

Department of Rural Development, NITTTR Chandigarh

NATIONAL SEMINAR REPORT

Two Days National Seminar on
"Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: Prospects and Challenges"
at NITTTR, Chandigarh held on 28-29 November, 2019

Two days national Seminar on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: Prospects and Challenges was organized on 28th and 29th November 2019 at NITTTR Chandigarh with an objective to debate on issues of rural India and role of higher and technical institutions in integrated rural development. The path of developed nation begins from the development of villages. 150 participants consisting of students, teachers, farmers, social activities and environmentalists participated in two days national seminar. In the inaugural session, the Chief Guest was Padm Shree Ram Saran Verma, Pioneer Farmer from Barabanki (UP). The welcome address of the seminar was given by Dr. SS Banwait, Acting Director of NITTTR. Dr. V.K. Vijay, Professor and Head CRDT and National Coordinator Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) presented background note of UBA in which he described the basic aim and objectives of the UBA and ongoing activities under UBA. According to him, the MHRD, Govt. of India, has agreed to expand the UBA programmes through about 45 thousand institutions in the country which are the part of UGC and AICTE. He also described the present achievements and the expected outcome from each of the RCIs and PIs. The theme presentation of the seminar was presented by Dr. UN Roy, Convener of the National Seminar. Dr. Roy presented the achievements made under UBA by NITTTR, Chandigarh. He described how the NITTTR, Chandigarh has taken the number of projects in the villages Bijnor district in collaboration with RVIT (Engineering College) from Bijnore. Apart from it, the NITTTR, Chandigarh has established an Organic Farmers Market at Chandigarh which is benefitting about 30 farmers and entrepreneurs who are doing organic farming. The income of the farmers has increased four folds in four years between 2015 and 2019. The average income of the 5-7 farmers was only Rs.7000/- per month in 2015-16 from the Chandigarh Organic Farmers Market which increased to Rs.30,000/-per annum for about 25 farmers in the year 2018-19. Apart from it, NITTTR Chandigarh has started work in five villages near Purkhali in Ropar under UBA. Dr. RK Soni, Regional Director, AICTE presented the achievements under UBA by some of the engineering colleges of north-west region.

Shr. Ram Saran Verma who was the Chief Guest of the seminar presented his achievements in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh where he has been growing various cash crops like Banana, Japanes Mint, tomato and potato in 150 acres farm in his village Daultpur at Barabanki. Shri Verma has developed a research-cum- demonstration farm where more than 50 farmers are visiting the farm every day. Ram Saran Verma has received a number of awards in the last 10 years from the Chief Ministers, Cabinet Ministers and Governors of different states. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Ex-President of India, has also visited his farm. In the year 2019, he was awarded by the Prime Minister and finally he has received a Padm Shree Award from the President of India in the year 2019. Dr. Poonam Syal, Co-convener of the seminar presented vote of thank.



Inauguration by Padm Shree Ram Saran Verma



Address by the chief guest Padm Shree Ram Saran Verma



Inauguration of Exhibition of Organic Farmers and Rural Artisans



Interaction with Rural Artisans



Interaction with the Organic Farmers in the Exhibition



After the inauguration session, the Chief Guest inaugurated the two days Rural Artisans and Organic Farmers Mela in the institute ground in which more than 50 farmers and artisans participated in the programme.



Students of HNB Gharwal Univeristy in the Exhibition

After the lunch, two technical sessions were organized in which 13 research papers were presented including the papers presented by the lead speakers live Dr. JS Saini and Sh. Raj Kumar Arya. In the technical session-I on Participatory Rural Development, the people presented their view points on unemployment scenario in rural areas, empowerment of rural women in Natural Rural Livelihood Mission, Problems of out migration in the Himalayan region, then problems related to Mushroom Quality Flow and its Utilization, Income Generation through Value Addition in Agriculture in Uttarakhand and other issues related to development. There was a paper on Smart Village Development by Sh. Tribhuvan Nath and Sanjay Bhayana from NIFTEM, Panipat. In the first technical session on Sustainable Agriculture, following farmers and entrepreneurs presented their paper:

- Ms. Seema Jolly
- Sh. CS Grewal
- Sh. Mohanjit Singh Dhaliwal
- Sh. Raj Kumar Arya
- Sh. Shoorvir Singh.

Three students presented their papers like Ms. Akshita Pathania from HP University, Shimla who presented a paper on Role of FPO. Sh. Vivek Pandey presented a paper on Role Vermi-compost in Vegetable Cultivation. Dr. OPS Khola was the Chairperson of the Technical Session of Sustainable of Agriculture and he concluded with following remarks:

1. There is an urgent need to find out the way of sustainable agriculture which is different from conventional agriculture.
2. Some of the farmers were of the view to promote sustainable agriculture by adopting organic farming, bio-dynamic farming, permaculture and other natural methods of organic farming.

3. Dr. Khola guided the farmers to find out scientific and practical solution for sustainable agriculture. The many farmers appreciated the role of Chandigarh Organic Farmers Market which has provided a platform to all the organic farmers.



Session on Sustainable Agriculture

Special Session of Rural Artisans and Organic Farmers

A special session of Rural Artisans and Organic Farmers was organized in the ETV Studio. In a special session, Ms. Indra Thakur and Ms. Anita Thakur from Mahi Panchayat, Solan presented their achievements through self-help group which is working for promotion of handicrafts made out pine needles which is a waste material in the Himachal Pradesh. According to Ms. Indra and Ms. Anita, each of the members of self-help groups are earning about Rs.4000 – 5000/- per month through handicrafts activities. Sh. Ishu Thakur who is the Programme Manager working with HP Tourism Department narrated the success story of the women from Mahi Panchayat self-help groups. Shri Tula Ram who is the Master Trainers for the development of such handicrafts also shared his viewpoints. All the participants appreciated their efforts for the promotion of entrepreneurship among the rural women of Mahi Panchayat of Himachal Pradesh. Ms. Gunjan Kandpal and Ms. Asana Bhatt from Sharamyog a NGO from, Uttarakhand presented their achievements Sharamyog is promoting livelihood generation among the rural women of Uttarakhand through natural and organic farming movement. Ms. Gunjan and Ms. Asana brought various food items worth rupees ten thousand and they sold of their materials in two days during the Rural Artisans and Organic Farming Exhibition organized at NITTTR Chandigarh.

Sh. Vinod Kumar, a bamboo Craftsman from Uttarkashi who has developed more than 100 bamboo crafts items presented his success stories. He has trained about 300 persons in the last five years and out of 300, about 200 persons have got self-employment through bamboo crafts work in Uttarakhand. Sh. Charanjit Singh Grewal who has started a natural farming in Kishanpura village of Mohali district presented his success story of natural farming in about 10 acres of land. Sh. Charanjit Singh has returned back to India from USA four years ago and now he has been practicing organic farming in its farm. Sh. Harsharan Singh is an organic farmer who has also started a dairy farm of Desi Sahiwal Cows. He narrated his story that how he got motivated to do organic farming leaving his own

professional occupation of electronics engineering in which he has served in several countries.

Sh. Shoorvir Singh, Organic Farmer Expert from Patanjali, Haridwar presented his view point about the organic farmers. The whole session was recorded in which number of participants also asked several questions from the Rural Artisans and Organic Farmers. Some of the students from north-east particularly from Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura also participated during the discussions.

On the second day in the first plenary session, there was three speakers:

1. Dr. Rashmi Kant, Agriculture Scientist from New Zealand
2. Dr. SP Mehra, Environmentalist from Rajputana Society, Bharatpur (Raj.)
3. Dr. Jagveer Singh Rawat, Section In-charge of Immunology, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary of Animal Sciences, Hisar

Dr. Rashmi Kant presented a case study of apple production in New Zealand in comparison to India in general and Himachal Pradesh in particular. He presented how New Zealand has achieved quality production of apple which are in high demand in the world market. The average apple productivity is 60 tons per hectare in the New Zealand whereas the average production of apple per hectare is very less which about 5-6 ton per hectare in Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Kant is working under World Bank Project for increasing the production of apples in Himachal Pradesh state with the help of a team of experts from New Zealand. The group of scientists are helping the scientists and farmers of HP state who are engaged in apple production. Dr. SP Mehra presented a research paper on Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Rural Development from Rajasthan state. Dr. Mehra has highlighted the projects on Watershed Management, Running Water Harvesting and Conservation of Forest. Dr. Jagveer Singh Rawat presented the paper on Potential of dairy Farming in the Rural Areas of northern India. Dr. Rawat has also developed a number of start-up and small enterprises for the rural youth. Dr. Rawat also linked all start-up initiatives under the UBA and he was one of the founder members of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. Later on, there were two Technical Sessions organized on Natural Resource Management and Water, Sanitation, Health and Infrastructure Development respectively.

The session on Natural Resource Management was chaired by Dr. Krishna Mohan, Professor, Geography Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Dr. VK Bhatt and Dr. SP Mehra were the lead speakers in this session which presented their success stories of Watershed Management and Wild Life Conservation respectively. Dr. VK Bhatt presented the success story of Sukhomajri and other Micro-watershed projects in Shivalik region of the Himalaya.

Dr. SP Mehra presented a success story of the conservation of birds called Green Munia which is likely to be extinct bird from Rajasthan and India. He narrated the story of tribal youths who were trained and motivated for the protection of Green Munia which was under danger of illegal capture and sale in the open market by some of the illegal hunters with the help of tribal youths earlier. Dr. Mehra has developed a tourism network and now all

the tribal youth engaged in rural and eco-tourism in which a large number of foreign tourists have been visiting the forest site for watching the birds Green Munia. There were other papers on use of traditional knowledge of plants by Dr Santosh Kumar from HNB Garhwal University. Dr. Ragini Dubey, a PhD student from PAU, Ludhiana presented the use of Green Home Cleansers which may be used for cleaning of the house.



Participants of the Seminar

In the technical session entitled Water Sanitation, Health and Infrastructure Development. Dr. PS Yadav, Ex-Director, HIRD, Nilokheri was the Chairperson. He was the lead speaker of the session in which he presented a paper on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan based on his experience in Haryana and other states. There were other papers on Smart Village, Application of Renewable Energy and Application, IoTs in Rural Areas. Dr. Vinay Kumar and Dr. Randhir Ranta presented a paper based on study of consumers Behaviour for the use of online shopping. Dr. SP Chauhan, Ms. Vin Dosanjh and Sh. RP Sharma presented a paper on Role of Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HSSC) for developing the livelihood among the rural missions.

After lunch, there was a special session/dialogue with on the PIs Coordinators working under UBA programmes. The various representatives deliberated and recommended following:

1. UBA is a noble project started by MHRD, Govt. of India. Each institution should adopt 5 villages and do experiments by making a team of students and teachers. It is a great opportunity for the teachers and students to work in a village environment and find solutions to the problems of villagers.
2. At present, the funding under UBA is very less which is Rs. 50,000/- per PI. Under such grant, no rural development project is possible. So, it was proposed by most of the PI coordinators that there should be at least Rs.5.00 lakhs grant per annum for undertaking various UBA activities in the nearby villages.
3. There is an urgent need of preparation of Guidelines Document for effective implementation of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in which role of NCI, RCI and PI may be clearly defined along with some courses on rural technology, community development, rural start-up and rural internship.
4. A core team for the preparation of a Guideline Document under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan for better implementation was made.

The core team is comprised of following members:

- Dr V K Vijay, Professor and Head, CRDT IIT Delhi
- Dr. Jagveer Singh Rawat, HAU Hisar
- Dr. UN Roy, NITTTR, Chandigarh
- Dr Vivek, CRDT, IIT Delhi
- Dr. Manoj Kumar, SLIET Longwal
- Dr. Randhir Singh Ranta, IIHS, HP University Shimla
- Dr. Devraj, IIT Ropar
- Dr. Saurabh Lakhanpal, LPU Jalandhar

Dr. Dev Raj from IIT, Ropar presented a report that how under UBA, he has supported a small academic programme on Human Geography and Community Development. In this programme, he has motivated a large number of students to work out some innovative rural development projects at IIT Ropar. Dr. Manoj from SLIET, Longowal also presented his achievements under UBA. Dr. Saurabh Lakhanpal from Lovely Professional University, Phagwara presented a paper in which he highlighted how LPU has supported project under a banner called SATHI under which he is working on for skill development, agriculture, technological development, health and innovations. He is working with other team members. Four week programme on Community Development has also been launched for the students under which each student is supposed to take small projects on rural development.

In the valedictory session, Dr. UN Roy, Convener of the national seminar presented a brief report on the two days seminar divided into five technical sessions and one plenary session.

About 40 papers were presented in two days' national seminar in which more than 150 participants participated. As a major recommendations of the seminar that integrated rural development programmes supported in UBA has been appreciated by all the partners. However, the present funding pattern is a major bottle neck in promotion of UBA activities at the grass root levels.

The Chief Guest of the valedictory session, Dr. Jagveer Singh Rawat highlighted the programmes of UBA. He was very happy with the kind of participation of more than 40 students from HP University, Shimla and HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar (Uttarakhand). Some of the students came forward for the development of few start-ups with Dr. Jagveer Singh Rawat. Dr. Rawat have developed a model of start-up with the group of scientists in Haryana state. It has been named as Ubbet Khabar experiments by a group of entrepreneurs in Haryana. He has also advocated that we can organize a meeting of all the Chief Secretaries of three states for the promotion of integrated village development activities under the umbrella of UBA.



Feedback from Participants about the Seminar



Address by Chief Guest, Dr Jagveer Singh Rawat

In a concluding remarks, Dr. SS Pattnaik, Director of NITTTR, Chandigarh presented how NITTTR Chandigarh is promoting village development activities with the group of teachers and students. Dr. Pattnaik gave a concept of individual social responsibilities. He also felt that there is a need of innovative thinking which he has promoted as "Thinking without Box" rather than "Thinking out of Box". Dr. Pattnaik is interested to start some new programmes at the institute like rural entrepreneurship, rural and social transformation and study start-up for rural development. Dr. Poonam Syal, Co-convener of the seminar presented the formal vote of thanks.

(Dr. UN Roy)
Convener of National Seminar