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and Panchayati Raj

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A Quarterly Newsletter from NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati
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NEWSLETTER

VISIT OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Rural Development, Govt. of India visited NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati during October 24-25, 2015. Dr. R.M Pant, Director, NERC received the Hon'ble minister and felicitated him with a traditional Sarai and Assamese Gamocha. The minister held a review meeting on 25th October 2015 with Dr. R.M Pant, Director of the institute and also interacted with faculties and officers. Shri Bhagat had been appraised about the present activities of the institute. He lauded NIRDPR-NERC for its role in capacity building of rural development functionaries. He also appreciated the contribution of NERC in rural development throughout the length and breadth of the north eastern region of India. Later on, the minister visited different sections of the institute including Computer Lab, CGARD, Library and provided valuable suggestions for further improvement of facilities of the institute. He appreciated the neat and clean campus of the institute.

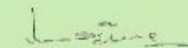
From the Desk of the Editor

By the time you receive this issue of 'Gramoday', countdown for the welcome of new year 2016 would have begun. Year 2015 is all set to become a part of history but year 2015 has been a significant year for NIRDPR-NERC. Year 2015 witnessed a galaxy of distinguished visitors visiting the Institute including Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development Shri Birender Singh ji, Minister of State Shri Sudarshan Bhagat ji, Secretary PR & DG NIRDPR Shri Vijyanand ji and host of other luminaries from different areas.

For the first time in the history of NIRDPR-NERC, NIRDPR-SIRD conclave was organized which witnessed participation from a few former Directors of NIRDPR-NERC, Directors of SIRDs of all NE states and also experts from the HQ. Training programmes, conferences, research activities and many other activities organized at NERC saw the synergetic efforts of all the members of NIRDPR family. Establishment of NRLM and DDUGKY cells has brought more vibrancy to the NERC premises.

'Nothing succeeds like success' and with the 'bars raised', NERC looks forward to a more successful and eventful year in 2016. With best wishes for the New Year 2016, I hand you this issue of 'Gramoday' with a request to give your candid feedback to us which will go a long way in improving our efforts in the direction of 'empowering Rural India'.

Happy New Year 2016.


(Dr. R.M. Pant)



Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Rural Development (extreme right) interacting with officials of NERC

COURSE ON “INTEGRATED DISTRICT PLANNING THROUGH PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS”

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts mandate to the establishment of Panchayats at the district, block and village levels clearly envisaged a reversal of the erstwhile top-down approach to district planning. The amendment empowers the PRIs to function as institutions of Local Self-Government. The Article 243G and 243W empowers the PRIs and Municipalities respectively to prepare their plans for economic development and social justice, and also to implement entrusted development programmes/schemes. While the Article 243ZD of the Indian Constitution provides for the formation of a District Planning Committee which is to consolidate the plans prepared by Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and to devise a development plan for the district as a whole.



Participants with Course Directors

In order to update the Zila Parshad Chairmen, members of District Planning Committee and Chief Executive Officers of Zila Parishad, this training programme was organized covering the various facets of Integrated District Planning through PRIs. The training programme was organized by Dr. M. K Shrivastava and Dr. R.M Pant during December 14-18, 2015 at NIRDPR-NERC.

SEMINAR ON “PROMOTION OF RURAL MICRO-ENTERPRISES: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES”

A two-day National Seminar on Promotion of Rural Micro-enterprises: Prospects and Challenges was held at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati during December 7-8, 2015. The two-day seminar which saw the participation of 70-80 dignitaries on a day brought together academicians, heads of organizations, development professionals and practitioners on a common platform to deliver, share and discuss the scope and challenges of promoting rural micro-enterprises across the country.



A section of scholars during Inaugural session



A scholar Presenting her paper during a technical session

The inaugural session of the seminar was graced by the presence of Shri C.K. Das, Hon'ble Member, NEC as the Chief Guest and Dr. K.I. Meetei, Director, Institute of Cooperative Management as the Guest of Honour. Forty one (41) papers were presented in the seminar over seven technical sessions. Chaired by eminent personalities, the sessions led to deliberations upon various important issues related to the micro-enterprise sector, especially the aspects highlighted by the presentations by the institutions and agencies like NERAMAC, CIFRI, NFDB etc. Besides, four invited lectures were delivered by Dr. D.D. Mali, Former Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, Dr. B.G. Unni, Director, Research, Assam Down Town University, Guwahati, Professor A.N.S Ahmed, Former Director, OKD Institute of Social Change and Development and Visiting Professor, IIT-G and Shri Manoj Das, Director, IIE, Guwahati on different subjects related to the theme of the Seminar.

OFF CAMPUS COURSE ON “SOCIAL AUDIT IN MGNREGS”

Taking lessons from the experience of the past, Government of India introduced the concept of social audit as a mandatory component in the world largest employment guarantee programme known as MGNREGA. To make Social Audit operational and effective the Govt. of India has notified the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Audit Schemes Rules, 2011. Underlining the present state of Social Audit in the states of North East region, as part of follow- up capacity building measure, this training programme was conducted by Dr. M K Shrivastava and Dr. R.M Pant at SIRD Nagaland from October 26-30, 2015.



A public meeting after Social Audit is being held at Kigwema Village

The training was attended by 51 participants from Social Audit Unit and Block Development officers, Nagaland. A two day hands-on training in the village's Kigwema and Viswema was also provided to the participants.

COURSE ON “LOW COST RURAL HOUSING TECHNOLOGIES UNDER IAY”

Housing is a basic need which is critical for determining the quality of human life. A roof over the head endows a shelter less person with an essential asset and improves his physical and mental wellbeing. This needs to be met on a priority basis. As per 2001 census, the housing shortage in the rural areas is about 148 lakhs. Of which 14-15 lakhs houses are being constructed every year whereas the annual requirement is about 40 lakh. The shortage of rural housing as per the working group of the 12th Five Year Plan is 43.67 million; of which 90% happened for BPL families. In pursuance of the set goals of government, an Action Plan for Rural Housing for construction of houses in rural areas has been prepared in consultation with the Planning Commission (Now NITI Ayog).



Participants with the Director and Course Directors

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is one of the ambitious schemes which fulfils critical gap of anti-poverty programme by creating assets of social safety net. IAY includes the strategy of cost effective, energy efficient and environmental friendly housing units under the scheme but climatic conditions, physical comfort or minimum space requirement, functional utility, safety, durability, resistance against natural calamities and material costs among others are some of the challenges for the progress of the scheme. In light of this, a course on the above subject was conducted jointly by Mr. A. Simhachalam, Dr. N.S.R Prasad & Dr. K. Haloi at NERC during September 14–18, 2015. The following objectives were set to be achieved during the course-

- To acquaint participants with salient features of IAY.
- To sensitize participants on cost effective, energy efficient and eco-friendly housing technologies; and use of Geo-spatial technologies in IAY
- To apprise participants about the role of various institutions engaged in promoting, disseminating and transferring cost effective housing technology



Participants interacting with IAY beneficiaries at a village under Bankakata GP, Kamrup (R) district, Assam

Altogether 33 participants attended the programme from rural development department of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Meghalaya, of which 30 were male and 3 females. There were intense classroom deliberation and discussion during the course which included topics like selection process of the needy families and the additional resources, including availability of basic facilities in and around the housing units; Role of local Govt at the village level; Institutional Linkages; Technology Options in Cost-effective Buildings; Use of Geo-spatial technologies in IAY, Monitoring process and evaluation strategy, Low cost housing in Disaster prone areas, Best Practices in Low Cost Technology. For a better understanding and assessment of IAY implementation, a field trip was organized and participants were taken to a village under Bankakata GP, Kamrup (R) district, Assam during which they interacted with some beneficiaries, officials and other stakeholders of IAY scheme.

COURSE ON “STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTION OF RURAL MICRO-ENTERPRISES”

The importance of micro enterprises in contributing to job creation and inclusive growth is widely acknowledged. To create new employment opportunities outside the agricultural sector in local and rural areas, the development of micro enterprises that utilize local resources is considered effective. However, local and rural areas very often than not lack know-how regarding the use of local resources, market information, developing products, sales forces, and human resources. Micro-enterprise promotion in the rural areas, therefore, aims at building the innate capabilities of the poor, and complement them with capacities like information, knowledge, skills, tools, finance and collectivization to deal with the rapidly changing external world.



Participants gathering idea on Bee Keeping at RRTC, Meghalaya



An interactive session at RRTC, Meghalaya

In order to enable pro-active delivery of the requisite inputs, the dedicated rural development professionals need orientation and learning about the various aspects of micro-enterprise promotion. Keeping this in view, a five-day Training Programme on Strategies for Promotion of Rural Micro-enterprises was organised for capacity building of the rural development functionaries from across all the eight states of North East India on different aspects, approaches and strategies for promoting the micro-enterprises. A total of 22 participants from Assam, Manipur and Sikkim attended this course conducted by Dr. Ratna Bhuyan at NERC during November 2-6, 2015. A day-long field visit was organised for the trainees to the Rural Resource and Training Centre (RRTC), Meghalaya.

COURSE ON “COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING ON IWMP PROJECT MANAGEMENT”

Realizing the importance emphasized in the common guidelines, 2008/11 for Watershed Development Project, the SLNA Assam entrusted NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati in the task of building capacity of the officers/ functionaries involved in planning and implementation of the IWMP projects. Comprehensive understanding of IWMP Projects Management being one of the essential requirements of the project staffs engaged directly under different projects, a training on the above subject was conducted at NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati during August 26-September 10, 2015. The training had the following objectives-

- Orientation with the Common Guidelines, 2008/11, watershed concept, delineation and analysis
- Develop application skill of the tools and techniques of social mobilization, institution building, planning tools covering GIS, GPS, PRA and household survey
- Develop planning skill for preparation of DPR
- Orientation with the application of ICT and MIS
- Orientation with the maintenance of accounts and Monitoring and Evaluation

The course was conducted by Dr. K. Haloi and Mr. A.Simhachalam. Altogether 13 participants attended the



PRA Exercise during field visit, Morigaon District, Assam

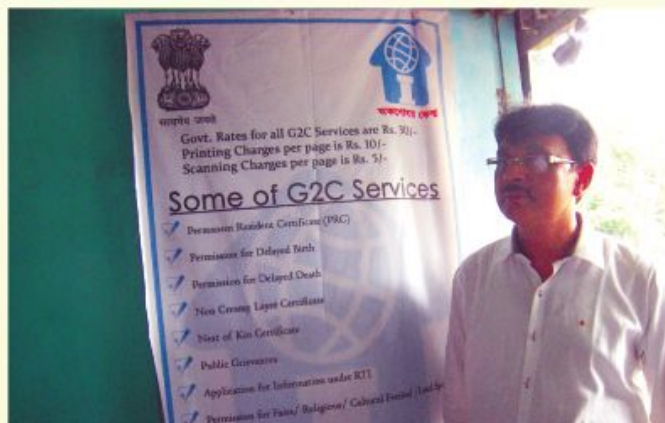
programme from SLNA, Assam, of which 10 were male and 3 females. There was one day field visits on September 2, 2015. The course has been sponsored by SLNA, IWMP, Assam.

COURSE ON “ICT APPLICATIONS FOR e-GOVERNANCE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT”

The Information & Communication Technology (ICT) has now emerged as a very important tool for management in the developmental paradigm. e-Governance initiatives by Central and state Governments can help citizens to receive services through fast, efficient and transparent means. A host of government services can be made available to all sections of citizens to their doorstep on e-governance platform. The Government of India is now embarking on e-Governance through “Digital India” initiatives. The vast majority of India's population lives in the villages and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) represent the face of the governance for these villages. To improve the quality of governance of these PRIs, Government of India has been implementing e-Panchayat mission mode project (MMP). For e-Governance to happen in RD sectors, it is an utmost priority to upgrade ICT infrastructure, skill enhancement and management procedural re-engineering involving RD/PRI functionaries.



Participants during visit to a common Service centre (CSC) at Amranga near Mirza, Kamrup (rural) district Assam



In light of the above, a training programme on “ICT Applications for e-Governance in Rural Development” was organized at NERC during August 24-28, 2015 by Shri S.K Ghosh from NERC. Altogether 20 officials representing rural development and other linked department from N.E states participated in the course. The programme aimed at developing understanding about the applications of ICT in RD sector, appreciate the concept e-Governance, acquaint with the infrastructure backbone and components of NeGP, understand the prospects of e-panchayat, develop appreciation about the technical aspect of e-commerce, e-transactions and pillars of 'Digital India'. To understand the status of e-governance infrastructure facilities and services available under e-

Governance in rural areas, participants were taken for field visit to a common service centre (CSC) located at Amranaga near Mirza, Kamrup (rural) district of Assam. Participant interacted with a village level entrepreneur (VLE) who is running the CSC for providing Government (G2C) and Private (B2C) services to the public of the area. Participants gathered valuable information through this field visit exercise.

COURSE ON “VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS FOR PROMOTION OF RURAL LIVELIHOODS”

The value chain approach to economic development and poverty reduction involves addressing the major constraints and capitalizing on the opportunities at multiple levels and points along a given value chain comprising of a wide range of activities such as ensuring access to cheaper or better inputs, strengthening the delivery of business and financial services, enabling the flow of information, facilitating improved market access, or increasing access to higher-value markets or value-added products. A value chain links the stages of production of a product from the farmer to the consumer or from the manufacturer/ producer to the consumer be it in agriculture, dairying/livestock, fisheries, forestry or other non-farm sectors. It is in this context that a five day Training Programme on 'Value Chain Analysis for Promotion of Rural Livelihoods' was organised in the premises of the Institute from August 31-September 4, 2015. The programme aimed at developing appreciation on the basic concept of sustainable rural livelihoods and value chain analysis and gaining insights into sector specific value chain strategies for up-scaling potential value chains for promotion of rural livelihoods.



Field visit to Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre, Byrnihat, Meghalaya



Participants getting glimpse of organic manure production at RRTC, Meghalaya

A total of 24 participants from the Assam and Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission attended the Training Programme. The course was conceptualized and conducted by Dr. Ratna Bhuyan, Assaistant Professor, NIRDPR-NERC. Besides the in-house Faculty from NIRDPR-NERC, resource persons from various Government and non-Government organizations like the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, National Fisheries Development Board Regional Centre, Guwahati, Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre, Byrnihat, Meghalaya, MIND INDIA, Guwahati etc. took the technical sessions of the Programme. During the training programme, a day-long field visit was organised for the trainees to the Rural Resource and Training Centre (RRTC) and Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Meghalaya. Overall, the training programme could disseminate among the officials understanding on the concept of value chain and its importance in contributing towards rural livelihoods promotion.

OFF CAMPUS COURSE ON “MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR RD FUNCTIONARIES”

Government of India has initiated number of ambitious schemes (MGNREGA, IAY, NRLM, SAGY, SBM etc.) which call for effective management. Success of these schemes depend on the efficient management of the implementing departments/institutions. Management interventions like Planning, better organizing,

Motivational interventions, Change Management, Stress and conflict management, attitudinal change interventions etc. are needed to negotiate the ever changing environment in Rural Sector.



Participants with the course Directors at SIRD, Arunachal Pradesh

In this background two five days training programmes were organized on various aspects of Management Development for Rural Development Functionaries and elected representatives at SIRD, Arunachal Pradesh during June 22-26, 2015 and SIRD Mizoram during August 17-21, 2015, attended by 26 & 23 participants respectively. The training programmes was conducted by Dr. R. M. Pant and Dr. M. K. Shrivastava.

ToT COURSE ON “VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING UNDER SAGY”

The Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana aims to empower the villagers to make choices and provide them with opportunities to exercise those choices. The Yojana, envisions that Hon'ble Members of Parliaments (MPs) will adopt three village each by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024 for the development of socio-economic and physical infrastructure. A total of 6,433 Adarsh Grams, of the 2, 65,000 gram panchayats, will be created by the year 2024.



PRA Exercise during field visit under Tamulpur Dev. Block



Participants and the course director with BDO, Tamulpur Dev. Block

The preparation of village development plan however, is a technical job involving application of systematic methods, steps and approaches. Integration of people's participation in the application of scientific planning is still another desire in the preparation of a comprehensive village development plan under SAGY. These necessitate acquainting and learning with the scientific planning methods and approaches by delivery agencies. In this context, the North Eastern Regional Centre (NERC) of NIRDPR has conducted (02) two ToT programmes during June 29-July 3, 2015 and July 20 - 24, 2015 respectively for sharing of scientific planning methods towards preparation of Village Development Plan with following objectives -

- To sensitize and orient the charge officers on the key features of SAGY
- To develop appreciation about the concept of preparation of Village Development Plan.
- To acquaint with the tools and techniques related to preparation of Village Development Plan under SAGY
- To expose the participants with field work for preparation of Village Development Plan.

The first programme conducted by Dr. K. Haloi and Dr. N.S.R. Prasad was attended by 15 participants from Assam while the second programme conducted by Dr. K. Haloi, A. Simhachalam was attended by 21 participants from NE region and Bihar. The methodology adopted in the programme was lecture-cum-discussion, group discussions, case studies and field practices. To understand the initiative and progress of the programme at the ground, participants of the first programme were taken to an adopted village called Nongbah Myrdon, Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya. The village has been adopted by the Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha) Shri K.T.S Tulsi. The Participants of second course visited a village under Tamulpur Block of Baksa district, Assam and conducted a PRA exercise in the village.

RESEARCH STUDIES COMPLETED DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2015

Sl. No.	Name of the Research Projects	Date of Initiation	Date of Completion	Project Director	Sponsoring Agency	Amount sanctioned (Rs. In lakh)
1	Evaluation of Consolidation Phase activities of 22 IWMP projects, Nagaland	Aug. 2014	August, 2015	Dr. K. Haloi	SLNA, IWMP, Nagaland	11.00
2	Evaluation of 46 IWMP PPRs of Batch-VII (2015-16), Assam	March, 2015	July, 2015	Dr. K. Haloi	SLNA, IWMP, Assam	3.542
3	Evaluation of 50 IMWP DPRs of Batch-IV (2012-13), Assam	March, 2015	August, 2015	Dr. K. Haloi	SLNA, IWMP, Assam	3.85

CASE STUDY

The following two case studies have been completed during August-September 2015:

Sl. No.	Title of Case Study	Submitted date	Case Study Team
1	Success Story of Cleanest Village of Asia: A Study of Mawlynnong Village in Meghalaya	August 2015	Dr. R. M. Pant Dr. M. K. Shrivastava
2	Own Source Revenue Generation: A case study of 62 No. Khetri Gram Panchayat, Kamrup (M) district, Assam	September 2015	Dr. K. Haloi A. Simhachalam

VISIT OF SLOs TO STATE INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SIRDs)

The faculties of NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati who are also the State Link Officer (SLO) for State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), visited respective SIRDs under their charge to understand GAP Assessment, review of Action Taken Report and to facilitate the SIRD's training and related activities. They have also discussed with SIRD officials matter related to training programmes, research studies and documentation like, increase in the number of training programmes for RD& PR target groups and also deliberate upon the follow-up actions consequent upon decisions taken in the 28th Colloquium of SIRDs held at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad in June, 2015.



A view of SIRD, Nagaland



Dr. M. K. Shrivastava, SLO discussing activities of BIPARD at Patna with Smt Smita Sinha, Assistant Director

Besides, discussions were held on issues related to the duties and responsibilities of the State Link Officers (SLOs) and future course of action in this regard.

The SLOs of the regional center visited their respective SIRDs as per following schedule:

Sl. No	Name of the SLO	SIRD Visited	Date of Visit
1	Dr. M.K Shrivastava	BIPARD, Bihar	September 7-9, 2015
2	Dr. Ratna Bhuyan	SIRD, Nagaland	September 10-11, 2015
3	Dr. R.M Pant	SIRD, Uttarakhand	September 11-12, 2015
4	Dr. K. Haloi	SIRD, Assam	September 2 & 8, 2015
5	Dr. N.S.R Prasad	SIRD, Sikkim	September 14, 2015

STRAWBERRY VILLAGE SOHLIYA

Sohliya a small hamlet in Ri-Bhoi district of East Khasi Hills, is endowed with the immense generosity of Mother Nature. In the midst of dense forest, perennial water streams, ponds and a very fertile slopes, it catches the eyes of a nature lover. A visit to Sohliya will reflect the synergetic efforts of Government Departments (Tourism, RD) and people of the village in the development of this village. Tourists are received at the 'Reception point' which also has a big dormitory for tourists with conference hall and other facilities. As you penetrate deeper in to the woods, winding hilly track takes you through tea gardens, agricultural fields and 'Strawberry plantation'. Schools and Guest Houses are developed slightly away from the existing road deliberately, so that government departments can be convinced easily to expand road network to other parts of the village. 'We want to develop this place as an eco-tourism destination', quips Mr. Laloo, a man with international exposure and eco-tourism promoter. He quickly adds 'with three main principles i.e. Conservation and preservation of environment, livelihood promotion and third a sustainable development model for the village'.

'We encourage tourists not to litter the place and also teach them about trees and plants present in the forest. There are more than 100 species of birds that have been identified in the village. Sohliya is also a home to a large number of moths and butterflies. The village offers a 7 km mountain bike track and also offers good environment for rock climbing, rappelling and other adventure activities.' Laloo continues enthusiastically. But we are mainly promoting it a 'Strawberry Village'. Strawberry production is growing year by year which is proving to be Sohliya's USP. Village has two sets of guest houses which sync well with the natural settings of Sohliya. Guest houses offer modern facilities with very neat and clean ambience. A restaurant is already operational which boasts of a Chef Malin with international exposure and other staff drawn from nearby village who also have good



Sohliya & Rtiang: Strawberry Village of Meghalaya



Strawberry Plantation in Sohliya

experience in hospitality. Product of the village is purely organic. With attractions such as Tree tops, Mountain biking, trekking, angling, Sohliya is gearing up to be another success story being scripted in this tiny village in the east Khasi hills of Meghalaya.

Contributed By: Dr. R.M.Pant

COMMON SERVICE CENTRE (CSC): A CHANGE AGENT FOR RURAL MASSES

Common Service Center (CSC) is an information and communication technology access point created under the National e-Governance Plan of the Indian Government. Already over 100,000 CSCs throughout the country have been established by the Government. The purpose of the project is to provide much-needed information and services to underserved citizens in the rural areas of the country. A CSC is essentially small computer center with personal computers, internet connection and other electronic equipment. Through computer and Internet access, the CSCs provide services to citizen related to e-Governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment among others at a very nominal fee. A host of Government services (G2C) like PAN Card, Aadhar, Election, Passport, Birth Certificate, Railway Ticketing and private services (B2C) like Mobile recharge and bill payment, DTH recharge, Money transfer, Form Download, Online Job Apply, Online Apply for Entrance Tests, Insurance premium are being made available to people living in rural areas. The CSCs are proving to be the much needed respite for the poor people in getting quality and time bound services in a very transparent and cost saving manner. A CSC is run by a village level entrepreneur (VLE) selected from the area where CSC is established. In near future, CSCs are going to play much more roles under the Govt. of India's ambitious "Digital India" Programme. The service portal for CSC is <http://www.apna.csc.gov.in>.



Interaction with the VLE (extreme right) during visit to a CSC near Mirza, Kamrup (R) District, Assam

CSC 2.0 (ONE PANCHAYAT ONE CSC) has been formulated in pursuance of the Government's commitment to set up CSCs in all 2.5 lakhs Gram Panchayats to provide public e-services to citizens in rural areas under the Digital India Programme. This would also include strengthening and integrating the existing one lakh CSCs already operational under the existing CSC Scheme and making operational an additional 1.5 lakhs CSCs at Gram Panchayats (preferably at GP premises). This entrepreneurship model is essentially a service delivery oriented model with an effort towards optimum utilization of infrastructure already created in the form of SWAN, SSDG, e-District, SDC and other ICT infrastructures, including NOFN/BharatNet. It is envisaged as a service/transaction oriented model with a large bouquet of services made available for the citizens.

Contributed By: S.K Ghosh
(Source: www.csc.gov.in)

VISITORS

The following distinguished personalities visited NERC in the recent past for various activities-

- Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Rural Development, Govt. of India
- Shri S.M. Vijayanand, IAS, Secretary, MoPR, Gol & i/c Director General, NIRDPR
- Smt. Rashmi Shukla Sharma, Additional Secretary, MoPR, Gol
- Smti. Sarada Muraleedharan, Joint Secretary, MoPR, Gol
- Shri P.P Dhyani, Director, G.B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Uttarakhand
- Dr. B.G. Unni, Director, Research, Assam Down Town University, Guwahati,
- Professor A.N.S. Ahmed, Former Director, OKD Institute of Social Change and Development
- Shri Manoj Das, Director, IIE, Guwahati
- Shri C.K. Das, Hon'ble Member, North Eastern Council, Shillong
- Dr. K.I. Meetei, Director, Institute of Cooperative Management
- Dr. P.M Padmamaban, Visiting Professor, IIM, Indore
- Shri Ravi Babu, CEO, DDU-GKY, NIRDPR, Hyderabad
- Shri H.N Das, IAS (retd.), Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam

POSITIVE THOUGHTS

- *The mind is everything. What you think you become.*
-Lord Buddha
- *You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.*
-Christopher Columbus
- *There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.*
-Aristotle
- *Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions.*
-Dalai Lama
- *A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.*
-Albert Einstein
- *We come nearest to the great when we are great in humility.*
-Rabindranath Tagore



Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Rural Development, Govt. of India being felicitated by Dr. R.M Pant, Director, NERC at NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati on October 25, 2015 during his maiden visit to the regional Centre of NIRDPR.

असम के साहित्यिक वैभव



स्वर्गीय श्रीमती नलनी बालादेवी भारतीय असमीया साहित्य के एक प्रबुद्ध लेखिका रही हैं उनका जन्म २३ मार्च, १८९८ को बरपेटा असम में हुआ था। इन के पिता कर्मवीर स्वर्गीय श्री नबीन चन्द्र बरदोलई भारतीय स्वतंत्रता सेनानी एवं असमीया साहित्य के प्रमुख लेखक थे। श्रीमती नलनी बाला की शादी १२ वर्ष की उम्र में श्रीलीवेश्वर संगकाकोति के साथ हुई पर, उनका वैवाहिक जीवन ज्यादा दिनों तक नहीं चल सका। उनके पति देहांत जल्द ही हो गया तथा उनके दो पुत्रों का भी देहांत जल्दी ही हो गया। इनकी पहली कविता अपने पिता को समर्पित थी “पिता एट एज १०”। इन दुखद घटनाओंके पश्चात

इनकी लेखनी प्रखर हो गयी। इनकी कविताओं में उस दुखद त्रासदी स्पष्ट रूप से परिलक्षित है। इनकी प्रथम काव्य संग्रह संध्यार सूर सन १९२८ में प्रकाशित हुआ, जिसे कलकता विश्व विद्यालय ने सन १९४६ में एवं गौहाटी विश्व विद्यालय ने सन १९५१ में अपने पाठ्य क्रम में स्थान दिया।

इनकी कुछ प्रमुख कृतिया इस प्रकार हैं :

संध्यार सूर

२-सवपनारसूर

३-स्मृतिर तीर्थ

४- पारसमणी

५- आगृति

६- अलकनंदा

इन्हे सन १९६८ में अलकनंदा काव्य संग्रह पर साहित्य अकादमी पुरस्कार प्राप्त हुआ एवं भारत सरकार ने इन्हे सन १९५७ में पद्मश्री पुरस्कार से नवाजा। १९५५ में जोरहट में हुए २३ वें असम साहित्य सभा की वे अध्यक्ष रही। दिनांक २४ दिसम्बर १९७७ को इनका देहांत हो गया। इनके देहांत से असमीया साहित्य ने अपनी अमूल्य धरोहर को खो दिया। सन १९८६ में कॉटन कॉलेज ने अपने महिला छात्रावास का नाम इनके नाम पर - पद्मश्री नलनी बाला देवी महिला छात्रावास रखा। हम सभी साहित्य प्रेमी इन्हे शत-शत नमन करते हैं।

हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायतीराज संस्थान, उत्तर पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र गुवाहाटी में दिनांक २१-२२ अगस्त २०१५ को हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया कार्यक्रम का आरम्भ राष्ट्रीय गान से हुआ जिसमें यहाँ के महिला कर्मचारी सुश्री अरिफा बेगम, श्रीमती रजिता शर्मा एवं श्रीमती प्रतिभा हालोई सईकिया ने भाग लिया। कार्यशाला का उदघाटन डॉ. बी. के. सिंह उपनिदेशक राज भाषा विभाग (कार्यालय), भारत सरकार, डॉ. राजीव मोहन पंत, संस्थान के निदेशक एवं संस्थान के मुख्यालय से आर्यी श्रीमती अनिता पाण्डेय, सहायक निदेशक (राजभाषा) के द्वारा दीप प्रज्वलित कर के हुआ। डॉ. बी. के. सिंह ने अपने उदघाटन वक्तव्य में इस संस्थान के राजभाषा

के कार्यों की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि यहां कर्मचारियों की संख्या कम रहते हुए भी उनकी लगन से राजभाषा का कार्य बहुत ही सुखद एवं संतोषजनक है और राजभाषा के प्रगति पर संतोष जाहिर किया। संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ. राजीव मोहन पंत ने कर्मचारियों से यह अपील की के वे अपने फाइलों एवं पत्रों में अधिक से अधिक हिन्दी का प्रयोग करें अगर उन्हें कोई कठिनाई हो तो वे अपने हिन्दी कक्ष से परामर्श लें ताकि उन्हें किसी भी तरह का कठिनाईयों का सामना न करना पड़े। कार्यशाला के अगले सत्र में कार्यालय में प्रयुक्त होनेवाले हिन्दी मानक शब्दों के प्रयोग पर श्रीमती अनिता पाण्डेय ने व्यवहारिक रूप से सभी प्रतिभागियों को इसका अभ्यास कराया एवं श्री मोहन कोइराला



राजभाषा अधिकारी ब्रह्मपुत्रा बोर्ड ने टिप्पणियों के प्रयोग पर सहज ढंग से अपनी अभिव्यक्ति देने हुए सभी प्रतिभागियों को हिन्दी टिप्पणी लेखन का अभ्यास कराया। कार्यशाला में संस्थान के सभी संकाय सदस्य, अधिकारी एवं कर्मचारियों ने भाग लिया। कार्यशाला के समापन समारोह में संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ राजीव मोहन पंत ने सभी

प्रतिभागियों को प्रमाण पत्र देते हुए कहा कि राजभाषा विभाग भारत सरकार के जो मानदण्ड हैं हमें उससे भी ऊपर पहुंचना हैं, इसके लिए जो भी संसाधनों की आवश्यकता होगी उसे पूरा किया जायेगा। इस पूरे कार्यशाला का संचालन संस्थान में कार्यरत हिन्दी अनुवादक श्री केशव शरण ने पूरी तन्मयता एवं लगन से किया।

हिन्दी सप्ताह समारोह सम्पन्न :

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायतीराज संस्थान में दिनांक १६ से २३ सितम्बर २०१५ तक हिन्दी सप्ताह मनाया गया १६ सितम्बर को राष्ट्रीय गान एवं संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ राजीव मोहन पंत के कर

कमलों से दीप प्रज्वलित कर हिन्दी सप्ताह का आरंभ हुआ। इस हिन्दी सप्ताह में संस्थान के अधिकारियों के लिए हिन्दी की चार प्रतियोगिताओं का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें हिन्दी निबंध, हिन्दी



श्रुतिलेखन, हिन्दी आशु भाषण एवं हिन्दी प्रश्न मंच प्रतियोगिताओं में संस्थान के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों ने बढ चढ कर भाग लिया। दिनांक २३ सितम्बर को २०१५ इस समारोह का समापन एवं पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह किया गया। इसमें प्रतियोगिता में विजयी प्रतियोगियों को पुरस्कार दिये गये। इस समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में श्री

संस्थान में हो रही प्रगति पर संतोष व्यक्त किया और कहा कि उनका संबंध इस संस्थान से विगत १५ वर्षों से हैं और हिन्दी के कार्यों में संस्थान ने काफी प्रगति की है। संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ राजीव मोहन पंत ने श्री रंजित सिंह एवं श्री मोहन कोइराला को धन्यवाद देते हुए कहा कि यह सच है कि संस्थान हिन्दी के कार्यों में अपनी प्रगति पर है।



रंजीत सिंह, वरिष्ठ संकाय सदस्य, भारतीय उदयमिता संस्थान एवं विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में श्री मोहन कोइराला, राजभाषा अधिकारी ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड ने भाग लिया।

सभी प्रतियोगिताओं में विजयी उम्मीदावारों को मुख्य अतिथि श्री रंजीत सिंह, संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ राजीव मोहन पंत एवं श्री मोहन कोइराला, राजभाषा अधिकारी ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड के कर कमलों द्वारा पुरस्कार प्रदान किये गये।

अपने संक्षिप्त उद्गार में श्री रंजित सिंह ने संस्थान में हिन्दी में हो रही कार्यों की सराहना की एवं श्री मोहन कोइराला ने अपने वक्तव्य में इस

उन्होंने प्रतियोगिता में पुरस्कार प्राप्त प्रतियोगियों की सराहना करते हुए उन्हें और आगे बढ़ने की सलाह दी एवं यह आवाहन किया कि कार्यालय कार्य में हिन्दी को और आगे बढ़ाएं। इसके लिए जो भी आवश्यकता होगी उसे संस्थान अवश्य पूरा करेगा। श्रीमती चित्रलेखा बरुआ नें सभी का धन्यवाद ग्यापन किया। इस पूरे समारोह का संचालन संस्थान के हिन्दी अनुवादक श्री केशव शरण ने पूरी लगन एवं तन्मयता से किया। समारोह का समापन समवेत सवर में राष्ट्रीय गान के साथ सम्पन्न हुआ।

प्रस्तुति: श्री केशव शरण

CAMPUS NEWS

LIBRARIANS' DAY

Librarians' day was celebrated on August 12, 2015 to pay a tribute to the father of library and information science Dr. S.R Ranganathan at NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati. A formal meeting was called on this occasion to discuss about various issues related to the library. The meeting was initiated by Mrs. Pushpanjali Deka, Assistant Librarian of NIRDPR-NERC. She explained the significance of the librarians' day and the immense contributions of Dr. S.R Ranganathan towards the development of library and information science in our country. Dr. Kanak Haloi, Associate Professor who is also the Chairman of the library committee of NERC spoke on different aspects of the library. All the officers, faculties and staff of the institute attended the meeting and expressed their views, feedbacks and innovative ideas for betterment of the library. The programme was highly appreciated by one and all and it was decided that the same be celebrated every year



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The 69th Independence Day of India was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fanfare at NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati with a day long programme. At 7.30 am National Tricolour was hoisted by Dr. R.M Pant, Director followed by singing of 'National Anthem'. Staff members with families were present during flag hoisting ceremony. Later on a number of games and sports under various categories like Gents, Ladies, and Children in three group were organized to mark the day in grand manner. A painting competitions for children with patriotic theme was held on the day. Games like music ball, bottle hitting & tumbling generated huge interest among the competitors. Recitation of patriotic poetry, speeches on Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam and Adarsh Gram among school going children were also held. The celebration ended with lunch and distribution of prizes to the winners of various competitions. Later in the evening, a patriotic film in APJ Addul Kalam Hall for all staff and their family members was organized.



GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATION

Commemorating 146th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated at the campus of NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati on 2nd October 2015 along with rest of the world. Office staff and campus dwellers including women and children enthusiastically participated in the programme. The programme started at 10.30 AM with the garlanding of the Statue of Mahatma Gandhi by Dr. R.M Pant, Director, NERC. Staff and their family members also paid floral tribute to Bapu. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. R.M Pant



elaborated the role of Mahatma Gandhi in Independence Movement of India. He also highlighted the relevance of the Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi in present society. Dr. R. M Pant also emphasized the importance of cleanliness and hygienic environment which was one of the important thoughts of Gandhiji. Since 2nd October is also being celebrated as 'Commemorating Day' for 'Swacch Bharat Mission', a 'Cleanliness Pledge' was taken by the everyone present in the gathering to keep the NIRDPR-NERC campus neat and clean all the time and making cleanliness an individual habit. The programme was concluded with the singing of national anthem followed by a light refreshment.

REMEMBERING LATE Dr. BHUPEN HAZARIKA

Late Dr. Bhupen Hazarika (1926-2011) was an Indian lyricist, musician, singer, poet and film-maker from Assam. He was a legendary music maestro renowned for his unique voice and ability to sing in different languages. His songs were mostly dedicated to universal brotherhood and humanity. Hazarika was born on 8 September 1926 to Nilakanta and Shantipriya Hazarika in Sadiya, under undivided Dibrugarh District of Assam. He received the National Film Award for Best Music Direction in 1975. An Alumni of Tezpur High School, Cotton College and Banaras Hindu University, Dr. Hazarika won a scholarship from Columbia University and then went for New York in 1949 where he earned a PhD (1952) on his thesis "Proposals for Preparing India's Basic Education to use Audio-Visual Techniques in Adult Education". Recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1987), Padmashri (1997), and Padmabhushan (2001), Dr. Hazarika was awarded with Dada Saheb Phalke Award (1992), India's highest award in cinema, by the Government of India. He also received Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (2008), the highest award of the Sangeet Natak Akademi. He was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 2012. Hazarika also held the position of the Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi from December 1998 to December 2003. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika left for the heavenly adobe on 5th November 2011.



In remembrance to this legendary son of the nation on his 4th death anniversary, a programme was organized on 5th November 2015 at the entrance of the administrative building of the institute. Dr. R.M Pant, Director and other staff of NIRDPR-NERC family paid floral tribute to the cultural icon of Assam. Speaking on the occasion Dr. R.M Pant urged the gathering to follow the ideals of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika and to propagate his message of love and universal brotherhood among the fellow citizens through cultural exchanges. As a mark of honour, it has been decided to name the library of the institute as Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Granthalaya.

VISIT OF USTM STUDENTS

A group of 30 students from The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) visited NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati on 26th November 2015 for exposure visit to understand the functioning of NIRDPR and its role in rural development in the North Eastern Region of India. The students were led by two faculties viz. Dr. Polakshi B. Baruah and Mr. Rupam Roy and they represented the Department of Business Administration, Department of Commerce and the Department of Economics of the University. The students had an interactive session with the



Faculties and officers of the institute. Welcoming the students, Dr. R.M Pant, Director, NERC said that the young minds are the huge asset for the country and urged them to play a big role for making India a developed country. Dr. K. Haloi, Associate professor explained the Training and research activities of the institute. Shri S.K Ghosh, Sr. CPA highlighted the role of ICT in rural and social development sectors. He also explained few evolving features of the prevailing technology driven business environment and the impact of e-commerce and e-Governance in the day-today life of different sections of citizen of the country. The visit was facilitated by Shri Kaushik Kalita, Training manager from NERC.

RENAMING OF CONFERENCE HALLS

In remembrance to the great souls of India, the three Conference Halls of the Institute have been renamed recently after the name of three great personalities of the country. The renaming had been done as follows:

SL. No.	OLD NAME	NEW NAME
1	Conference Hall -I	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Hall
2	Conference Hall-II	Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Hall
3	Conference Hall-III	Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Hall



A seminar session at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Hall

ESTABLISHMENT OF NRLM RESOURCE CELL

National Rural livelihood mission with its journey of more than 4 years since inception move to all the state of the country. With State who has successfully incepted the mission along with the nation are on its way to witness changes. Whereas there are states, that are on recent transition from SGSY to NRLM and are yet to witness the success of the mission. Looking towards the north-eastern part of the country with its diversity, apart from the country's diverse history, northeast have many factors that should be looked upon. Based on the context of northeast, the ministry of Rural Development has come up with a Northeast NRLM resource cell, especially to cater the need of the north-eastern states, to help in



handholding process with certain technical support for each state requirement. The resource is established at NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati with current strength of 6 staff including one Deputy Project Director, two Mission Managers and two NRLM fellows. The team work in tandem with government organisation, State Rural Livelihood Mission, CBO, VO and several organizations that are in line with the Mission objectives. The main focus of the cell will be highlighting on capacity building of each of the north-eastern state on a need based requirement.

PHOTO GALLERY



Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Rural Development, Govt. of India getting a brief of the activities of computer laboratory during his visit to NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati, October 24-25, 2015



Shri S.M Vijayanand, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India and Director General, NIRDPR lighting the Lamp during the inaugural session of the Workshop on "Gram Panchayat Development Plan for North Eastern States" held at NERC, September 28-30, 2015



Shri P.P Dhyani, Director, G.B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Uttarakhand being felicitated during Regional Consultation on "Multi-Stakeholders Himalayan Sustainable Development Forum" held at NERC on October 5, 2015



A practical demonstration of GIS software during an off campus course on "Geo Spatial Technologies for Planning and Management of Rural Roads" conducted by NIRDPR-NERC at SIRD, Manipur November 16-20, 2015



An interactive session at Udalguri Soil Conservation Division office during field visit of participants of the course on "Maintenance of Accounts under IWMP" conducted during Oct 26- Nov. 6, 2015



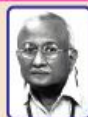
Participants of the course "Profitable Poultry Farming and Management" Nov 16-20, 2015 visiting a poultry breeding farm at Kyrdimkalai, Meghalaya

UPCOMING TRAINING PROGRAMMES (FEBRUARY 2016)

Sl. No.	Name of the Course	Duration	Course Director	Venue
1.	Behavioural Skills for Development Professionals	1-3 Feb	RM Pant & Team	NERC
2.	Applications of GIS in Watershed Projects with focus on GPS (SLNA, Assam)	8-12 Feb	NSR Prasad K Haloi	NERC
3.	ICT Applications in Office Automation for RD	8-12 Feb	SK Ghosh	NERC
4.	Gender Budgeting for Rural Development	10-12 Feb	C S Singhal	NERC Guwahati Assam
5.	Integrated District Planning through Autonomous District Council	15-19 Feb	M K Shrivastava and Team	NERC
6.	Profitable Poultry Farming and Management (Govt. of Meghalaya)	15-20 Feb	K K Bhattacharjee	NERC
7.	Planning and Management of Watershed Projects under IWMP (SLNA, Assam)	15 Feb. - 4 Mar	K Haloi A Simhachalam	NERC
8.	Geo-Spatial Technologies for Planning and Management of NRDWP	22-27 Feb	K Haloi A Simhachalam	SIRD Kohima Nagaland
9.	'Make in India' and Rural North - East: Prospects & Challenges	25-26 Feb	Ratna Bhuyan	NERC
10.	Orientation on IWMP Projects	Feb 29- March 11	Dr. K. Haloi	NERC

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/PRI 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.



Chief Patron

Shri S. M. Vijayanand, IAS, Director General
NIRD&PR, Hyderabad

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