


Newsletter




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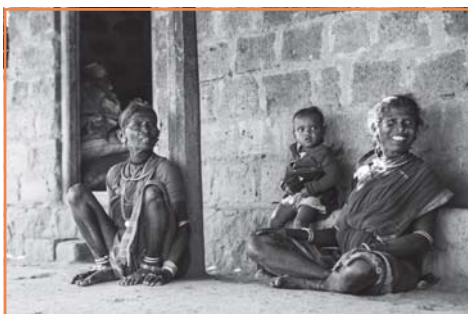
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Cover Story

Governance and Resources in Tribal India

Implementation of Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 and Forest Rights Act, 2006

Around 104.3 million tribal population in India from 705 different tribes constitute to nine per cent of the total population of the country, according to the 2011 Census. Of the total tribal population, about fourth-fifths live in the heart of India comprising the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal. Adivasis in general, and those who are living in these States in particular, are one of the most marginalised and isolated / excluded social groups in the development process. Despite the impressive economic growth in recent years and specific measures (protective and promotional) taken for tribal development since Independence, these communities are still lagging behind. These tribal communities have been severely inflicted with multiple deprivations. Problems such as poverty, underemployment / unemployment, land alienation, displacement, dispossession, burden of diseases, and educational deprivation are perennial.

There is concern over protecting the current sources of livelihood and promoting economic and human development among these communities through vibrant and pro-poor institutions.

The New Era of PESA and FRA

In the context of 73rd Amendment, that ushered a national framework of decentralisation and local self-government through a three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) system, for the first time steps were taken to ensure devolution and self-governance in tribal areas, and particularly in Scheduled Areas. While the provisions in 73rd Amendment were not made applicable to the Scheduled Areas, the modified version of

provisions that suited to tribals' customs / traditions and gave them right to protect and manage their resources and livelihoods, and were extended to these areas in 1996 through an Act of



the Parliament referred to as the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996. It is popularly known as PESA and is applicable to Schedule V areas comprising 10 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and the Telangana (newly formed State in 2012).

With PESA 1996, Gram Sabha is bestowed with absolute power and authority to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. It has power on those matters that have been affecting their life and livelihoods such as prevention of land alienation, management of village markets, imposition of ban on the consumption of intoxicants, ownership of minor forest produce, exercising control over money lending, control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors

and control over local plans and resources. Section 5 of PESA envisages that any provision of a law which is inconsistent with the provisions of PESA

historical legislations and their impact on livelihoods of Adivasis in tribal areas, their functioning has not been satisfactory.

The PESA made it mandatory for all legislations in the scheduled areas to be in conformity with the customary law, social and religious customs and traditional management practices of the community. The PESA also made some definitions clear, like that of the constitution of 'Village' and the 'Gram Sabha'.



will be null and void after one year of the presidential assent for the legislation.

A decade later, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, popularly known as Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA), was passed on December 15, 2006, and notified into force a year later on December 31, 2007 and the said rules and regulations (which provide the operational details) came into force on January 1, 2008. The FRA recognises the historical injustice done to Adivasis and forest dwelling communities who had been residing in such forests for generations, and aims at correcting the injustice by granting them individual/community-based tenurial rights over forest land.

The FRA and PESA are considered to be paradigm shifts and can impact the tribal communities favourably by ensuring access to resources and to rights which facilitate self-governance. However, nearly two decades after the enactment of PESA and a decade after the FRA, when we examine the implementation of these

scheduled areas with the necessary powers to enable them to function as institutions of self-governance, a State Legislature shall ensure that the panchayats are endowed with specific powers like regulating and restricting the sale of any intoxicant, ownership of minor forest products (MFPs), prevention of land alienation from tribals, the power to manage village markets, power to exercise control over money lending to STs, control over institutions and functionaries of all social sectors, control over local plans and resources.

Tribal Advisory Committees (TAC) is to be constituted in areas having STs. The TAC is to consist of not more than twenty members of whom three-fourths are to be from the representatives of STs in the Legislative Assembly of the State. The role of TAC is to advise the State Government on matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the Scheduled Tribes in the State. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal agency responsible for implementation of PESA. The implementation

of PESA in the scheduled areas is key to empowering the poor and marginalised forest dwelling communities for self-governance and community control over resources.

Problems in Implementation of PESA

Implementation of PESA however reflects several contradictions. While all States except Jharkhand and in some aspects Madhya Pradesh in the Fifth Schedule Area have enacted compliance legislations vis-à-vis PESA, their provisions have been diluted. Under the PESA, the preamble of Section 4 prohibits the State in making any law or rule that is inconsistent with any provisions of the PESA.

Again, the Section V envisages that any provisions of an existing law or rule, if inconsistent with the provision of PESA, has to be either amended to suit with provisions of PESA or to be repealed, otherwise that State law/rule would be automatically expired one year after the Central Act of PESA came into force. In many States, it was implemented partially and some States took many years to make rules for Schedule V areas after the Act was passed by the Assemblies. For instance, in Rajasthan, the Act was passed in 1999 but rules were not formulated until 2011. Further, in many States, the State subject laws and rules, which are in conflict with the provisions of PESA, have been continued to remain in force.

Similarly, the power of the Gram Sabha has been given to other bodies. Subject matter laws and rules in respect of money lending, forest, mining and excise have not been amended. Ownership of MFPs/NTFPs was earlier vested in the Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) in Fifth Schedule areas by the PESA. The forest departments of most States, however, refused to recognise such ownership rights on the dubious grounds that PESA had not defined or specified MFPs (remarkably their interpretation has been able to prevail).

The Ministry of Environment and Forests also argued that the rights vested by PESA did not extend to reserve and protected forests outside administrative village boundaries on the ground that the jurisdiction of the Gram Sabha was limited

to the area within such boundaries. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs challenged this interpretation pointing out that PESA was applicable to the entire Schedule V areas, including the reserve forests within them, but to no avail. The PESA is applicable only to those areas which are legally regarded as Scheduled Areas. A significant number of tribals living outside the scheduled areas are not covered by this legislation.

There is a need to harmonise the various legislations and government policies being implemented in tribal areas with the provisions of PESA. The laws that require harmonisation are the LARR, 2013, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and the Indian Registration Act. National policies such as the National Water Policy, 2002, National Minerals Policy, 2003, National Forest Policy, 1988, Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2002 and National Draft Environment Policy, 2004 would also require harmonisation with PESA.

Implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 in India

There is a general consensus that the FRA 2006 has the potential to enhance the livelihood of people and give them tenure security both over their residential and cultivation land. In addition to this, the Act redefines the ownership, use, access and disposal rights of forest dwellers dependent on forest for their livelihood. The Act has the potential to provide 40 million hectares of land to around 1,70,00 villages having 150 million people of whom



90 million people are tribals. However, the experience of last ten years suggests that the implementation has been tardy.

The progress relating to implementation of FRA up to April 2016 (in 19 States where it has been implemented) shows that out of 44.23 lakh claims (individual and community) received, about 39.43% claims (17.44 lakh) have been accepted and titles have been distributed. By contrast, 46.94% (20.76 lakh) claims have been rejected. The rejection was more than 50% in the States of Chhattisgarh (59%), Maharashtra (64.9), Madhya Pradesh (61.3%), Uttar Pradesh (80 %) and Karnataka (50.8%). The rejection was between 40% and 50% in Andhra Pradesh (40.3%), Telangana (46%), Rajasthan (49.4%), Himachal Pradesh (38%) and Jharkhand (30.5%). Of the total titles distributed, there were hardly 2.49 % (43488) community claims on both forest resources and infrastructure. Thus, there is inadequate policy response by States on the implementation of community forest rights.

A number of factors such as weak institutional arrangement at the Gram Sabha and Panchayat level, lack of infrastructure and capacity of Forest Rights Committees, due to lack of financial and other

resources, and illiteracy among the FRC members, inadequate awareness among them and inadequate evidence acceptable to the implementing authorities in support of claims by the potential beneficiaries that they have been in the possession of forest land at the village, have been pointed out by several researchers for tardy implementation of FRA.

Implementation relating to specific provisions for most vulnerable tribes, pastoral and pre-agricultural nomadic communities and displaced people from earlier projects, have hardly been covered in any of the States where FRA has been implemented.

In view of the above, it is imperative that speedy and effective implementation of both PESA and FRA is desirable for inclusive governance in PESA administered tribal areas in consonance with the culture of tribals. It will also increase their de jure access to forest land and forest resources which in turn will improve their level of living with dignity.

**-Prof. Kailash Sarap,
Professor, S. R. Sankaran Chair.**

Meeting

Panel Discussion on Inclusive Growth and Marginalised Groups in India

S. R. Sankaran Chair (Rural Labour) at NIRD&PR organised a panel discussion on **Inclusive Growth and Marginalised Groups in India** on the eve of 82nd birthday of Shri S.R.Sankaran on October 21. The focus of the panel discussion was to understand the inclusivity of Indian society firstly with special reference to various marginalised groups given the high growth rates for last two decades and secondly in the context of an array of inclusive policies in operation in the country for improving the socio-economic conditions of these groups over the years.



The event was presided by Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR. The Panelists were Prof. S.Galab, Director at Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, Prof. Gopinath Reddy, Professor at CESS, Prof. Swarna S.Vepa, Adjunct Professor at CESS, Prof. Indrakant, RBI Chair Professor, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad and Dr G. Sreedevi, Assistant Professor, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad.

In his welcome address Dr. Reddy said that Shri S.R.Sankaran was a true Gandhian and he tried to work for the poorest of the poor for his whole life. He said that we will be doing true justice to him if we start implementing some of his thoughts and ideas that he envisioned and rededicate ourselves for the cause of the poorest of the poor persons. Despite so much of efforts, both in terms of right

based livelihoods and the skill based development livelihoods, and development infrastructure created in the country, we are far away from reaching to that last person to bring smiles on his face. Dedication and passion in our activities and efforts will help in improving the livelihood of the poor. That will be befitting respect to the soul of S.R.Sankaran sir and to respect his services.

The speakers highlighted several issues relating to tribal and Dalit groups including their current socio-economic conditions, access to resources and to Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee scheme and the way these groups have benefited in the process of development. They also highlighted the governance issues and institutions dealing with these groups. The discussion was organised by Prof. Kailash Sarap, and Prof. Suman Chandra.

Training

Off - campus Programme on Gram Panchayat Development Plan

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj conducted its off-campus programme at NERC Guwahati (regional centre) on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP during November 15 to 19, 2016. This programme was attended by 37 persons belonging

to Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. All the participants were associated with the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the capacity of elected representatives and officials. The theme of the programme covered components of GPDR, participatory rural appraisal (PRA), environment generation for GPDP, situation

analysis, visioning, grants of the Government, flow of funds, convergence application, preparation of short term and long term plan by involving local people, etc. Most of the exercises were attended by the group for practical orientation of the participants.



The field work was carried out in Bhora Goan in Kherti Gram Panchayat of Kamrup (metro) district. The participants were involved in social mapping, resource mapping, and collection of primary data of the village and of the Gram Panchayat to identify resources available with Gram

Panchayat and how to use them for development of plan. Participants made presentations to share knowledge for preparation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan. This programme was coordinated by Dr. P C Sikligar, Centre for Panchayati Raj.

International Training

International Training Programme on Planning and Management of Rural Development Programmes

International Training Programme on “Planning and Management of Rural Development Programmes” sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was held from October 30 to November 27, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, with the following objectives:

- To discuss on the participatory planning approach, strategy and techniques of rural development
- To impart knowledge and skills on the methodology of participatory planning for poverty reduction and sustainable development
- To familiarise the participants in methods and techniques on monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes
- To share experience about Indian experiences on poverty alleviation and rural development with case studies.

This programme was attended by twenty two senior officers from fifteen countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean regions. Inaugural address was delivered by Shri Jupally Krishna Rao, Honourable Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Government of Telangana. The Minister in his inaugural address highlighted the major programmes and strategies initiated by the Government of India as well as of

Government of Telangana for poverty alleviation and rural development. He further asked few participants to share their knowledge in their respective countries.

The Director General, NIRD&PR, Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, welcomed the participants and requested them to implement the projects pertaining to rural development and poverty alleviation in their respective countries after learning from the training programme. At the outset of the training programme, participants were asked to present their respective country papers pertaining to rural development programmes. This was intimidated to them prior to beginning of the programme.

The course content consisted mainly two parts. One part was classroom discussion where theory, cases, film-shows, etc., pertaining to rural development were presented and in another part participants were taken to field for exposing the different rural development projects implemented under different rural development programmes.

Field visits were organised to different rural areas of Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to acquaint with the ground realities in planning and implementation of rural development projects so that these can be implemented in their respective countries keeping in mind of the local situation. In this process, the participants visited a number of SHGs, Rural Self-employment Training Institute (R-SETI), Panchayati Raj Institutions, etc., and



interacted intensely with the people, beneficiaries, implementing officials even with the media as they came to interact with the foreign participants. At the end of each study visit, the participants shared their field observations with the local officers vis-a-vis experience of their countries. The classroom sessions were mostly dealt by the NIRD&PR faculty,

however few faculty members from outside were also invited to share their experience.

The valedictory address was delivered by Ms. Chanda Pandit, IA&AS, Registrar and Director (Admin.), NIRD&PR. She urged the participants to follow the theory 'learning by doing' indicating wherever possible they should implement the projects in their respective countries which they had learned from the training.

She also presented certificates along with mementoes to the participants as a token of appreciation and recognition. This programme was conducted by Dr. Shankar Chatterjee, Professor & Head (CPME), Dr. R. Aruna Jayamani, Assistant Professor, (CPME) and Dr. R. Chinnadurai, Associate Professor, Centre for Decentralised Planning of NIRD&PR.

Workshop

National Workshop on Unnat Bharath Abhiyan for South Zone

A national workshop on Unnat Bharath Abhiyan, which is being launched in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi and the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) across the country, was conducted for south zone at NIRD&PR in association with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi on November 4 2016. This programme was coordinated by Prof. Gyanmudra, Head, CHRD. The delegates

participated in the programme include the academicians, district collectors, representatives of educational institutions and NGOs of southern region, etc. This programme was intended to connect institutions of higher education, including Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research (IISERs), etc., with local communities to address the development challenges through appropriate technologies.

Participating in the discussion, Prof. V.K. Vijay, National Co-ordinator, UBA explained the two-fold objectives of Unnat Bharath as: i) Building institutional capacity in Institutes of higher education in research and training relevant to the needs of rural India. ii) Providing rural India with professional resource support from institutes of higher education, especially those which have acquired academic excellence in the field of Science, Engineering and Technology and Management.

He opined that the time has come to collaborate and associate with different institutions especially local panchayats to design plans and implement all the development activities. In this workshop all the delegates shared their views and had given their inputs for the improvement of the proposed subject. Added to this has been the course work introduced in curriculum in GITAM University wherein students are being given new projects and helped by local NGOs in completing their projects. The delegates from GITAM University expressed how their students engage in projects by doing baseline survey and household survey before starting the project.

The district collectors from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and other States shared their views on requirements of technical support in designing and implementing the programmes and also they were



planning to select the clusters to start the programme. To help the district administrators, representatives from various technical institutions like NIRD&PR, Hyderabad from south have assured the collectors that they would help in identifying the supposed 10 villages in its neighbourhood and work out technologies to solve the most pressing issues of the region.

Finally the programme, with the help of IITs, NITs and other “leading technical institutions” will prepare a roadmap for holistic rural development. Along with the HRD Ministry and the institutes, some other Ministries such as rural development and NGOs working in villages are also likely to be involved in the programme. Some of the problems that the institutes could be looking at are, supply of potable water, sanitation, and energy and low cost housing.

Seminar

National Seminar on “Governance, Resources and Livelihoods of Adivasis in India: Implementation of PESA and FRA”

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad on November 18, 2016, organised a national seminar on **“Governance, Resources and Livelihoods of Adivasis in India: Implementation of PESA and FRA”** at NIRD&PR Campus, Rajendranagar. The seminar was inaugurated by Shri Ch Vidyasagar Rao, Hon’ble Governor of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

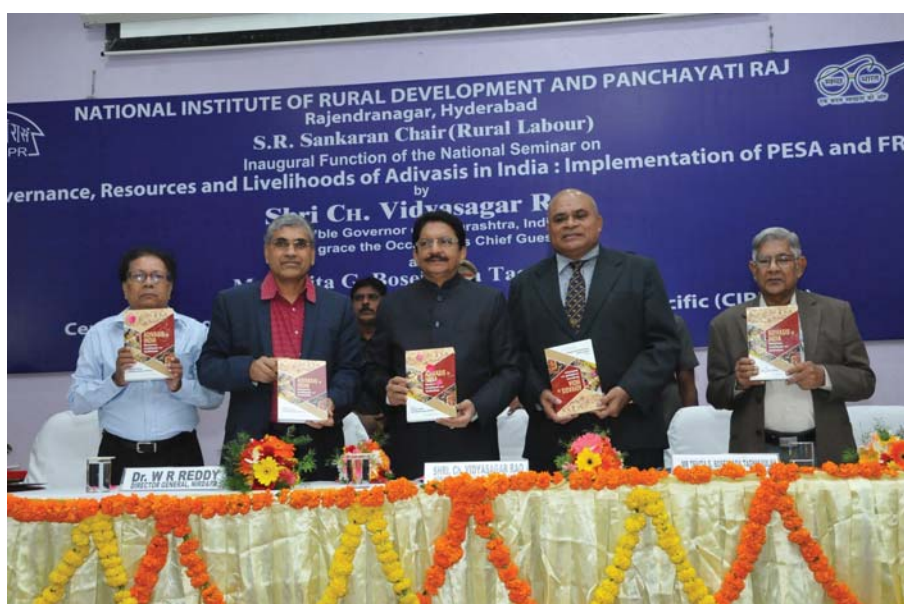
The inaugural function of the National Seminar began with a welcome address by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. The Director General in his address highlighted the importance of PESA and FRA Acts. The PESA Act mandated the States to make provisions to safeguard the rights of Tribals on forest land and forest products. Both the PESA and FRA Acts opened doors for Tribals to

possess land ownership. Quoting the recent reports on implementation of PESA and FRA, the Director General said, “However, recent reports have raised concerns over implementation of various provisions of both the Acts.” There is also an attempt in some States to dilute the provisions of Acts. In this scenario, the Director General felt that a balance is required between the Forest and Tribal Development Departments to effectively implement both the PESA and FRA Acts to achieve inclusive development of Tribals.

Chief Guest of the programme, Shri Ch Vidyasagar Rao, Hon’ble Governor of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, in his speech focused on the reach of Tribal Welfare schemes and development activities to the right beneficiaries. The Governor said that burden of development fell disproportionately on the shoulder of our tribal

brethren; its fruits often did not reach Tribal communities. The Governor further said, “For Tribal communities, PESA and Forest Rights Acts (FRA) assume immense importance in the context of historical denial of access to forests, displacement, alienation of land, and the denial of acceptance to local governance.” There is a great need to examine whether the provisions of both the Acts are being implemented, the Governor said.

Talking about the Tribal movements for their basic rights, the



Governor also lauded the efforts of noted Tribal icons like Ramji Gond, Birsa Munda and Komuram Bheem. He felt that future generations must know the struggles led by these Tribal leaders and their stories must be documented. Concluding his address, the Hon'ble Governor hoped that the deliberations in the seminar will help drawing effective ways to ensure inclusive development of Tribals.



Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Tagniaulau, Director General of Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), who was also present at the inaugural function, spoke about land rights and development of Indigenous Groups in his country 'Fiji'. From his experience, Mr. Tevita felt that any development scheme for Tribal or Indigenous communities should match with the cultural practices of concerned community so that it easily connects with them. He also highlighted the importance of basic values and ethics in implementing the development schemes for Tribals.

Delivering the Presidential Address at the event, Prof. R Radhakrishna, Chairman, Advisory Committee, S R Sankaran Chair, said, the Seminar will focus on implementation of PESA and FRA across the country.

Prof. K. B. Saxena, Emeritus Professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi delivered the keynote address. Prof. C. H. Hanumantha Rao, Honorary Professor, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad and former member, Planning Commission, delivered the valedictory address. It was presided by Prof. Amit Bhaduri, currently Professor in Pavia University, Italy and Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

There were five technical sessions: Governance Issues relating to PESA and FRA and other Forest Institutions; Functioning of PESA in Scheduled Areas States and Gender Issue; Implementation of Forest Right Act, 2006; Displacement, Acquisition & Alienation in PESA Areas; Issues Involving Livelihood Tribal. Prof. D. N. Reddy, former S. R. Sankaran Chair Professor, Shri C. R. Bijoy, Independent Researcher, Shri K. B. Saxena, Professor, Virginios Xaxa, Professor of Eminence, Tezpur University, and Dr. Hrushikesh Panda, IAS, Ex Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Government of India, chaired the technical sessions of the Seminar. Around 40 delegates including distinguished scholars, prominent young researchers, civil society organisations and former administrators, those who are working and practising on issues relating to tribal welfare presented papers and participated in the deliberations of the seminar. The seminar was conducted by Prof. Kailash Sarap, and Prof. Suman Chandra.

After inaugurating the Seminar, Shri Ch Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, along with Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, visited the Rural Technology Park in the NIRD&PR Campus. The NIRD&PR faculty members explained the Governor about various skill development works and training programmes organised by NIRD&PR.

NIRD&PR Events

National Film Festival on Rural Development

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad organised a National Film Festival on Rural Development on November 24 and 25, 2016 as part of the Foundation Day Celebrations. The main objective of organising the festival was to promote the Audio Visual medium in research study related to rural development and to encourage amateur filmmakers of the country to carry out film making in rural development sector. The Film Festival was organised in collaboration with Film and Cultural Society of North East, Guwahati.

The Institute received more than 50 films which include documentaries, short films and educational films for screening. These films were made by film makers from different parts of the country and some from other countries too. Some of the selected films were screened on November 24 and 25 in the two-day National Level Film Festival on Rural Development.

The Film Festival was inaugurated by five former Director Generals of NIRD&PR namely, Shri J M Lyngdoh, Shri T. L Sankar, Shri R. C. Choudhury,

Dr. B.K. Sinha and Shri Mathew C. Kunnumkal. The Director General of NIRD&PR, Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, welcomed the gathering with his inaugural address and explained the objectives of organising the Film Festival for the first time in NIRD&PR. The DG said, rural development initiatives and success stories will reach larger audience through the Media.

Later the former Director Generals also shared their views and offered their inputs for the development of the Institute in a meeting held with the Director General and Faculty after the Film Festival. They shared their experience working with NIRD&PR and recollected their fond memories with the Institute. They also appreciated the present management of the Institute and assured their guidance whenever it requires.

This was followed by the welcome speech by Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, CDC, NIRD&PR. In her welcome speech she explained the objective and detailed schedule of the festival. The entire festival was held in two parts. In the first part, six movies which have been invited in collaboration with Film and Cultural Society of North East,

Guwahati, were screened. These films covered the areas like Human Trafficking to Boat Clinic Service provided to the remote villagers' lives nearby Sundarban area of West Bengal. The next part of film festival was a contest which was meant to be a platform for budding documentary film makers who want to showcase their talent at national level. The NIRD&PR has called for movies for the contest on Institute's website. It was also mentioned that the movies which willing to participate should be based upon either of six thrust areas viz. Women Empowerment,



Livelihood, Drinking Water, Sanitation, Skill Development and Watersheds.

Prominent movie makers Shri B Narsing Rao, Dr. Krishna Rao Gandhe were invited as judges to select the best movies in the Film Festival. The best three films were awarded with cash prize and certificate. The winners received their prizes from

Honourable Union Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi, who visited the RTP Mela. The three best films which have been awarded were 'A Common Story' by Epti Pattnaik and her team, 'Education for All except Girls' by Anjali Nag and 'Project 511' by Shankar Raju. All the winners have been conferred with a certificate and a cheque.

RTP Mela

14th Rural Technology and Crafts Mela (RCTM), 2016

NIRD&PR organised 14th Rural Technology and Crafts Mela from November 24 to 28, 2016 in a befitting manner with 'Swachhata' as part of Foundation Day celebrations.

The event was inaugurated on November 24, 2016 by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR in the august presence of the former Director Generals viz., Shri T. L. Sankar, Shri R. C. Choudhury, Shri J. M. Lyngdoh, Shri B. K. Sinha, Shri Mathew C Kunnumkal besides Brig. G B Reddy.

The inaugural session commenced with the lighting of lamp by Shri T. L. Sankar followed by all the other dignitaries referred above. In their addresses all the former Director Generals while expressing their pleasure in associating with the event recollected their memories which were still fresh with them. Brig. Reddy had elaborately shared his experiences in building up of the Rural Technology Park under the guidance of late Dr.A.V.S. Reddy.

Invitations were sent to the Members of Parliament, Chief Secretaries, Secretaries of Government, etc., for participation in the Mela. Messages were received from many of the invitees wishing the event a grand success while the following have made it convenient to attend the event and appreciated the efforts. Prominent among them who visited are:

1. Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation on November 25 & 26, 2016
2. Shri KondaVishweshwar Reddy, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha on November 27, 2016
3. Mrs. Sania Mirza, International Tennis player on November 26, 2016 participated in Special Programme on Swachhata besides launching the Swachhata posters and release of eco-friendly fisheries technology
4. Shri Durga Prasad Singh, Former MLA, Samistipur, Bihar and the President of All India Panchayat Samnghan participated in the concluding programme of the Mela.
5. Mrs. Sanyogetaraje Chatrapati, W/o Shri Sambhajiraje Chhatrapati, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from Kolhapur, Maharashtra visited the Mela and participated in the Panel Discussion on Women Empowerment on November 27, 2016.



Artisans, Entrepreneurs, SHGs, NGOs, Educational Institutions, Innovators, other Institutions, etc., from 16 States viz., AP, Telangana, Odisha, Goa, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, UP, MP, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi have participated in the Mela and displayed/ exhibited/ disseminated/ demonstrated their products/ technologies besides making available the products in large quantity for the sale in the 300 stalls installed for the purpose.

To tie over the cash flow problem arrangements were made with the help of State Bank of Hyderabad for POS machines to facilitate the visitors and the stall-holders the smooth transactions.

The products which were available for exhibition-cum-sale include jute, handmade paper, kundan rangoli designs, terracotta, imitation jewellery, tribal jewellery, madhubani paintings, solar products, organic products, khadi and handloom, Sheharanpur crafts, eco-friendly sanitation products, pottery, wooden crafts, glass crafts, Kashmiri products, sports products, cost-effective electronic products, etc.

The Institutions viz. MANAGE, ICRISAT, CSV Wardha, National Innovation Foundation (NIF), Lords College of Engineering, Amma Foundation, Bankura Sanitation, etc., participated and exhibited their technologies and products.

Efforts were made associating the PGDRDM students, students from BVV School, etc., in the propagation of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. Arrangements were made to make available the cloth bags in an attempt to encourage the people to desist from the usage of plastic bags.

Cultural programmes were organised from 6.00 PM - 9.30 PM every day providing an opportunity for local talent. The school children (BVV School, Hazipalle School, and School for Visually Challenged), tribal artists, traditional folk dance, dappu, mimicry, Rajasthani Puppet show, sand art and classical dances, odyssey dance, orchestra with different variety and themes were also organised.

Food courts were organised with different varieties of delicious dishes with more emphasis on nutritional values and of organic nature.



During the five-day event, panel discussions were arranged on various topics as below:

1. November 25 - On the subject "Swachhata" chaired by Dr. P. Durga Prasad.
2. November 26 - On the subject "Sustainable Development Goals and Model Village" chaired by Dr. R. R. Prasad.
3. November 27 - On the subject "Women Empowerment" chaired by Prof. Singhal.
4. November 28 - On the subject of "Innovative Technologies", where all the stall-holders were given an opportunity to share their unique features of the product/technology.

On the last day of the event, arrangements were made for collecting the feedback from the participants in the Mela through the PGDRDM students to analyse the conduction of the event for future guidance.

The event was sponsored by NFDB, MGNREGA, State Bank of Hyderabad, Apollo Hospitals, NABARD, Canara Bank, JK SRLM, Central Bank of India, State Bank of India, Syndicate Bank, and Andhra Bank. The rough estimate of the total visitors to the Mela is about 60000 with an average of 10000 a day.

The event came to an end with a message on 'Individuals Action and Dedication towards Sustainable Development' by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, on November 28, 2016.

Foundation Day Lecture & MoU

NIRD&PR Signs MoU with National Commission for Women to Train Women Panchayat Pradhans and Women Elected Representatives of the Panchayats

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad collaborated with the National Commission for Women to impart training to develop capacity of women Panchayat Pradhans and women members of the Panchayats as an effort to build their capacity in governance. Both the parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard at NIRD&PR during the launch of a month-long Foundation Day celebrations of the Institute. Marking the inauguration of celebrations, the NIRD&PR organised the foundation day lecture on November 9, 2016. The lecture was delivered by Lalitha Kumaramangalam, Chairperson, National Commission for Women.

The event began with inaugural address by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR. Addressing the gathering at the event, the Director General said, since the inception, the Institute has evolved into a highly reputed organisation and became a brand in the fields of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation. The Director General

also mentioned that after the Independence, we have achieved a lot in terms of inclusive development. But the country still has a long way to go in achieving 100% inclusive development, especially of the women. The contribution of women in the inclusive development is unique and it is a great opportunity for us to celebrate their hard work by making it the theme of the foundation day lecture, the DG said.

The government has done a lot in mobilising women and forming self-help groups which provided livelihoods to them across the country. We at NIRD&PR have an exclusive Centre for Gender



Studies and Development, which organises various programmes on gender equality, women empowerment. The Institute collaborated with various international organisations like UNO, CIRDAP and Asian Productivity Organisation in this regard. The Institute also collaborated with the National Commission for Women to train women elected representatives from three States, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Assam on administration and planning skills. The training will begin with Rajasthan initially and will be followed by Jharkhand and Assam. Concluding his address, the Director General hoped that this initiative will bring a massive change in the grassroots level administration done by women elected representatives.

The collaboration between the NIRD&PR and National Commission for Women will focus to establishing partnership to take up various activities towards empowerment of women, training elected women representatives of Panchayats in particular. The first phase of training will begin in six districts of Rajasthan covering over 9,000 women elected representatives, followed by Jharkhand and Assam, NCW Chairperson Lalitha Kumaramangalam said adding "As per the MoU, monitoring of this project will also be done."

The training to women elected representatives covers academics of governance such as administration, teach programmes available on money, teaching to conduct meetings besides imparting them IT training, she said. "While working with women in general and specially women from rural regions we realised that they are not part of decision making process. What we found that most Panchayat leaders don't understand administration like accounting, reporting, liaison with various government offices, how to conduct meetings, know the laws, etc. Hence, it is very

difficult for them to participate in decision making," the Chairperson said.

"Women have actually understood that when they can be successful Sarpanchs or members of the Panchayat, they are given a lot more respect because they have decision making power," the NCW chief said. This is an effort to empower women to take their decisions and enable them to become contributing members of their own communities, and added that the first round of Training of Trainers (ToT) would start by this month end or December second week with Rajasthan.

She further said that NCW is developing an App and the elected women representatives will be taught on how to use IT, things like construction of roads, toilets. Beginning this financial year about ₹ 2 lakh crore is going to be transferred directly to the Panchayats. Today 53 per cent Panchayat pradhans all over the country are women, she pointed out.

While delivering keynote address on 'Mobilising Women for Sustainable Rural Development', Ms. Vijaya Bharathi, Advisor to the well known 'Orvakal Mahila Podupu Lakshmi Ikkya Sangham', said that Self-Help Groups showed solution to many problems being faced by the downtrodden women. The creditworthiness of the women was recognised with the functioning of these groups, she said.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR added that NCW has developed training modules. "We will be using those modules and train the master trainers, who in turn will train the elected representatives at regional level at different clusters. This is basically a one-year programme and will be done in collaboration with Rajasthan government." "We expect to get into other activities also on field research and various other programmes like impact assessment," he added.

Distinguished Visitors



Mrs. Sania Mirza, International Tennis Player Visiting the RTP Mela



Dr. Matheen, Director General, BARD, Bangladesh, Delivering Lecture at NIRD&PR



Sainy Tiemele, Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire Visiting NIRD&PR



Union Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Releasing Swachhata Posters at RTP Mela

NIRD&PR Events



**Folk Dancers Performing Koya Dance
at Inauguration of RTP Mela**

**NIRD&PR Staff Playing Kabaddi as Part of
Sports Competition Held on Sports Day**



**Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General,
NIRD&PR Administering Oath to Faculty and
Staff on Constitution Day**

**Students of BVBV School Performing
a Play at RTP Mela**





Update for JRD

The Journal of Rural Development, a quarterly journal published by NIRD&PR has gone 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>.

OIGS

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