Dear IC Friends and well wishers,

We welcome Ms. Geeta Unnikrishnan who joins the Board of Directors of Intercooperation India. Ms. Unnikrishnan is a social development specialist with decades of experience internationally and in India, working with government, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies. She has worked extensively across a range of policy areas and demonstrated expertise in applying social analysis including gender analysis for development of actionable strategies, their implementation, monitoring, and impact assessment. She was formerly associated with DFID as Social Development Adviser for almost 12 years.

Welcome Ms. Geeta Unnikrishnan!

What's new in Intercooperation!

Development of Curriculum and Designing of Training Programmes

Climate Change and Development Division (CCD), Embassy of Switzerland in India, supported by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has initiated Indian Himalayas Climate Change Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) in the Indian Himalayan Region. ICSD has been assigned the task of developing curriculum and designing training programmes. This is to build the capacities at State level in adaptation planning and implementation at different levels viz. state/ district/ block/ panchayat.

Analysis of Socio-economic and Environmental Impacts of the Program on Climate Change Adaptation in North Eastern Region (CCA-NER)

We have received a mandate from GIZ India to assess how the adaptive capacities of the communities are being strengthened through the Climate Change and Adaptation – North Eastern Region programme which is addressing the impacts of the changing climate on water, forests and livelihood.

Training Needs Assessment for Panchayats
Mariamma Sanu George (Nirmala)-Senior Subject Matter Specialist Governance and Gender, ICSD

The 73rd Constitution (Amendment) Act 1993 of India led to the formation of Panchayats as institutions of local governments to promote economic development and social justice. We now have around 2.4 lac Panchayats with 28 lac elected representatives along with the officials of these Panchayats and many other institutions, programmes and schemes which are directly or partially related to Panchayati Raj. There is a need to address the capacity needs of the elected representatives and other functionaries, apart from the need for significant devolution and systemic changes. As the status of Panchayati Raj and the capacities of various stakeholders in different states are different, capacity building and training requirements too vary across states.
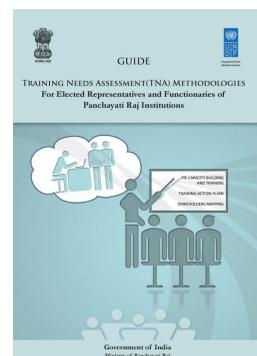
Do We Know Exactly

- Who all constitute the stakeholders of Panchayati Raj?
- Do we consider them while designing trainings?
- Is it a homogenous group?
- Are their functions the same?
- Who all are associated with the PRIs, whose capacities matter a lot in the functioning of the PRIs?
- Do we know the skills and knowledge required for carrying out these functions?
- Are these requirements the same for every one of them?
- What is the present level of capacities of each of them for carrying out these responsibilities and functions?
- What is preventing them from accessing knowledge and skills?
- What is preventing them from performing their tasks so that the Panchayats become the real institutions of local governments?
- What happens when new tasks are bestowed upon them?
- What happens to the Panchayat when functionaries change on a regular basis, elections or transfers?

  The questions continue….

  Here comes the need for training needs assessment.

From the Guiding Document

It is important to start from a proper and scientific Training Needs Assessment (TNA), focusing on the core competencies and capacity gaps of elected representatives and PRI functionaries to effectively perform their day to day task and function as local governments. Thus, a guiding document was prepared and published as a collection of knowledge available in various TNA methodology documents, experiences of using them and the learnings evolved from them, which is usable by various training institutions across the country, adaptable and flexible to suit the needs of different parts of the country and addresses the capacity building and training (CB&T) gaps of the different stakeholders of Panchayati Raj. This was part of the Government of India – UNDP Capacity Development for Local Governance (CDLG) project, implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

The guiding document discusses training cycle, various methodologies available on TNA and reviews literature on TNAs. These are followed by a chapter on 'Preparing for a TNA' which mentions how one could start planning for a TNA like considering the policy contexts, methodology identification, team formation, training, action plan, timing and stakeholder mapping in the context of Panchayati Raj. Subsequent chapters deal with desk research, sampling, data decisions, qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis. A chapter on 'Writing a TNA Report' provides the structure of a report. There is a section on 'Step by Step Guide for Users' and a chapter on 'Rapid TNA'. The guiding document concludes with sample formats, questionnaires and guidelines.

Intercooperation India with ASCI developed this guiding document for the MoPR-UNDP CDLG project.

Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change (TNSAPCC)

ICSD has completed the facilitation for the preparation of the Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change. The draft report consists of eleven chapters including climate, Forestry and Biodiversity, Water Resources, Coastal Area Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Habitat and Power & Renewable Energy sectors. Meeting for finalising TNSAPCC was held in Chennai. It was attended by the Director and Deputy Director, Department of Environment (GoTN), representatives from GIZ, Dhan Foundation and M S Swaminathan Research Foundation. Dr. Sumana Bhattacharya (ICSD) made a presentation on the content of TNSAPCC, including its process of preparation.

GHG Emissions and Devising Mitigation Pathways in Rice Paddy Fields

Estimation of GHG emission from organic rice farming is being carried out by using closed static chambers and GHG samples have been collected from these boxes. The samples are being analysed using Gas Chromatograph (GC) Technique. About 300 samples out of the received samples have been analysed till 2nd September 2013.

For mitigation purpose, the option of using Biogas based fuel using available dung is being considered. Survey has been carried out at household level in the project area to assess quantity of dung available. Selection of most appropriate biogas technology is being ascertained for the area, and implementation of the process for the family size biogas plants is proposed to start in winter.

Policy Packages for Enabling Low Carbon Development for Bihar

ICSD has been selected by Climate Works Foundation to "Develop policy packages for different sectors of the economy for enabling low carbon development for the state of Bihar". To start with, an initiation meeting was held between Intercooperation, Shakti foundation and Department of Environment and Forest, Govt of Bihar. The stakeholders have been identified, mapped the source of emissions in the state and data is being collected and collated from identified departments.

Sustainable Production of Organic and Fair Trade Basmati Rice in India

According to initial estimates from our project villages, 130 hectare area is under organic and fair trade basmati and an estimated production of 330 MT paddy will be harvested.

The quarter also saw Mr. Karl Haf, CEO of Riesemuhle Brunnen and Mr. Tapan Ray CEO and Managing Director of Nature Bio Foods visiting the project area. The work done by ICSD was highly appreciated.

Mr. Haf spread the message of being Fair and Good and bringing fairness and goodness for all through the project intervention. Mr. Markus Kohler from COOP, Zurich visited the project to learn more about the project.

Project updates

Dairy Value Chain, Jaunpur

During the quarter ICSD had developed various documents like Good Management Practice - Dairy Manual, HR manual and BDS directory for the Producer Company.

The project activities have come to an end after the completion of the one year of contract with UNDP.

Small holder Dairy Value Chains in India

We have undertaken a study assigned by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) on 'Situational analysis of the small holder dairy value chains in Bihar and Assam'. As part of the study our colleagues collected data from the field and interacted with senior officials from animal husbandry department, milk federations, food safety department, research institutes, veterinary university and milk producers etc. A draft report has been submitted to ILRI.

Value Chain Development and Assessment of Market Environment– Scoping study

We undertook a scoping exercise to develop value chains (cashew and cotton) and assess market environment in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for HEKS India. During this quarter we have given training to HEKS partners and staff on production and processing technology of cashew nut.

Impact Evaluation of Jalanidhi I

We have been assigned to undertake the 'Social and Technical Audits for the Impact Evaluation of the Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (Jalanidhi I)' for The World Bank. This is through a consortium with Centre for Socio-economic & Environmental Studies (CSES). These audits have to assess the performance of rural water supply and sanitation interventions by various service providers including Kerala Water Authority (KWA) and Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (KRWSA) and the roles played by local self governments. This assignment will develop, implement and produce all the components of the data collection needed for measuring the sustainability of these schemes and further improvement.

Workshops, Meetings and Trainings

- Dr. Sumana and Dr. Joy travelled to Nairobi, Kenya in August for a workshop to develop a proposal on the changing nature of climate risk in selected semi-arid regions in Africa and Asia and support decision-makers in these areas in devising actionable risk management strategies. This was organised by The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), CARE Canada and the Global Dry lands Initiative of the International Union on the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Kenya.

- Mr. Mustak Khan attended a Regional Training Course on Policy Dialogue and Advocacy workshop in Bangladesh organized by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation.

- Mr. Nakul Sharma successfully participated and passed the Certified PV (Photovoltaic) system designer examination after a week long workshop on Solar PV system design and Marketing between 19th – 24th August at Aurora Business School, Hyderabad. This workshop was organized by Steinbeis Centre for Technology Transfer India which is an authorized subsidiary of Steinbeis GmbH & Co. KG fur Technologietransfer, Germany.

- Mr. Ashish Srivastava attended the IRMA-MDP training course on Value Chain Development at IRMA, Anand in September, 2013.

- Mr. Mustak Khan had been to Vietnam during September to attend a Regional Workshop on Value Chain / Market Systems Development in Ben Tre, Vietnam.

- ICSD had its 27th Board of Directors meeting on 14th September, 2013.

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