



REFLECTIONS

“Socio Economic Empowerment of Tribal and Rural Poor and Protection of Natural Resources, Tripura”

Indo-German Development Cooperation

EXPERIENCE SHARING WORKSHOP

on lessons learnt under Technical Cooperation (TC) Project

25th April 2014, Agartala, Tripura



Inauguration of the workshop by dignitaries

An experience sharing workshop to showcase the achievements and lessons learnt under the GIZ supported Technical Cooperation (TC) project “Socio Economic Empowerment of Tribal and Rural Poor and Protection of Natural Resources, Tripura” under the aegis of Indo-German Development Cooperation (IGDC) took place in Agartala, Tripura on April 25th, 2014. Dr Rajeev Sharma, Programme Manager GIZ, gracefully moderated the workshop.

The prime objectives of the workshop were:

- to showcase the challenges, achievements and lessons learnt under the TC project;
- to demonstrate workable models, approaches, strategies that Govt. of Tripura and IGDC – FC project could potentially adopt in future;
- to trigger collaboration between various stakeholders in the up-scaling and replication of the approach.

Dr V. K. Bahuguna, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Tripura as Chief Guest in presence of Dr Hansjörg Neun, Programme Director GIZ, Mr Sanatan Talukdar, PCCF, Mr G. S. Raju, CEO JICA, Dr Ashok Kumar, Addl. PCCF and Mr Peter Laubmeier, Team Leader (TC) inaugurated the workshop with lighting of the lamp.

Representatives from line departments, bilateral agencies, commercial banks, private sector and civil society organizations also participated in the workshop.

Dr Bahuguna, in his inaugural speech said Tripura is a well-governed state and it is not primarily lack of funding – so why did we go for external aid? We need new ideas, initiatives and experiences aiming at livelihoods' generation for rural people. We should not only serve beneficiaries near the roadside, but everywhere. His very critical review stated “the two IGDC projects alone do not lead us to the objectives”. There is need of better communication at grass-roots level, better capacity building and spreading the models from TC to other areas. He acknowledged that the two projects have brought lot of changes to strengthen development initiatives and capacities of many officers and that this workshop was very timely.

Dr Bahuguna also interacted with the community members to hear from them how they perceived TC project's support. Several members expressed their satisfaction with the good work being initiated under Mr Peter's leadership.

Dr Hansjörg Neun thanked the TC team for their hard work, for their achievements and stated that the TC team has lot of experiences to share. For setting the stage he showed the beauty of the TC project with selected pictures to illustrate the work on the ground.

Mr Peter Laubmeier in his technical presentation gave an overview on TC project's interventions with pragmatic examples highlighting a) challenges and issues; b); what did TC do? c) main achievements and lesson learnt, and d) How can it be scaled up? The audience appreciated the clarity of the format and given examples. Mr Laubmeier responded to the queries with utmost honesty and simplicity witnessing the deep insight and understanding of challenges at grassroots level. He drew the attention of the participants to the information and knowledge products compiling the TC project's work done during the the last five years shared during the workshop in both hard and soft copy versions.

Virtual Field Visits

A Short film on the Technical Cooperation initiatives in the state of Tripura offered the flavor of the TC endeavor that captivated the audience.

Experience Sharing

Mr Satyendra Reang, Ms Ujjala Debbarma, Mr Bijoy Sen Chakma and Mr Naresh Debbarma represented the community associated with TC interventions and shared their positive experience of working together with project team members, the benefit they derived in terms of awareness and confidence building.

Certainly the audience acknowledged the need for continued handholding support in the state of Tripura. The community representatives were enquired on relevance, type of support, economic gain, sustainability of interventions, replication of measures, etc. which the members responded confidently. Finally, the house applauded the remarks made by the community members as it focused on key impacts and learning through IGDC – TC.

A Journey through establishment of turmeric cluster

Mr Prattap Datta and Mr Selim Reza (GIZ TC team) made a joint photo presentation of their journey in setting up a cluster in one of the difficult locations of the region. The days were not as smooth as it seems to be today. There were heap of challenges with regard to availability of land, accessibility, provision of electricity, water etc. both in the Chakma and Reang belt.

Following the principles of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and its application, the cluster was organized and Government provided the land for construction of a processing centre for the cluster. Later the strong technical support of Dept. of Horticulture and Spice board build the awareness level of the cluster members. The exposure visit to Meghalaya proved to be the greatest confidence booster for the community, which led to the start of joint activities. Today, REMA Multiprocessing centre caters the needs of adjoining farming community for planting material as well as it provides facilities for processing of dried turmeric.

This experience was highly appreciated by the house and opened the doors of communication and collaboration amongst scientists, development practitioners, banks and others.

Dignitaries Speak

DR V. K. BAHUGUNA, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, GOVT. OF TRIPURA



TC project brought a change in the mentality of people to shift from a beneficiary led approach to holistic development. Models under TC component should be merged with other models of development.

MR SANATAN TALUKDAR, PCCF, TRIPURA



Indo German project is one of the best projects in Tripura in terms of generating knowledge products and this would always remain as live assets facilitating discussion and collaborations among Government of Tripura, Forest Department and JICA.

MR G.S. RAJU, CEO, JICA



Externally aided projects have brought in change in the image of department. Something accomplished is always good. Lots of learnings are there in IGDC project. These experiences should be used by others.

DR ASHOK KUMAR, ADDITIONAL PCCF, TRIPURA



Knowledge is the only wealth which does not diminish if shared, it increases. I hope the models under Technical Cooperation get widely shared across boundaries.

DR HANSJÖRG NEUN



As development practitioners, we are aware that achievement can't be 100%. The TC team has lot of experiences to share. The Govt. of Tripura may decide how to harness the best out of it by facilitating convergence and strengthening collaborations.

MR PETER LAUBMEIER



Technical cooperation projects have the flexibility to test models and share both outcomes: Success and Failures.

Way Forward



Ms Sangeeta Agrawal, KfW

Ms Sangeeta Agrawal, Sector Specialist, NRM, KfW focused on key takeaways for the remaining period of FC support under IGDC (end Dec. 2016) namely:

- Financial Cooperation project under IGDC shall organize similar experience sharing workshop by end Dec'14;
- FC will take forward the TC's business models of turmeric, fishery and egg layering;
- FC will take over the current 31 SHGs under TC project support and shall integrate ongoing livelihoods and loaning processes as provisioned under FC;
- SHG assessment tools of TC shall be applied across FC project;
- Strengthen capacity of VDPIS / panchayats in the implementation of village development plans (VDPs) resulting in improved convergence;
- Explore the possibilities of associating FC with competent NGOs to support implementation process.



Share4change

An interactive video presented the new information and knowledge portal "Share4Change.org", a portal initiated by the Umbrella Programme on Natural Resource Management (UPNRM). This virtual platform empowers users to share their field-based knowledge, experience and lessons learnt in the areas of natural resource management (NRM) from India and disseminate the content effectively, globally and free of charge.

Farmers' Voice



MS UJJALA DEBBARMA
SHG SURAVI, ASHAPURNA ROJA PARA

“IGDC assisted us immensely in acquiring skills on operating poultry/fishery. IGDC had really taught us how to make use of SHG for bringing meaningful changes in our life.”



MR SATYENDRA REANG
SHG ALOK, LALCHERA

“Earlier we were not very confident about the effectiveness of SHG, but IGDC has changed our perspective. We were also supported with adult literacy related activities. As a result all the women members of our group are now capable of reading and writing for which they feel very proud.”



MR NARESH DEBBARMA
AGARBATTI CLUSTER, MAKARCHERRA

“Earlier we used to make Agarbatti stick with Dao (chopper) but IGDC has taught us how to do it with a very simple equipment.”



MR BIJOY SEN CHAKMA
TURMERIC CLUSTER, DHALAJHARI

“Dhalajhari Processing centre is owned by people of Dhalajhari village. There is a managing committee to run the affairs on behalf of the villagers and cooperative members. We look forward to make it bigger day by day.”



Dr Honna Reddy, DPD, IGDC

Vote of thanks

Dr Honna Reddy, DPD, IGDC offered clarity on the role of FC and TC under the Indo-German Development Cooperation and reiterated the important role played by Dr A K Gupta as Project Director managing both FC and TC project. Dr Reddy thanked the dignitaries, participating institutions and presenters for their time and valuable contributions. He extended special thanks to the TC team and GIZ officials for their dedicated efforts in organizing this workshop and looked forward for furthering the initiatives under FC support.

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name of the Participants
Govt of Tripura / Line departments	
1.	Dr V K Bahuguna, Principal Secretary, Forest Agriculture and Animal Resources Dept.
2.	Mr Sanatan Talukdar, PCCF
3.	Mr G S Raju, CEO, JICA
4.	Dr Ashok Kumar, Addl. PCCF
5.	Mr A K Bhowmick, Dy CF, Forest Dept
6.	Mr C M Deb Barma , Forest Department
7.	Mr C K Das, IFS, Director, CLNP
8.	Mr P K Das, CCF, Forest Dept
9.	Mr D Chakraborty, CCF, FHQ, Forest Dept
10.	Mr Shivanand S Talwar, DFO, Forest dept
11.	Mr Manik Krishna Nath, Fishery Officer, Fishery Dept
12.	Mr Angshuman Dey, Forest Dept
13.	Mr M Dutta, Joint Director, ICAR
14.	Mr Dharmeshwar Das, Director, ARDD
15.	Mr Arupratan Sarma, CEO, Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission, RD Dept
16.	Mr P Saha, Joint Director, Science, Technology and Environment
17.	Mr R K Samal, NTPP, JICA
18.	Mr Bimal Das, AID, DDA
19.	Mr Atanu Saha, ICFRE
20.	Mr Banunath G, DFO, Forest Dept
21.	Mr Phani Bhushan Jameli, Forest Dept
KfW	
22.	Ms Sangeeta Agrawal, KfW
GIZ India	
23.	Dr Hansjörg Neun, Programme Director, NRM
24.	Dr Rajeev Sharma, Programme Manager, NRM
25.	Mr Kenneth Pala, CCA-NER
26.	Mr Deepak Chamola, Technical Expert
IGDC - FC	
27.	Dr Honna Reddy, DPD, IGDC
28.	Mr Apratim Datta, MBDO, IGDC
29.	Mr Kishalaya Modak, PMA, IGDC
30.	Dr S K Barik, TAT, IGDC
31.	Mr Suman Das, ADPO, IGDC
32.	Mr Ashish Kumar Deb, ADMO
33.	Ms Anindita Sinha (Debbarma), IFDC
34.	Mr Sudipta Chakma, IFDC
35.	Mr Tirthankar Majumder, MO, DPMA, IGDC

Sl. No.	Name of the Participants
36.	Mr Rakesh Hassen, IGDC
37.	Mr M Debbarma, DPO
38.	Mr Rana Pal, IGDC
39.	Mr Philip
40.	Mr Rupayan Goswami
41.	Mr Narayan Bhattacharjee
42.	Mr Shib Shankar Laskare
43.	Mr Mrityunjay Bhattacharjee
44.	Ms Nupur Sinha
45.	Mr Niranjana Das
46.	Mr Mitenjay Reang, Shasa MSE,
47.	Mr Siddhartha Mohanta
48.	Mr Manak Kasi Reang, Shiha, SHG
49.	Mr Akrurmani, Office Assistant
Banks	
50.	Mr R K Deb Barma, GM, NABARD
51.	Mr S K Nayak, DGM, NABARD
CSO / Members of Cooperatives / SHGs	
52.	Mr Kamal Banik, Dishari – NGO
53.	Mr Jyotirmoy, DDH Dhalai
54.	Mr Subrata Shib, PC , KVK, Dhalai
55.	Mr Dharmeshwar Das, KVK Dhalai
56.	Mr Satyendra Reang, Alok MSE
57.	Mr Ujjala Debbarma, Saravi MSE
58.	Mr Bijay Sen Chakma, Turmeric MSE
59.	Mr Naresh Debbarma, Agarbatti MSE
60.	Mr Nirmala Debbarma, Suravi MSE
61.	Mr Jatnabati Reang, Alok MSE
62.	Mr Resanbati Reang, Alok MSE
63.	Mr Manak Kari Reang
64.	Mr Anant Kumar Murasingh, ST Vicent's Welfare Society
TC Project	
65.	Mr Peter Laubmeier, Team Leader
66.	Mr Selim Reza, TC
67.	Mr Pratap Datta, TC
68.	Mr Prabir Ghosh
69.	Dr Esvar Prasad
70.	Mr Debasis Debbarma
71.	Ms Sungi Darlong
72.	Ms Lashaibha Marpan