

Intercooperation Social Development India Quarterly News Post

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cooperation

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Dear All,

Thank you all for the encouraging response and suggestions to the first issue of the News Post.

The quarter was full of activities for ICSD. During this period, we have crossed a few important milestones too. New assignments, expansion of the team and encouraging results from the field have instilled confidence and enthusiasm in the team and partners.

The new team for Climate Change domain is in place. And we are happy to inform you that ICSD has opened an office in Delhi.

Your support, guidance and encouragement are our sources of strength. Together we move forward.

With best regards
ICSD Team

ICSD sets foot in the capital !

We are pleased to announce the opening of our office in New Delhi. The address is:

**INTERCOOPERATION
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INDIA**

Institute of Social Sciences Building,
8 Nelson Mandela Road,
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070.

Tel: 011 43158815

Welcoming Indrani



Dr. Indrani Phukan
Programme Coordinator - Climate Change

Dr. Indrani Phukan has joined ICSD as Programme Coordinator – Climate Change. She is an Applied Geologist from the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee and did her PhD from the University of Delhi and the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, India.

She had earlier worked in prestigious organizations like GIZ, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Christian Aid. She has more than eleven years of experience in integrated Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) sectors. Her areas of expertise also include mainstreaming climate change adaptation into integrated watershed management and disaster risk reduction, capacity building and training, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications, impact monitoring and evaluation including participatory & technical approaches and addressing gender issues in the agriculture and climate change sectors.

We welcome Indrani to the ICSD family!

Updates from the Field

Sustainable Production of Organic and Fair Trade Rice in India and Thailand

Highest price for Basmati Rice to Farmers of Patkot and Kotabagh

First season of the pilot project is over and the Basmati Crop was successfully harvested. Farmers got the opportunity to sell their produce at a price which is much higher than the prevailing market price. Though the productivity did not attain the desirable level, 15 MT of Fair-Trade certified paddy was sold by farmers. Nature Bio Food (NBF) marketing partner in the project, supported the farmers by organizing procurement and arranging for maximum possible price for the harvest. In the first year itself the quality of rice was approved by the buyer.

- **Base line survey:** This survey has been completed and the report is awaited. This was taken up in partnership with GKVS an NGO based in Haldwani.
- **Hill Basmati Pilot at Almora and Bageshwar :** The project has a component of a pilot on basmati cultivation in hills of Uttarakhand at Almora and Bageshwar. The local partner is SARG. There is some strong indication of success and the next season is expected to see more farmers taking up Basmati cultivation trial.



A Woman farmer receiving inputs from field staff

Organic Cashew Value Chain, Goa and Maharashtra: Exposure visits and Training

- Seventeen organic cashew farmers including five directors of the board of Ajanta Organic Cashew Producers Company Limited (AOCPL) visited India BioFach-2011 in November 2011 which was organized by International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA).



Farmers attending BioFach- 2011, at Bangalore

- FLO-CERT, India organized management training for the board of directors of AOCPL during December 2011 at Sanghli where 12 members including seven from the board of directors of AOCPL had undergone training along with a Small Producers Organisation (SPO) of cotton growers for three days. The training focused on how to plan and manage the Fair trade premium fund for community development.
- About 950 cashew growers of Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Goa districts received training on maintenance of Internal Control System (ICS) and improved production technology. Two farmers underwent training for two months on processing.



Cashew growers attending a training programme

- Eleven farmers were selected from Goa and Kankavali districts to participate in organic exhibition at Pune organized by Government of Maharashtra during December 2011.

Premium paid to Organic farmers

During the month of December 2011, Ajanta Industries paid Rs. 6.5 lakh as the organic premium to the cashew growers of Goa.

Updates from the Field

Water and Sanitation Project in Sobara Gram Panchayat

The quarter activities for the project on 'Empowering Gram Panchayats for improved planning and delivery of water and sanitation services using the Water Use Master Plans' were focused towards community level participants. All the activities were completed in time as per the deliverables. The project covered all the 723 families of the Panchayat. There is remarkable change in the perception of the people with regard to sanitation and hygiene.



S.Chitaply village was declared as an open defecation free village

Process document is ready and a video film was produced on the project. These will be shared with partners and stakeholders in the regional workshop proposed to be organized shortly.

Innovations in Small Ruminant Value Chain project

The second phase of this project has started in Bommaraspet Mandal of Mahabubnagar district. Animal identification is in progress and their purchase will start during the second week of January, 2012.



New Assignments

Developing a TNA Guiding Document

ICSD has been selected by the Government of India-UNDP project on Capacity Development for Local Governance (CDLG), implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) to develop a comprehensive guiding document on TNA methodology. This is to include various methodologies, along with necessary formats, which will help the training institutes to systematically undertake Training Needs Assessment (TNA) in the context of PRIs. In addition, ICSD is expected to design a workshop along with necessary workshop materials for training resource persons in using the TNA Guiding Document.

We are partnering with Administrative Staff College of India.

The team for this task consists of Dr. Joy Elamon, Ms. Nirmala Sanu George and Ms. Priti Sharma (from ICSD) and Dr. Srinivas Chary Vedala and Ms. Vijaya Venkataraman from Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI).

The assignment is expected to be completed by April 2012.

Non Governmental Support System for Local Governments

Local Governance South Asia (LoGIn) Programme of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has assigned ICSD the task of 'Assessment and Analysis of Non-Governmental Support Systems for Local Governments'.

Work Completed and in Progress

Review of Devolution of Powers to Panchayats

UNICEF Rajasthan State Office has assigned us the task of studying the status of "Devolution of Powers to Panchayats in Rajasthan" and providing suggestions to the government for working out a Road Map. The report has been submitted to UNICEF.

Mid-Term Evaluation of the GoI-UN Joint programme on Convergence

ICSD was assigned the task of carrying out the Midterm Evaluation of the Government of India-United Nations Joint Programme on Convergence. The team is led by Dr. Meenakshisundaram with Dr. Joy Elamon and Ms. Priti Sharma as members. The team visited the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha as part of the field visits. They

interacted with government officials, elected representatives, civil society organizations and Gram Sabha members. The draft report of this assignment is expected to be submitted to the end of January 2012.

Field Study by IC team

Together with WWF India, ICSD team undertook a fact finding mission to Ghaghra River Basin in Uttar Pradesh. The districts that were covered were Gorakhpur, Faizabad and Sitapur. Based on the findings, a concept note has been prepared with the goal and objective to conserve Ghaghra River Basin through community participation.

Dr. Raja Rathinam to be a member of Working Group

Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission has included Dr. Raja Rathinam (National Domain Head, Livelihoods - ICSD) as a member of the Working Group on Animal Husbandry and Dairying for the formulation of the Twelfth Five Year Plan of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Congratulations, Dr. Raja Rathinam!

ICSD in Meetings and Conferences

National Research Conference on Climate Change: Shazneen Cyrus Gazdar and Joy Elamon attended the National Research Conference on Climate Change organized by CSE in Delhi.

International Colloquium on Children and Governance: Joy Elamon presented a paper on Governance and Child Rights at the International Conference on Children and Governance, organized by UNICEF and HAQ, in New Delhi.

BioFach India Conference: Mustak, Ashish and Abhijeet attended India BioFach 2011 conference in Bangalore.



ICSD staff as Resource Persons

Training for civil servants from Afghanistan:

Joy Elamon was a resource person for the training on Local Governance for Civil Servants from Afghanistan, organized by SDC-LoGIn in New Delhi.

ICS Training for Executives and Field staff of NGOs from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa:

Ashish Srivastava was a resource person for the training on establishing Internal Control System (ICS) in Organic Farming. The training was organised on 6th 7th December 2011, by CBM SARO (N). The participants were the executives and field staff of various NGOs from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa.

Editorial board

Joy Elamon
Ashish Srivastava
Shazneen Cyrus Gazdar &
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ICSD Team

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