A National Conference on Livelihoods through Rural Tourism in North East India: The Way Forward was organised by NERC at Greenwood Resort, Khanapara, Guwahati on January 6-7, 2018. It was attended by Former Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and a Permanent Representative of UN World Tourism Organisation Sri M.P. Bezbaruah; Member of NEC Sri C.K. Das; former Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Sri Bhaskar Baruah; former Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Tourism Sri Swapnil Baruah; Secretary NEC Sri Ram Muivah and Director General of NIRDPR, Hyderabad Dr. W.R. Reddy along with many other dignitaries. In view of its tremendous prospect in northeast India, encompassing 7.02
percent of the country’s total villages having a diverse cultural and geographical individuality, the two-day conference aimed at promoting rural tourism, with special focus on home-stay as a sustainable livelihood measure among the rural poor of this region. Ideas were shared through paper presentations as well as discussions by academicians, professionals and policy makers on strategies to identify potential spots, accreditation criteria, skill gap analysis in home-stay tourism management. One of the recommendations was to converge with relevant departments for better impact.

Appreciating the NIRDPR's plan to launch a certificate course at the NERC on rural tourism, the panelists in the conference recommended putting more stress on learning by doing rather than acquiring theoretical knowledge for managing different types of tourists. The conference was sponsored by the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong.

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ROLE OF CBOs AND NGOs IN THE EMERGING RURAL TRANSFORMATION SCENARIO**

The CBOs and NGOs have been playing a vital role in the process of managing development initiatives and have gained significant popularity in rural development especially in tribal development due to their advantage of non-rigid system, beneficiary orientation & committed nature of service, grassroot level reach and implementation of locally based development initiatives. Even government has also recognised their role as the partner in rural development especially in the areas where the government has limited reach. The learnings from evaluation reports show that the government alone is not able to meet all the challenges in the process of rural development and therefore, the involvement of CBOs/NGOs in different phases and activities at regional and local levels is desirable/inevitable. However, despite their vital role, a large number...
It is well recognised that a consistent approach to the development of behavioural skills of professionals for managing rural development programmes does not only result in a change in behavioural practice but also transfer and integrate new learnings into daily practice at workplace. This helps in making the rural development professionals more proactive in the organisation resulting in more productivity in a desired direction. The ability to re-orient one’s behavioural skills also adds to productive relationships in any environment – be it in the office premises or on field. It is in this very context that the four day Training Programme on 'Behavioural Skills for Managing RD Programmes' was organized at NIRDPR-NERC Guwahati on October 4-6, 2017.

A good number of papers highlighting NGOs and CBOs role, issues, constraints were presented in the seminar through six technical sessions which were chaired by eminent personalities like Dr. Sukamal Deb, Director i/c, KVIC (NEZ), Dr. K.P Singh, RGU, Dr. Vokendro Singh, RGU. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof PK Panigrahi, VC i/c, RGU. Jarjum Ete, Chief advisor of Arunachal Pradesh Women Welfare Society among other distinguished scholars spoke on the role of NGOs and CBOs in ameliorating rural development during the inaugural session.

The programme was conducted to orient the development professionals on different aspects of behavioural skills for managing the rural development programmes and to infuse skills like communication, team building, leadership, stress management, conflict management, etc. for enhancing personal effectiveness and efficiency while managing the rural development programmes. A total of 27 participants attended the programme. The trainees mostly comprised of Government officials represent various departments and of NGOs find it difficult to sustain in the long run i.e. sustainability of organizations as well as sustainability of projects. Considering the vital role towards uplifting the socio-economic status of the rural poor especially tribal people, a seminar was organized at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Arunachal Pradesh jointly by NIRDPR-NERC and the NSS cell of the RGU’s social work department on March 27-28, 2018. The seminar aimed at providing a platform to practitioners, research scholars, government officials and academicians to share and assess the challenges faced by NGOs and CBOs in rural development. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof PK Panigrahi, VC i/c, RGU. Jarjum Ete, Chief advisor of Arunachal Pradesh Women Welfare Society among other distinguished scholars spoke on the role of NGOs and CBOs in ameliorating rural development during the inaugural session.
Three days training on Vulnerability Reduction Plan (VRP) was organized for the staff and community cadres of Sikkim SRLM from 11-13, October, 2017 at Janta Bhawan, Gangtok by Sikkim SRLM in collaboration with NRLM-RC, NIRD & PR, NERC, Guwahati. Altogether 28 participants (13 Staff, 15 Community Cadres) participated in the programme. Ms. Seema Bhaskaran, National Mission Manager (NMM), NMMU, NRLM and Mr. T. Ravinder Rao, Mission Manager (MM), NRLM-RC, NRLM-RC, NIRD & PR, Hyderabad elected representative from the north eastern states of Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

Dr. R.M Pant, Director and also coordinator of this training programme delivered the inaugural session on interpersonal relationship and communication. Invited resource persons from reputed organizations like Mind India, The Human Network and Indian Skills Academy conducted interactive sessions on topics like Managing Change at Workplace, Conflict Management and Negotiations and Stress Management.

A computer network is a telecommunication network which allows computers to exchange data. In computer networks, networked computing devices exchange data with each other along network links. The best-known computer network is the Internet. A computer network facilitates interpersonal communications allowing users to communicate efficiently via various means like web portals, email, instant messaging, chat rooms, telephone, video telephone calls, and video conferencing. A network allows sharing of web resources, files, data, and other types of information giving authorized users the ability to access information stored on other computers on the network. Government is planning to establish massive ICT infrastructure, connectivity backbone and delivery centres across the country under Digital India programme. The vast majority of India’s population lives in the villages. Accessing citizen services from rural areas, last mile connectivity along with user-friendly web interfaces are the two most important requirements among others.

In light of the above, a training programme on “Management of Networking and Web Technologies for Rural Development Programmes” was conducted on February 19-23, 2018 at NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati. Participants from rural development and line departments, NRLM and NGOs attended the training programme. Training was conducted with mostly hands on sessions and covered topics like basic computer network, types, topology, network hardware and software, WiFi, Intranet and Internet, Client/Server, Router and Firewall, IP setup for network management, design of web pages and web publishing process, update and maintenance of web sites, web conferencing and video conferencing and IP based surveillance systems. The training course were conducted by Shri S.K Ghosh from NERC.

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The Bankers orientation on NRLM and exposure visit was organized at Aizawl for three days from 16-18 Nov, 2017 which included a day of field visit to interact with VO and SHG members at one of the MzSRLM block. A total of 18 bankers attended the programme amongst which 11 MRB officials, 3 participants from Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank, 2 representatives from SBI and one each from Central and Canara Bank participated in the orientation program. Mr. Tilak Das, NRP along with Ms. Sangita R. Barthakur and Ms. Mehjabin F. Yashmin facilitated the three days training programme.

The training was particularly on vulnerability reduction plan and vulnerability reduction fund. The training covered the themes of NRLM overview, poverty, marginalization, vulnerability, livelihoods, social development besides VRP and VRF. The training was imparted using lecture, presentation, group exercise and discussion methods.

**MIZORAM BANKERS’ ORIENTATION PROGRAMME AND EXPOSURE VISIT ON NRLM**

The Bankers orientation on NRLM and exposure visit was organized at Aizawl for three days from 16-18 Nov, 2017 which included a day of field visit to interact with VO and SHG members at one of the MzSRLM block. A total of 18 bankers attended the programme amongst which 11 MRB officials, 3 participants from Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank, 2 representatives from SBI and one each from Central and Canara Bank participated in the orientation program. Mr. Tilak Das, NRP along with Ms. Sangita R. Barthakur and Ms. Mehjabin F. Yashmin facilitated the three days training programme.

NRLM and its overview, FI under NRLM, grading of SHG, SHG Bank Credit Linkage, Interest subvention scheme, bank facilitators role, various committees under NRLM were the main topics for discussion during
the training. On the 2nd day the participants were taken to field to observe the VO meeting and interact with the SHG members.

**SHG MEMBERSHIP TRAINING**

Two days training on SHG Membership was organized for the Block Co-coordinators, LIFE Project under Meghalaya SRLM by Meghalaya SRLM at SIRD, Nongsder, Meghalaya from 7-8 December, 2017. Altogether 33 participants from different NGOs participated in the training programme. Mr. Nijwm Thomas Mushahary and Ms. Mehjabin Farha Yashmin from NRLM-RC, NIRD & PR, NERC, Guwahati were the resource persons for the programme. Ms. Bada from Meghalaya SRLM and Mr. Kmenlang, NF, NRLM RC, NERC also attended the programme. The two days training programme covered topics like poverty dimension, gender sensitization, overview of NRLM and Life Project, Understanding the concept of SHGs, Leadership and Group Dynamics. The training was conducted through lecture, interaction, questionnaire, activities, games and role play methods.

**A GIST OF TRAINING INTERVENTIONS DURING 2017-18 BY NERC**

A total of ninety eight (98) programmes including the programmes of NRLM RC were conducted by NIRDPR-NERC during 2017-18 involving 2941 participants with an average participation of 30 participants per programme. The programmes included 84 training courses, 12 workshops and two seminars. Average female participation per programme stood at around 11. Seventy two (72) programmes were on campus...
NITI Ayog vide its order number P.12018/12/2016/RD dated June 2, 2017 nominated NIRDPR-NERC as the ‘Lead Institution’ for carrying out a study on, 'Shifting cultivation: Towards transforming approach', with Dr. R M Pant as its convenor. Other members in the team are representatives from NEHU, NERCORMP, MoEF, DONER, Ministry of Agriculture and ICIMOD, Kathmandu. Team submitted the report in March 2018 successfully.

Scientific and Advisory Group (STAG) for implementation & monitoring of National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) was reconstituted on November 9, 2017. This National Level Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forest has eleven members from across the country comprising of Bureaucracy and academics. Dr. R. M. Pant, Director NIRDPR-NERC has also been nominated as member of this prestigious group by MoEF, Government of India.

The 105th National Science Congress-Pride of India Expo was held at Manipur University Campus, Imphal from March 16-20, 2018. The Science Congress was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in the august presence of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon’ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Earth Sciences, Govt. of India. Smt. Najma Akbarali Heptulla, Governor, Manipur, Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister, Manipur, Shri Adya Prasad Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Manipur University and other distinguished personalities. Later, the Pride of India Expo was opened for the public by the Hon’ble Union Minister Dr. Harsha Vardhan. The Minister also visited a number of exhibition stalls in the expo and were highly impressed with the splendid efforts put in by all the exhibitors towards promotion of Science & Technology.
NIRDPR participated actively in the 105th National Science Congress-Pride of India Expo. The stall (E-37) of NIRDPR at the expo could generate tremendous interest among public and attracted a large numbers of visitors during the Expo. The primary aim of NIRDPR’s participation in expo was to showcase and promote rural technologies undertaken by the Rural Technology Park (RTP) of NIRDPR.

The main attractions of the stall were Rural Technology Products like Mango Bar, Handmade Ayurvedic Soaps, various Snacks, Mushroom Enriched Noodles, Dried capsicum, dried Mushroom, environment friendly and cost effective cloth bags, Saal leaves plates, vermicomposting manures and Pesticides. The process of making Plates and bowls from arecanut leaves attained maximum attention from the visitors. Paper bags and office folders made from waste papers also received a very good attention from the visitors and prospective entrepreneurs. The portable solar lamps also remained a centre of attraction to many visitors visiting the stall. Showcasing different types of sustainable housing technologies under National Rural Building Centre (NRBC) of RTP was one of the prime theme of NIRDPR stall at the expo. Every Visitors to the stall praised initiatives of NIRDPR. Shri Ram Muivah, IAS, Secretary, NEC, Shillong while visiting NIRDPR stall appreciated the efforts of NIRDPR in exhibiting rural technology interventions, entrepreneurship development, value addition and product diversification and focus on women empowerment. The NIRDPR stall at the expo could attract local print media attention and a good media coverage was given to stall’s activities in leading news dailies of Manipur.
The efforts in setting up NIRDPR stall and its management were executed by a four member dynamic team from NIRDPR-NERC under the guidance of the Director, NERC Dr. R.M Pant. The executing team led by Shri S.K Ghosh, Sr. CPA comprised Shri Kaushik Kalita, Training Manager, Dr. Anwar Hussain Hazarika, Mission executive, NRLM RC and Shri Vikas Kumar, Project Officer from DDU-GKY.

DG VISITS INDIA’S FIRST ORGANIC STATE SIKKIM

Dr. W R Reddy, Director General, NIRDPR along with Dr. R.M. Pant Director, NIRDPR-NERC, visited Sikkim during March 17-21, 2018. DG was given a grand traditional welcome in Sikkim style on his arrival at SIRDPR, Karfector on March 17. Despite a day long journey from Hyderabad to Karfactor, DG addressed newly elected representatives from various GPs of Sikkim at 8 pm and also distributed course completion certificates to them. Cultural performances were also given by a group of school children.

Next day, the team visited 21-Shanku Radhu Khandu (SRK) GP where a presentation on GP activities was made by President of this award-winning GP. Dr Reddy interacted with GP members and also with the village people. A trek to Rhododendron park in SRK GP was not only a test of one’s endurance but also exposed the team how development of rural sector can be achieved with convergence as this park was developed under MGNREGA with forest and tourism department’s support. After spending night at Darap Home stay in Darap (Pelling), the team left for Gangtok where a series of meetings were held with DDUGKY, NRLM and SICB officials.

A visit to Nathu la was also made where Indian Army Personnel welcomed the team warmly and DG had a heart to heart talks with the Army Jawans and enquired about their welfare. Four days visit concluded with meetings of DG with Home Secretary, Government of Sikkim and other state officials. A brief stoppage at CAEPHT, Central Agriculture University, Ranipool on return journey to Bagdogra, saw DG interacting with the Dean Prof. P. P. Dabral and other faculty members of the University.
As a part of Swachhta Pakhawada, NIRDPR-NERC conducted a series of Swachhta activities in Thembang, a village situated near Dirang, West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh at the height of 2300 m above sea level. Dr. R.M Pant, Director of NERC teamed up with KVK West Kameng officials for the purpose. This village Thembang with 42 households having a total population of 250 is a strong contender for UNESCO Swachhata Spatha.

Heritage status due to their rich Mompa history which is still reflected in the life style of the residents of Thembang. After an arduous one-hour drive from Dirang on October 7, 2018, the team reached Thembang Government Middle School, where school children, women and other village people including Anchal Chair Person, Gaon Burah and Panchayat Members had assembled. District officials including Circle Officer (Thembang), Medical Officer (Dirang), Veterinary Doctor, District Agriculture Officials, Nutrition specialist, BDO and three Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) of KVK Dirang and school teachers were present in this meeting with general public.

To start the programme, Dr. Dechin, CO Thembang, a local Mompa officer, welcomed the gathering. She introduced NIRDPR team and read out the agenda. After the welcome address by the CO, following swachhata activities were conducted:

- An introduction to ‘Sankalpa se Siddhi’, importance of cleaning and administering of ‘Swachhata Pledge’ by Director NIRDPR, NERC.
- Interactive session on Personal hygiene for children and ladies by Dr. Divya Pandey, SMS, KVK.
- Health Check-up of Children and Women was done by Dr Gyati Mope, MO Dirang.
Gaon Burah appreciated KVK’s intervention in the village and expressed happiness with NIRDPR’s interest in the village development activities particularly in Thembang.

NIRDPR note books and pens were distributed to School children for various activities conducted during the day like, ‘Slogan Writing’, ‘Essay Writing’, ‘Drawing’ etc.

Tree plantation was also done by the officials and the villagers.

After interaction in the school, a ‘Swachhata Procession’ was taken out in the village which was followed by ‘Physical Cleaning’ of the village.

Team joined mid-day meal with school children of Middle School that began with ‘Buddhist Prayers’ that are offered before taking any meal in Buddhist traditions.

**FOUNDATION LAYING CEREMONY OF FOOD PROCESSING UNIT**

Fruits like banana, mango, jackfruit, guava, papaya are plentifully grown in villages under Boko block, Kamrup district, Assam. However, farmers of this locality are not able to earn reasonable profits due to lack of good markets and non-availability of fruit processing centre in the vicinity of the area. As fruits are perishable items and production exceeds demands in the peak seasons, farmers incur huge losses. Janoki Agro Producer Company Limited, Boko, a Farmer Producer Company (FPC) came out with an idea to setup a Fruit processing Unit at the Tangabari village under Boko Block of Kamrup district, Assam with the financial and training support from Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation (HESCO), Dehradun, a society under the Societies Registration Act 1860. NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati will construct the Fruit processing Unit and also monitor the activities of the unit. An MoU has been signed in this regard among the HESCO, FPC and NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati. The proposed processing unit is expected to help farmers and individual households of the area in a big way. The FPU will collect surplus raw materials from farmers at a good price, add value on it and will do the necessary branding and marketing. This will create a win-win situation among the farmers, company and villagers in the area. It may also create a direct and indirect livelihood opportunities among villagers in long run.

The foundation stone of the proposed Fruit Processing Unit (FPU) was laid by Dr. W.R Reddy, Director General, NIRDPR at Tangabari village on 27th October 2017.
Dr. RM Pant, Director, NERC and officials from HESCO and FPC were also present during foundation laying ceremony. Later on, Dr. W.R Reddy addressed a huge gathering of farmers and villagers organized at the auditorium of College of Education, Boko. In his speech, Dr. Reddy highlighted the importance of fruit processing and value addition for doubling the income of farmers. He also cited an example of farmers from Kerela state where jackfruits are processed to prepare numbers of nutritious food items.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT THROUGH PRODUCTION OF ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCT FROM BAMBOO AND WATER HYACINTH**

The invasive potential and the negative impact on aquatic ecosystem of Water hyacinth is considered as world's worst aquatic weed. Originally a native of the Amazon basin, the weed has spread throughout tropical, subtropical and some warmer temperate regions of the world. Water hyacinth is commonly found in north eastern states mostly in Assam which is a free-floating aquatic plant with erect aerial leaves, lilac flowers and submerged roots. Free-floating individual plants develop short bulbous petioles which are spongy, enabling the plant to float on the water's surface. Once growth is sufficient to cause crowding of individual plants, these petioles elongate and interweave, forming dense self-supporting mats that can cover the entire surfaces of water logged areas, dams and slow flowing rivers.

In order to control water hyacinth infestations many management techniques have been tried to reduce its further spread. These include physical removal, the application of herbicides, utilisation for commercial and subsistence purposes, and the importation and release of bio control agents. In most cases however, the use of any of these techniques in isolation has had limited success, and in terms of physical or chemical intervention, proven both costly and unsustainable in the long-term. Considering the abundance of this raw material in
Cattle farming as a community practice is very common in Sitajakhala area in Morigaon District of Assam located approximately 40 Km from NIRDPR-NERC campus primarily inhabited by Gorkha Community. In view of tremendous demand for fresh milk, initially few dairy entrepreneurs started as a business venture in north east India, NEDFi took the initiative to train the artisans of the region to convert this weed into eco-friendly handicraft products with assistance from NEC and Ministry of DONER.

Two batches of training on Non timber forest products (NTFP) and entrepreneurship were completed at NIRDPR-NERC which were sponsored by Government of Meghalaya and the trainees got a chance to see making of various cane and bamboo products and their processing and interact with the artisans at Barpeta, Assam. Apart from cane & bamboo products, the participants also visited NEDFi training centre to see processing and making of various handicrafts made out of water hyacinth and participated in the making process. Apart from water hyacinth, they had also seen various medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation and oil extraction process particularly Citronella and Lemon grass which are very much in demand in the entire north eastern region. The training programmes were conducted by Dr. K.K Bhattacharjee, consultant, NERC. (Contributor: Dr. K. K. Bhattacharjee, Consultant).

**SITAJAKHALA DUGDHA UTPADAK SAMABAI SAMITI– A SUCCESS STORY**

Cattle farming as a community practice is very common in Sitajakhala area in Morigaon District of Assam located approximately 40 Km from NIRDPR-NERC campus primarily inhabited by Gorkha Community. In view of tremendous demand for fresh milk, initially few dairy entrepreneurs started as a business venture while procuring milk from different breeders of the locality for Marketing to Guwahati city with nominal profit. Gradually as the demand for quality milk was growing, handful of conscious individuals from the locality decided to lead all cattle farmers of the area to come together on a single platform and a group of 17
Online Registration System (ORS) is a registration portal for taking OPD appointment in the Government Hospitals online. The portal has already covered many reputed Government hospitals across the country including AIIMS for Aadhaar based online registration and appointment system.

The application has been hosted on the cloud services of NIC. This Portal facilitates online appointments with various departments of different Hospitals using eKYC data of Aadhaar number, if patient’s mobile number is registered with UIDAI. And in case mobile number is not registered with UIDAI it uses patient’s name. New Patient will get appointment as well as Unique Health Identification (UHID) number. This portal is a digital India Initiative of the Ministry of Electronic & Information Technology, Government of India. Now Patients can avoid long queues at the hospital for seeking OPD appointment /registration. There are already 145 Government hospitals onboard in ORS and around 15,48,056 patients took online appointment as on May 2018. Apart from the online appointment facility, the portal also provides detail information of hospitals and departments across the country. There are also Blood Bank information and facility of accessing online medical report. This portal is a great relief to patients seeking doctor appointment particularly patients from rural India. Now any person from a village can visit to a nearby Common Service Centre (CSC) or can use mobile phone with internet connection to take online OPD appointment in any reputed Government Hospital across India.

The online registration process in ORS portal is very simple. For online doctor appointment, one needs to visit www.ors.gov.in and then click on the appointment button. First, the applicant will be verified through a
DDU-GKY Project in Assam

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Rural youth from poor families in the age group of 15 to 35 years
- MGNREGA worker household if any person from the household has completed 15 days of work,
- RSBY households
- Antyodaya Anna Yojana card households
- BPL PDS card households
- NRLM-SHG households

Outline of DDU GKY Project in Assam as on 31st March, 2018:
- Total candidates trained - 22394
- Total candidates placed - 6208
- Total candidates undergoing training - 5777
- Total active Project Implementing Agencies - 44

DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families. DDU-GKY, the placement-linked skill training scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development, is uniquely placed to empower rural poor youth with employable skills and facilitate their participation in regular labour markets.

Hands on lab. training

A batch of trainees ready for campus interview
Dipjyoti Hazarika is a resident of village named Bonai, Na Pomua, under Kaliapani Development Block, Jorhat district in the state of Assam. She belongs to a very poor family as her father a milkman is the only earning member from her house. She managed to clear her H.S. examination in the year 2015 by seeking help from her relatives. Due to financial problem she could not pursue further education.

One day she came to know about Deen Dayal Upadhyaya–Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU GKY) in a mobilization program which was conducted by ICA Edu Skills Pvt. Ltd, a Project Implementation Agency (PIA) of DDU-GKY scheme sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India. She then appeared in the field test and got selected to join “Accounting and Back office” course at “ICA Edu Skills Pvt. Ltd.”, Jorhat Centre.

She got selected as Branch Assistant at Blue Chip Company, Nagaon on 28/07/2016 in her first campus interview. She is now working in “Blue Chip”, Nagaon, as a “Branch Assistant”. She was awarded as “Top Performing Branch Assistant “for the year 2017-2018 in entire North East. With consistent good performance, her net salary for the months of April 2018 rose to Rs. 35,544/- p.m.

Khani Mohan Bramha is one among many vendors who can be seen selling their products in the 'Walking Zone', near Assam Public Service Commission’s office in Guwahati every evening. During my regular evening walks, I noticed a person cleaning the surroundings after winding up his mobile stall. He was not just cleaning the place that was littered by his customers, but also educating people to dump waste in a carton placed near his make shift shop. I stopped and observed the whole thing with curiosity. He collected waste, dumped it meticulously and loaded it in a Maruti Van parked nearby and driven it away. Next day again he was there and I didn’t want to miss the opportunity of meeting him. And of course, what I learned was truly inspiring.

Khani by training is a civil engineer who completed his diploma from Assam Engineering Institute in 1981 and joined Bramhaputra board as Junior Engineer in 1983. After serving Bramhaputra Board for more than 3 decades, he retired in the year 2014. Wife’s illness made post retirement life little difficult for Khani. As Bramhaputra Board does not have pension scheme, he was forced to search for some new sources of income. An advice from a young friend, a peanut vendor, motivated him to start this venture. Having learnt the nitty gritty of this business from his friend selling peanut, Khani started this small venture. He set up his kiosk near his friend’s shop, but all loyal customers will go to his friend’s shop.
Realising this he decided to relocate his selling point and started sitting near Science Museum, which again brought him disappointment with an average sale of just Rs 30 a day. Now he was clear that he will have to look for a better location even if it is far from his residence. A Maruti van that he purchased during his service in 1999 proved to be a great strength. Having realised the importance of location for this business, he decided to sit by the side of Khanapara overbridge near Bus Stand from 11 am onwards and then from 4.30 to 9 pm, he sells peanuts in the 'Walking Zone' near APSC. 'I can pat by back now as my first month's sale was Rs. 10,000. And you know profit margin in this business is almost 60%, 'Khani says with a feeling of great pride. His attitude that 'no work is inferior' and respect for dignity of labour is his strength. His behaviour towards his customers can be an interesting learning for the students of Customer Relationship Management (CRM). But the most striking thing about Khani is his concern for cleanliness. While serving customers, he can be seen advising customer to keep the area clean and still if some ignore his advice, he cleans the area himself before winding up his day's business. Seeing him in action a good number of young joggers and walkers also help him in this noble crusade against dirt. 'Example is better than precept', is seen in action in case of Khani. He is though happy but not satisfied with his first month's success. He is adding more products to his product line that includes bottled water and value-added products of peanuts.

Hard work, dignity of labour and excellent CRM with 'never say die' attitude are some of the strengths Khani displays in abundance. He also performs as Purohit in temples during special pujas and also known for composing and singing religious songs. This diversified approach is surely helping Khani in managing his living and taking care of his ailing wife. But more important is that Khani emerges as a role model for young generation willing to shed inhibitions of 'only white collar' jobs for livelihood (Contributor: Dr. RM Pant, Director, NERC).

### VISITORS

The following distinguished personalities visited NERC in the recent past on various occasions-

- Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam
- Shri C.K. Das, Member, North Eastern Council
- Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, Hyderabad
- Dr. Franklin Laltinkhuma, IAS, Registrar, NIRDPR, Hyderabad
- Shri Ram Muivah, IAS, Secretary, North Eastern Council, Shillong
- Shri Sujit Kr. Ghosh, Director, MAKAIAS
- Shri M.P. Bezbaruah, IAS (Retd.), Former Tourism Secretary, Govt. of India
- Shri P.K. Das, IAS (Retd.), Member, North Eastern Council
- Shri Swapnil Baruah, IAS (Retd.), Former Tourism Secretary, Govt. of Assam

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One Small Positive Thoughts in the Morning can Change the Entire Outcome of Your Day
The future of India lies in its villages.
Khadi is the sun of the village solar system.
Urbanization in India is slow but sure death for her villages and villagers.
You cannot build nonviolence on a factory civilization, but it can be built on self-contained villages.
Education should be so revolutionized as to answer the wants of the poorest villager, instead of answering those of an imperial exploiter.
An all-round village service-man has to know everybody living in the village and render them such service as he can.
Economic equality is the master-key to nonviolent independence.
visitors at NERC with a variety of static, simulated and live models in the centre. The centre shall also be useful to percolate the proven technologies to the villages and encourage to practically using these technologies with the active involvement of Rural Development functionaries, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Gram Panchayat (GPs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and primary stakeholders.

The Rural Technology Centre (RTC) was inaugurated by Dr. W.R Reddy, Director General, NIRDPR on 26th October 2018. Dr. Franklin Latinkhuma, Registrar, NIRDPR, Dr. R.M Pant, Director, NERC and Dr. K. Haloi, Professor and Head, C-GARD and all other staff of NERC were present during this memorable occasion. Members of NERC Mahila Mandali, young innovators and other stakeholders were also present. Dr Reddy interacted with all stakeholders and appreciated the role of NERC for setting up this small RTC.

**CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY**

The International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated at the NERC on 8 March 2018 in keeping with this year’s world wide theme, i.e. “Press for Progress”. The ambiance was created in Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Hall of the Institute with visual presentation of images on gender equality from beginning to the end. All the staff of NIRDPR-NERC, DDUGKY and NRLM cells attended the programme which had a lecture cum interaction session with Director, Assam Mahila Samata Society, Ms. Gita Rani Bhattacharya as the Speaker of the Day. The significance of the day was presented briefly by Chitralekha Baruah, Research Associate in the beginning. She said that the original objective of the IWD is yet to be achieved.
Dr. R.M. Pant, Director, NIRDPR-NERC in his welcome address asserted that a nation cannot proclaim itself as a developed nation, if half the population is not included in development process. We must create an enabling environment for women to grow and develop as equal partners in all spheres. Professor K. Haloi emphasised that the benefits offered to women by the state is indirectly helping the society to develop.

The Speaker Ms. Gita Rani Bhattacharya presented an elaborate note on women's present status along with global and national data. The presentation was followed by an interactive session. Before that Mr. S.K. Ghosh, Sr. CPA made an audio-visual presentation on women achievers. The event ended with a high-tea.

**INSTALLATION OF MULTI-PURPOSE PROCESSING MACHINE**

A multi-purpose fruit and herb processing machine was installed at the Rural Technology Center, NERC with the support of National Innovation Foundation (NIF). A demonstration on fruit processing and production of various value added products was given to the women of NERC by Shri Dharamveer Singh Kamboj, the innovator of the machine. Shri Dharamveer Singh, a grassroot innovator from the state of Hariyana is supported by NIF – India and GIAN - NE for value addition and business development under the Micro Venture innovation Fund (MVIF) support. NIF-India has also engaged a designer to improve the usability and aesthetics of the machine. Relying primarily on word-of-mouth, Dharamveer has sold his machine in many states of the country and also exported to Kenya. He has given employment to over 2 dozen women in the village who are engaged in producing and selling processed amla and aloe vera products made by using the multi-purpose machine.
Keeping in mind the social responsibility to enhance and spread ICT learning activities among underprivileged students, NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati planned to donate few old computers to schools/ CBOs. As a part of the programme, five sets of desktop PCs were donated to Beltola High School, Beltola, Guwahati. In a simple ceremony on 26th October 2017, Dr. WR Reddy, Director General, NIRDPR handed over the computer sets to Shri Amulya Mohan Duara, Head Master of the school. Dr. Reddy also interacted with students and teachers of the school. Dr. Franklin Latinkhuma, Registrar, NIRDPR, Dr. R.M Pant, Director, NERC and Dr. K. Haloi, Prof. and Head, C-GARD were also present during the occasion. The programme was organized by Shri S.K Ghosh, Sr. CPA and Shri Kaushik Kalita, Training Manager, NERC.

The multi-purpose processing machine is portable which works on a single phase motor and is useful in the processing of various fruits, herbs and seeds. It has features like temperature control and condensation mechanism which helps in the extraction of essence and extracts from flowers and medicinal plants. This machine is unique as it has the capacity to process a wide variety of products without damaging the seed of the fruit or vegetable. It can be used for processing mango, amla, aloe vera, tulsi, aswagandha and also flowers like rose, chameli, lavender. The multi-purpose machine is available in two models with juice extraction capacity of 50 kg/hr and 150 kg/hr. Innovation of this kind is game changer for rural communities, as it has very high potentials for income generation.
Our beloved Professor and Head of 'C-GARD', Dr. K. Haloi retired from his post on 31st March 2018 after achieving his superannuation. Dr. Haloi, an acclaimed academician and highly experienced researcher contributed immensely in the field of rural development in the north eastern region. During his 33 years of long association with the North Eastern Regional centre of NIRDPR, he played a pivotal role to take NERC to a new height. This regional centre achieved many laurels under his proactive leadership. NERC accomplished numerous training, action research, consultancy and developmental project in the north eastern part of India under his active initiatives and planning. Dr. Haloi was instrumental in establishing Centre for Geinformatic Application in Rural Development (C-GARD) at the NERC, Guwahati. He also played a key role in strengthening PRIs in north eastern region.

Dr. K. Haloi joined NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati on November 7, 1984 as Research Associate. Through unrelenting dedication and hard work, Dr. Haloi kept his professional career graph upwards and was promoted to Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor in the year 1994 and 2005 respectively. He retired as Professor and Head. He had an excellent interpersonal relationship with all staff of the institute. He was conferred 'life time achievement award' in the year 2016 by NIRDPR-NERC. NERC family fondly remembers his association with the regional centre and wishes him a great success in his future endeavours.

Shri Partha Pratim Bhattacharje has joined his duties at NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati as Assistant Professor on March 15, 2018. Prior to his joining NERC, he worked at the as Head i/c of Centre for Information & Communication Technology, NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

An Engineering graduate Mr. P.P. Bhattacharjee did his U.G. Programmes in ECE & Electrical Engineering from IEI in the year 2000 & 2007 respectively. He earned his Masters Degree(M.E.) in CSE from B.E. College, Shibpur (Now IIEST) in the year 2003.

His areas of expertise includes Analog Electronics, Embedded System and Hardware including Networking. He is also member of Institution of Engineers (India).

NIRDPR-NERC welcomes Shri P.P. Bhattacharjee to NERC family.
संस्थान में हिंदी सप्ताह का सफल आयोजन
राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायती राज संस्थान, उत्तर पूर्वी श्रेणी केन्द्र, गुवाहाटी में दिनांक 8 सितम्बर, 2017 से 14 सितम्बर, 2017 तक हिंदी सप्ताह का आयोजन उत्साहपूर्वक किया गया। इस सप्ताह के दौरान उद्योग और समापन समारोह सहित कुल 6 कार्यक्रमों का गरिमापूर्ण आयोजन किया गया। दिनांक 8 सितम्बर, 2017 को हिंदी सप्ताह का शुभारंभ, संस्थान के डॉ० पी. जे. अबुल कलाम सभापति में निदेशक डॉ० राजीव मोहन पंत व उपस्थित वरिष्ठ नेता द्वारा प्रणविकल्पन कर किया।

कार्यक्रम के दौरान मंच पर उपस्थित पदाधिकारीगण
डॉ० पंत ने अपने स्वागत भाषण में कहा कि देश में आम बोल-चाल की भाषा के रूप में हिंदी का प्रयोग काफी बढ़ रहा है, हम कह सकते हैं कि हिंदी को स्थिरता पहले की तुलना में काफी बेहतर है। देश के किसी भी क्षेत्र में जाएं तो हम पाते हैं कि हिंदी समझने वाले प्रत्येक स्थान पर मौजूद हैं। सरकारी कार्यालयों की बात करें तो सरकारी काम-काज में भी हिंदी के प्रयोग में काफी बदल हो रही है। हमारा संस्थान भी हिंदी के विकास में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ रहा है। विश्व के विभिन्न देशों में रह रहे भारतीय मूल के करोड़ों लोग जो हिंदी का बखुबी प्रयोग कर रहे हैं इसके कारण आज हिंदी विश्व में सबसे ज्यादा बोली जाने वाली भाषा है।

कार्यक्रम के अनुसार, श्री रजनीश मिश्र ने कहा कि हिंदी भ्रूण का उत्सव है, हिंदी की उपयोगिता पर चर्चा करना प्राथमिकता नहीं अपनी यह आज के समय में हमारी आवश्यकता बन गयी है। हिंदी एक सूत्र है जो अनेक संस्कृतियों को आपस में बाँधने का कार्य कर रही है। विभिन्न हिंदी फिल्मों का भी जुड़े किया जो हिंदी का प्रचार प्रसार का कार्य संभाले हुए हैं। यह भी कहा कि भाषा एक नयी की तरह अपने प्रवाह से बहेगी और यह एक सत्ता प्रक्रिया है। इसके साथ-साथ श्री मिश्र ने अर्पणाचल एवं हाफ्लोंग को हिंदी का उद्देश्य देते हुए बताया कि क्षेत्रीयता के सम्मान रखने वाले अपने सरल रचना के कारण बनी हुई है। इसके साथ, श्री मिश्र ने एन.आई.ए, अर.डी. परिवार की हिंदी के क्षेत्र में किये जा रहे कार्यों की काफी प्रशंसा भी की।

इस दौरान, कार्यक्रम आयोजक श्री दीपक कुमार, कृतित्व हिंदी अनुवादक ने उपस्थित सभी सदस्यों को हिंदी अनुवादक ने उपस्थित सभी सदस्यों को हिंदी सप्ताह के दौरान आयोजित किये जाने वाले विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं की जानकारी दी। हिंदी दिवस के दौरान संस्थान में कर्मचारियों के लिए विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं की जानकारी
दी। हिंदी दिवस के दौरान संस्थान में कर्मचारियों के लिए विभिन्न प्रकार की प्रतियोगिताओं जैसे : शुभलेखन एवं टंकण, आलेख प्रस्तुति, आशु भाषण, हिंदी प्रसंस्मृति, हिंदी सुलेख प्रतियोगिता तथा बच्चों के लिए कविता पाठ आयोजित की जाएँगी। हिंदी सपाट के प्रथम हिन शुभलेखन एवं टंकण प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें संस्थान के सभी कर्मचारियों को उपयोगी भाषाएं भाषाएं देखने को मिली। अन्य प्रतियोगिताओं में भी कार्यक्रमों को अच्छी संख्या में भाग लेने को मिली।

हिंदी सपाट का समापन समारोह कार्यक्रम का आयोजन दिनांक 14 सितंबर, 2017 को किया गया। इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि व उपलब्धित वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के द्वारा विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं के स्वरूपों को प्रमाणित, स्मृति चिन्ह एवं नकद पुरस्कार राशि से सम्मानित किया गया। कार्यक्रम के दौरान, बच्चों ने ‘हम होंगे कामयाब, हम होंगे कामयाब’ नामक गोष्ट भी प्रस्तुत किया।

अंत में, उन सभी कर्मचारियों को धन्यवाद दिया गया जिन्होंने किसी न किसी रूप में राजभाषा हिंदी सपाट के सफल आयोजन में अपना प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष रूप में मिला। संस्थान के सहायक प्रोफेसर डॉ.एम.के. श्रीवास्तव ने उपस्थित सदस्यों को धन्यवाद जानिए क्षण और आगे भी हिंदी और हिंदी कार्यक्रमों के प्रति ऐसे ही सक्रियता करने की आशा व्यक्त की।

**स्वच्छता पखवाड़ा का आयोजन**

स्वच्छता पखवाड़ा का संस्थान में आयोजन किया गया। स्वच्छता पखवाड़े के दौरान, संस्थान द्वारा विभिन्न स्थानों पर स्वच्छता से सम्बंधित कई जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गये, और कर्मचारियों को माननीय प्रशासन तथा 'संकल्प से सिद्ध योजना' के बारे में भी जानकारी भी दी गयी।
राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायती राज संस्थान, उत्तर पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र, गुवाहाटी में 69वाँ गणतंत्र दिवस के माध्यम से हर्षपूर्वक समारोह का आयोजन किया गया। गणतंत्र दिवस का महत्व से प्रकट गद्दी में निदेशक डॉ. राजीव मोहन पंत ने भाषण किया।

निदेशक महोत्सव के अंतर्गत कर्मचारियों को पुरस्कार प्रदान करते हुए
विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं का एक दृश्य

इसके साथ ही, संस्थान में प्रत्येक वर्ष की भांति इस वर्ष भी संस्थान में सर्वश्रेष्ठ कार्य प्रदर्शन के लिए कर्मचारियों को सम्मानित किया गया। जिसमें अपने कार्यकलाप में बेहतर कार्य प्रदर्शन के लिए आजीवन कार्य नियामक पुरस्कार (लाइफटाइम अवॉर्ड) के लिए श्री भवेंद्र नाथ शामी और श्री भागवत सिंह डिब्बल को सम्मानित किया गया था।

इस दौरान संस्थान द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया था जिनमें संस्थान के कर्मचारियों के बच्चों के लिए क्रमशः पेंटिंग, भाषण, मेमोरी टेस्ट, बास्केटबॉल, आशु भाषण, प्रश्नोत्तरी आदि प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया था। इसके अलावा, कर्मचारियों के महिला व पुरुष समूह के लिए अलग-अलग प्रतियोगिता बास्केटबॉल, बटनमाला का आयोजन किया गया था। इन प्रतियोगिताओं में बच्चों और कर्मचारी सदस्यों ने बड़े उत्साह के साथ भाग लिया और विजेताओं को पुरस्कार वितरित किया गया।

चिल्ड्रेन कार्यर की स्थापना

संस्थान में बच्चों के ज्ञान को बढाने के लिए संस्थान के भूमिका हजारिका पुस्तकालय में बच्चों के लिए एक चिल्ड्रेन कार्यर स्थापित किया गया। इस कोने का नाम बच्चों का कोना (चिल्ड्रेन कार्यर) रखा गया, जिसका उद्घाटन 9 दिसम्बर, 2017 को संस्थान के निदेशक डा० राजीव मोहन पंत, निदेशक, डा० के. हरोई, प्रोफेसर द्वारा किया गया। इस दौरान, संस्थान के कर्मचारी और बच्चे बड़े उत्साह के साथ उपस्थित रहे।

इस दौरान, डा० के. हरोई ने बच्चों को बताया कि आपके ज्ञान को बढाने के उद्देश्य से, इस कोने को स्थापित किया गया है और यह पुस्तकालय में आकर अधिक से अधिक ज्ञान प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। साथ ही, संस्थान के निदेशक ने बताया कि, यह किताब उनके जीवन में किस प्रकार से परिवर्तन ला सकता है, इसकी उपयोगिता के बारे में बताया, और इसके माध्यम से अधिक से अधिक ज्ञान प्राप्त कर सकते हैं, और उनकी रूचि को ध्यान में रख दिए, इस किताबों को बच्चे अपने घर ले जा सकते हैं, यह व्यवस्था भी की गयी है। चिल्ड्रेन कार्यर में 5 से 16 वर्ष के आपके बच्चों के लिए, ज्ञानवर्धक पुस्तकें-कहानियाँ, उपन्यास, बच्चों के नैतिक मूल्यों के विकास में सहायक पुस्तकें, कॉमिक्स व पत्रिकाएं उपलब्ध हैं साथ ही साथ, 5 से 9 वर्ष की आपके बच्चों के लिए रंग-विरंगी कहानियाँ, ज्ञानवर्धक पुस्तकें उपलब्ध हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त संस्थान के निदेशक द्वारा पुस्तकालय में बच्चों के लिए लगभग 66 कॉमिक्स व अन्य पुस्तकें उपलब्ध करायी गयी।

पुस्तकालय ज्ञान का भण्डार है और बच्चों में ज्ञानवृद्धि, नैतिक-मूल्यों के विकास, पुस्तकों के प्रति प्रेम व उन्हें पढ़ने की रूचि बनाने में सहायक सिद्ध होना ही पुस्तकालय का ध्येय है।
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam delivering inaugural speech in a National Seminar on 'Documenting Oral Cultural Traditions of North East' held at NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati on February 12-18, 2018.

Dr. Franklin Latinkhuma, Registrar, NIRDPR discussing infrastructure development matters with CPWD Engineers and NERC staff members.

Dr. WR Reddy, DG, NIRDPR interacting with Innovators/Entrepreneurs after inauguration of the Rural Technology Park at NERC.

Dr. R.M Pant, Director, NERC interacting with media in sidelines of the National Seminar on 'Livelihoods through Rural Tourism in North East India: The Way Forward' organized by NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati on January 6-7.

'Nukkad Natak' (Street Play) by USTM students in Beltola Market, Guwahati during 'Swachhata Abhiyan’ organized by NIRDPR-NERC.

Resource person discussing nitty-gritty of 'House Keeping' with NERC Catering Team.
## PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR JUNE 2018

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<td>ODF Sustainability and Solid Resource Management for Sanitation Professionals. June 11-15, 2018</td>
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<td>R Ramesh P SivaRam</td>
<td>SBM Staff, SWSM, WSSOs, CCDUs, PHEDs, POs, APOs, DRDs</td>
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* Above programmes may change due to exigencies.

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**NIRDPR-NERC WELCOMES CONTRIBUTION**

This Newsletter, though published by NIRDPR-NERC, would welcome news of any significant events that took place at SIRDs and States. We also request Rural Development and allied Departments/PRIs to send us any success stories/best practices from the states. Crisp write ups including important photographs may be sent. Prime focus of this quarterly Newsletter is to highlight training and research activities in the north eastern region pertaining to rural development.

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Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General
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