

Department of Rural Development

NATIONAL SEMINAR

on

"UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES"

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 Padma Shree Ram Saran Verma, Pioneer Farmer from Barabanki (UP). The welcome address of the seminar was given by Dr. SS Banwait, Officiating 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. He also highlighted the achievements and the expected outcome from each of the RCIs and PIs. Dr. Roy presented the theme of seminar and achievements made under UBA by NITTTR, Chandigarh. 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 , 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. In the year 2019, he was awarded by the Prime Minister and is recipient of Padma Shree Award from the President of India in the year 2019. Dr. Poonam Syal, Co-convener of the seminar presented vote of thanks.



Address by the Chief Guest Padma 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

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.

Two technical sessions were organized on first day in which 13 research papers were presented and there was presentation by the lead speakers 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, problems related to Mushroom Quality Flow and its Utilization, Income generation through value addition in agriculture in Uttarakhand and other issues related to development. Dr. OPS Khola was the Chairperson of the Technical Session of Sustainable of Agriculture and he concluded that there is an urgent need to find out the way of sustainable agriculture which is different from conventional agriculture. 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.

Special Session of Rural Artisans and Organic Farmers

A special session of Rural Artisans and Organic Farmers was organized in the ETV Studio. 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. 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. 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.

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. Harsharan Singh is an organic farmer who has also started a dairy farm of Desi Sahiwal Cows. 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.

On the second day in the plenary session, there were following three lead speakers.

- Dr. Rashmi Kant, Agriculture Scientist from New Zealand
- Dr. SP Mehra, Environmentalist from Rajputana Society, Bharatpur (Raj.)
- 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 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 was 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 the tribal youths were 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, 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 on Water Sanitation, Health and Infrastructure Development. Dr. PS Yadav, Ex-Director, HIRD, Nilokheri was the Chairperson. He was the lead speaker of the session and he presented his views 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 etc. 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. Dr. Poonam Syal from NITTTR, Chandigarh presented about the potential interventions related to Internet of Things for development of villages.

There was a special session and discussions with 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.

Dr. Dev Raj from IIT, Ropar presented a report that UBA project has supported a small academic programme on Human Geography and Community Development. 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. 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 a brief report on the two days seminar was presented. About 40 papers were presented in two days' national seminar. The Chief Guest of the valedictory session, Dr. Jagveer Singh Rawat highlighted the programmes of UBA. He appreciated the participation of more than 40 students from HP University, Shimla and HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar (Uttarakhand). 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.



Director. Prof. Dr. SS Pattnaik addressing the Participants



Address by Chief Guest, Dr Jagveer Singh Rawat

In a concluding remarks, Prof. (Dr.) SS Pattnaik, Director of NITTTR, Chandigarh presented about the work done by NITTTR Chandigarh in promoting village development activities. Prof. (Dr.) SS Pattnaik highlighted about social responsibility. He also added that there is a need of innovative thinking which he has promoted as "Thinking without Box" rather than "Thinking out of Box". The seminar concluded with the formal vote of thanks.