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What's new..

Evaluation of Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) Promotion

Solaqua Foundation, through its executive partner Eawag (Aquatic Research Institute), Switzerland had assigned ICSD to coordinate an evaluation of the ongoing HWTS(Household Water Treatment and Safe storage) projects in India being implemented by Development Alternatives (DA) in Delhi and the League for Education and Development (LEAD) in Tamil Nadu. The assignment was carried out by independent experts and the evaluation report was submitted to Eawag.



Straight from the Field

Sustainable Production of Organic and Fair Trade Basmati Rice

The quarter was active with preparations for the upcoming kharif season with a target of producing 750 MT organic and fair trade basmati rice by 1800 registered farmers as against the targeted 2000 farmers. The project managed to register 2030 farmers and distributed 102 quintal of basmati seed. Training on organic farming and basmati rice production was organised from 10th May to 12th May 2014 at GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology. This training was imparted to all the field staff, women farmers and lead farmers of the project.

The design and layout for Participatory Technology Development (PTD) has been finalised for season 2014-15 with the amended treatments as per results of last year. 100 farmers were selected for taking up demonstration on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in basmati.



Forming Farmers Groups in Maharashtra

ICSD has been awarded this assignment by Maharashtra Agriculture Competitiveness Project (MACP), as service provider for formation of commodity interest groups, farmer interest groups, producer interest groups. This project is funded by International Development Agency the (World Bank) and the duration is 15 months. ICSD will be working in four districts of Konkan region in Maharashtra state viz., Thane, Raigad, Ratnagri and Sindhudurg and will form 1490 producer groups in the region. During the quarter, inception meetings, baseline survey, field activities, workshops on group formation and awareness campaign were held.



Improving Livelihoods Federations and Markets for Dairy Farmers

ICSD has been engaged by BAIF Development Research Foundation to support them in their Godhan Pilot Project on organising, managing and handing over three functional dairy federations in (Nashik) Maharashtra, (Chhapra) Bihar and (Unnao) Uttar Pradesh. After the launch of program, training on Market Extension Approach (MEA) was given to the staff at Kanpur. Duration of the project is for 27 months.



Low Carbon Developmental Pathway for Bihar

The project goal is to suggest to the Government of Bihar a set of package of practices that will enable it to progress in a low C developmental path way. In this context a workshop was organized during the quarter to finalise the Business As Usual (BAU) and Low Carbon scenario paper and also the mitigation options and potentials.



National Inventory of GHG Emissions from Industrial Process & Product Use (IPPU) Sector

ICSD was engaged by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development) to prepare National Inventory of GHG Emissions from Industrial Process & Product Use (IPPU) for the period 2008-2010 at National Level. A draft report with the relevant findings and recommendations has been submitted to CII.

Summary and overview of documents for various SAPCCs

ICSD has been engaged by GiZ for undertaking this assignment for the states of Meghalaya and Nagaland. The objective of the project is to support government departments, key partner institutions and communities in the design and application of policies, strategies and instruments on climate change adaptation. The assignment also includes editing of the SAPCC of Meghalaya and Nagaland to make it reader friendly for a better dissemination of the governments' policy on climate change in the States.

Social and Technical Audits for the Impact Evaluation of Jalanidhi I

Objective of this assignment was to carry out comprehensive social and technical audits in rural water schemes in Kerala. These audits will be used to assess the performance of rural water supply and sanitation interventions by various providers. Purpose of this consultancy is to develop, implement and produce all the components of the data collection needed for measuring the sustainability of these schemes. During the quarter, the data entry and analysis has been completed and the draft evaluation report along with Household data, Technical data and Financial Analysis data has been submitted to The World Bank.

Other happenings...

ICSD had its 30th Board of Directors meeting in Hyderabad on 11th June, 2014.

A meeting with all stakeholders under the project Developing Mitigation Abatement Packages towards pursuance of a Low C developmental Pathway in the state of Bihar was held from 26th to 30th May at Delhi.

We had organized a workshop with all stakeholders and partners at Delhi on 30th and 31st May, 2014 for the Solaqua Funded HWTS (Household water treatment and safe storage) Projects.

Corporate Social Responsibility Law in India

The new Companies Act 2013 received the assent of the President of India on 29 August 2013 after both the houses of parliament passed the Bill. As per this Act, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India is a statutory requirement. Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Act provide for the CSR compliances along with the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014. This has to be complied with by every Indian company including its holding company or subsidiary company or foreign company with its branch office or project office in India. Also, if they are in any financial year having net profit of INR 50,000,000 (800,000 US\$) or more OR having turnover of INR 10,000,000,000 (170 million US\$) or more OR having net worth of INR 5,000,000,000 (80 million US\$) or more. There are around 16,000 companies falling under the Act (1.6% of the total companies) and around INR 220,000,000 (3.6 billion US\$) is estimated to be available every year.

Mandatory Requirements

- ✳ Every year, **at least 2% of the average net profits** of the company during the three immediate preceding years should be spent on CSR.
- ✳ A **CSR committee** with at least 3 members of the director board to be formed, one to be an independent director.
- ✳ Board of the company is **legally accountable** for the CSR activities. They have to form the CSR committee, approve CSR policy, ensure that 2% is spent on CSR, report CSR activities, disclose and **explain reason for non-compliance or underspending** and ensure that the CSR activities and compliances are uploaded on the official website of the company.

Permissible Activities (in brief)

- ✳ Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting healthcare, sanitation, drinking water
- ✳ Education, vocational skills and livelihood enhancement projects
- ✳ Gender equality, empowering women etc and activities for reducing inequalities
- ✳ Environmental sustainability, ecology, animal welfare, agroforestry, NRM etc
- ✳ Protection of national heritage, art and culture
- ✳ Measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans
- ✳ Training to promote rural sports etc
- ✳ Contribution to PM's relief fund or any other fund set up by the Central government
- ✳ Technology incubators located within academic institutions
- ✳ Rural development projects

Implementation

- ✳ Directly by the company
- ✳ Through registered organizations (Trusts/ foundations, Societies and Not for profit companies which are non-profit and having at least 3 years' experience)
- ✳ Through registered organizations promoted by the company
- ✳ If a foreign company, only through organizations having FCRA registration
- ✳ Project Mode or corpus for activities mentioned under Schedule VII
- ✳ Activities to be in India only

Intercooperation offers to provide advisory services to set up CSR policies and strategies, manage and implement programmes and projects, thematic backstopping of projects, training and evaluation.

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