or Schedule –V) areas, namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana have enacted their State Legislation more or less in pursuance with this central Act.

A study on the status of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa conducted by P R Foundation (2010) has emphasised that the reasons for poor implementation of the PESA were complex and multi-pronged. Henceforth, an evaluation of the current status of implementation of PESA through a training programme becomes imperative.

Against this backdrop, NIRDPR proposed to organise a 'National Training on Strategies for Effective Implementation of PESA' for all 10 PESA States.

The objectives of the national training were to discuss to appraise the status of implementation of PESA in Scheduled Areas, to identify the issues and challenges in PESA implementation, and to equip the participants on skills for convergence in implementation of PESA. Welcome address in the inaugural session was delivered by Dr. S. N. Rao, Associate Professor and Head, CESD, NIRDPR. Dr. Rubina Nusrat, Assistant Professor and Course Director, CESD, NIRDPR, presented the background of the training.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Dasari Srinivasulu, IAS (Retd) whereas Shri Bala Prasad, former Additional Secretary, MoPR gave the inaugural address. Dr. Satya Ranjan Mahakul, Assistant Professor and Co-Course Director, CESD, NIRDPR gave the vote of thanks to the august audience.

The contents of the national training comprised a varied spectrum of domains like the status of implementation of PESA, issues in PESA implementation, identification of gaps in PESA Act and its actual practice, field experiences in PESA

and drafting of an action plan for effective implementation of PESA through group exercises. In total, 23 participants from six PESA States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Odisha including SIRD faculty, officials of Tribal Cell, PESA State implementing officials, Tribal Welfare Officers, Panchayat officials and functionaries attended the training.

The programme was designed to be participatory and interactive in nature. It was a judicious mix of a wide spectrum of training methodologies like lectures, group presentations, case studies, screening of subject specific movies and issue-based problem solving exercises, etc. The participants were taken for a field visit to Sarlapalli village in Kurnool district, a PESA village, to know the development status and to strengthening PESA.

On the final day, participants made a presentation on their field observations during the field exposure to Sarlapalli for effective implementation of PESA and demonstrated various findings from the field. During the valedictory of the training, the participants shared their experiential learning and demanded for more training programmes on this particular issue.



DETAILS	POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ONE YEAR FULL TIME RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME) MANAGEMENT (PGDRDM) 2020-21 BATCH-18)	POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT - RURAL MANAGEMENT (PGDM-RM) 2020-22 BATCH-3 APPROVED BY AICTE (TWO YEARS FULL TIME RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME)
HOW TO APPLY:	Applications are to be submitted online only at www.nirdpr.org.in/pgdrdm.aspx .	
RESERVATION:	Reservations for the students of the SC/ST/OBC(Non-creamy layer) EWS and Persons with Disability (PWD) will be made as per the Government of India norms.	
LAST DATE :	Last date for online submission is 10-04-2020. Applications received after the last date shall not be accepted.	
ELIGIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 50 per cent marks (45 per cent marks for SC/ST and PWD candidates) or equivalent in Graduation. Valid Score in CAT / XAT / MAT / CMAT / ATMA / GMAT for admissions (or) Selection of candidates will be made through a process of All-India Entrance Test which will test the verbal, quantitative and analytical competencies of the students including English Language Students, who are in the final year and expect to complete all the requirements before 15th June 2020, may also apply. <p>ENTRANCE TEST: The entrance test will be conducted at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, New Delhi, Patna, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram. However, NIRDPR reserves the right to cancel any of the centres or add new centres for any administrative reasons and assign any other centre to the applicants.</p>	
Mode of Selection	Apart from eligibility conditions group discussion and personal interviews will be conducted for the short-listed candidates at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.	
Course Fee	Rs. 1,80,000/- per annum	
Encouragement/ Scholarship	The North Eastern Council, Shillong, will be approached for giving fellowships to economically backward students of North Eastern States. During the course, based on the performance trimester-wise (more than 8 GPA) of the students, fee concessions will be provided in the subsequent next trimester as a matter of encouragement.	
For Details log on to	Web: http://www.nirdpr.org.in/pgdrdm.asp Phone No.: 91-040-24008460, 442, 556	



Sd/
Prof. & Head (CPGS&DE)

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