

# PRAXIS

*Reflexive relationship between theories and action*

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## Knowledge Building and Dissemination

### Action Research Labs (AR Labs)

A national level workshop titled "Addressing Segmental and Sectoral Challenges in Livelihood Promotion" was held at Hotel Conclave Riviera on the 30th and 31st of January 2017 at New Delhi.

This workshop was the conclusion of the Action Research project titled Action Research Laboratories (ARLABs), funded by Ford Foundation for a period of three years.

The workshop had 45 participants which included ILRT Faculty, ILRT Board Members, representatives from action research implementing partners, NGO Representatives, Donor Agencies, representatives from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Foundations, and senior management members of BASIX.

The workshop had four thematic sessions, consisting of eight presentations:

inputs from stakeholders on potential policy suggestions. The presentations were followed by panel discussions. Final outputs shall soon be ready.

### Case Study Documentation

Producing information materials can take a long time - you have to write the drafts, edit the text, prepare illustrations and lay out the publication. The resulting prototype is then reviewed by specialists in the subject matter, before final revisions are made.

Manuscripts get lost, authors and reviewers may disagree, and people cannot be contacted easily. The process can seem never-ending. There are several ways of producing information materials.

One of these ways is through case writeshops i.e. intensive workshops to write information materials. The case study method is extensively used by ILRT



**Session 1:** Ultra Poor Livelihoods: Psychological and Institutional Dimensions

**Session 2:** Challenges in realising Livelihood Rights: Overcoming Development Challenges

**Session 3:** Enhancing Agricultural Livelihoods through Institutional and Technological Solutions

**Session 4:** Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Livelihoods  
The overall objective of the workshop was to share the findings of the Action Research, and seek suggestions and

to document post-facto knowledge.

The process includes: developing a case protocol, constituting teams with a combination of practitioner and faculty, data collection, data analysis and writing the case. Case protocols are revisited as per the targeted audience to make the case studies more learning oriented. ILRT has so far documented more than 130 case studies and supported other organisations viz. Bihar State Livelihood Promotion Society (BRLPS), AKRSP (I), Jannalal Bajaj Foundation etc., to document another 50 plus cases.

### Dear Reader!

Welcome back to the Newsletter 'Praxis'. While we had a full plate to serve with the first issue given that we wanted to share almost everything we do, this second edition is shorter and I hope, sweeter.

There have been mixed reactions to the first edition and while everyone enjoyed reading it, some felt that there was a bit too much of information. Given that, we have tried to make it more succinct and enjoyable.

What was more important for us is that everyone who was involved with the making of the first edition owned it up and felt good sharing their pieces. So is true with this second edition.

The issue has been delayed a bit due to lots of preoccupation and the closing of the financial year.

Beginning this issue, we are attempting to have a special section with a particular theme – in this case, Action Research. While it may appeal to a select audience, the readers are mostly in-house professionals who will, I hope, find it an interesting approach.

Again, please know that your feedback is very important for us given that it not only energizes the team but also tells us what you like and what you do not so we can make it better with the coming issues.

Disfruta el boletín (Spanish) – Enjoy the newsletter!

Dr. SS Tabrez Nasar  
Dean

## Study on developing Smart Villages in Kashmir

A study on two villages, Lassipora and Utterpora of Sukhnag Block of J&K was commissioned by the District Administration in Budgam to understand how the villages can be transformed into Smart Villages.

Based on the methodology of capturing community aspirations and views of district departments, a roadmap of possible interventions has been prepared as part of the final report.

The Basix team in Srinagar especially Ishtiyaz Nazir Bhat and Mujtaba Bashir along with Dr. Muzaffar and with Mr. Sanjeev Kumar (ILRT) were involved in the study and provided crucial inputs and linkages for completion of the study.

In this study, ILRT has suggested a collaborative model which allows for expertise from external agencies in designing interventions as well as providing initial handholding for district departments, for effective and timely realisation of outcomes.

## Nepal Programme - B-A-LAMP

B-A-LAMP conducted a Study Programme titled, "Financial literacy and Innovative Technology-led Microfinance: the Indian experience" during January 16-20, 2017 at Hyderabad and Bengaluru for Sakchyam Access to Finance for the Poor Programme, Nepal (<http://sakchyam.com.np/>).

This 132nd Programme had 13 senior professionals representing different MFIs across Nepal.

The overall objective was to appreciate the best practices in Microfinance with special reference to Financial Literacy and Innovative Technology-led Microfinance.



*"It is a highly recommended training cum learning experience"*

**- Mr. Suman Dhakal,**  
Financial Capacity and Training Specialist, Sakchyam, Nepal

*"The faculty, subject matter and delivery tools are incredible" -*

**- Mr. Yubaraj Siwakoti,**  
Project Manager, Sahara, Nepal

*"Excellent opportunity to see, learn, realise, reflect and go further towards more responsible Microfinance"*

**- Mr. Bhoj Raj Bashyal,**  
Deputy General Manager,  
Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd. Nepal

## FPO-CEO Training at BIRD NABARD

Continuing the association with NABARD, a three month Certificate Programme for Potential Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) was undertaken that started from 2nd January and completed on 25th March 2017.

The training focused on the topics- community mobilisation and primary institution building processes, legal dimensions of producer companies, requirements of return and filing at ministry of corporate affairs, compliances related knowledge, business plan and financials of Producer Company.

The resource persons for the training programme were ILRT Faculty and staff Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Mr. Shashank Singh, Dr. Rajendra Singh Gautam, and Mr. Rajkumar Prajapati.



### What participants say...

*"The design of the sessions was excellent, covering all topics related to the FPO"*

*"It helped to understand and relate the theory to the practical work"*

*"The material shared during the training was of great importance, for the work"*

## Development Perspectives and Livelihood Promotion: A Training

A three-day training was organized at Axis Bank Foundation premises at Mumbai for their staff on March 20 - 22, 2017. The overall objective of the training was to orient the participants and build perspectives on rural development and sustainable livelihood promotion initiatives in India. Dr. Rajendra Singh Gautam and Mr. Avinash Kumar were the resource persons for the training. In addition to the 15 participants, the CEO of Axis Bank Foundation Mr. K Anil Kumar; Deputy CEO Mr. Jacob Ninan, Program Head Ms. Dhruvi J Shah, Vice President and Head-Operations Mr. Pradeep Kumar also participated in the training program. The training program concluded with a session by Mr. Vijay Mahajan.



## Orientation on Business Plan Development of Micro-enterprise and Action Planning for Livelihood Promotion of the Persons' with Disabilities (PwDs)



In order to be able to successfully promote any micro-enterprise, one must have a good understanding of business development planning. Realising this need, ILRT therefore conducted a three-day orientation programme on Business Plan Development and Action Planning for livelihood promotion of Persons' with Disabilities (PwDs). This training was provided to the staff members of the partner NGOs of Sightsavers,. This training took place in Bhopal, from 21st to 23rd December, 2016 and was attended by 37 participants. The training was facilitated by Dr. Rajendra Singh Gautam, Mr. Radhyeshyam Solanki and Mr. Rajkumar Prajapati.

## Exploring Potential of Eco-Tourism of Boramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh

Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary presents a great opportunity for eco-tourism development where the wildlife, historical monuments and rich culture of tribal communities especially Baiga are prominent . ILRT conducted a study to gauge the scope of eco-tourism and subsequently prepare a comprehensive plan for holistic development of the area. Based on the findings of the study and the proposed plans, the Tourism and Forest Departments of Chhattisgarh will engage ILRT and IGS on eco-tourism development. Dr. Rajendra Singh Gautam and Mr. Shashank Singh as well as Mr. L. M. Tiwari from IGS were involved in the study. Mr. Vijay Mahajan supported the study team with his overall guidance including a visit to the field .

## Dimbhe Reservoir: Source of Fisheries Based Livelihoods for the Displaced Tribals

Mr. Avinash Kumar represented ILRT on a case study documentation team of the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) on "Dimbhe Reservoir: Source of Fisheries Based Livelihoods for the Displaced Tribal" as a part of a high level committee headed by Dr. Dilip Kumar (Retired V.C. and Director, CIFE and Chairman of ILRT Board).



### Useful Links

- **IFFCO Kisan- Agriculture App:** An app aiming to help Indian farmers to take informed decisions by accessing customised agricultural information related to their needs:  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.IFFCOKisan&hl=en>
- **AgriApp:** This app provides complete information on Crop Production, Crop Protection and all relevant agriculture allied services:  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criyagen&hl=en>
- **Indianngos.org:** This website provides state-wise list of NGOs in India. [www.indianngos.org](http://www.indianngos.org)
- **IRMA-Grameen Gyan Kosh (GGK):** Grameen Gyan Kosh (GGK) is a knowledge repository on rural India initiated and hosted by the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). GGK is a multi-stakeholder and multi-regional platform that aims to provide common grounds for policy makers, practitioners, activists, students, academicians and citizens to discuss and share different things that are pertinent to rural India.
- **Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID):** ISID is a national-level policy research organisation in the public domain and is affiliated to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). In addition to organising many workshops and trainings on different research topics, ISID has developed databases on various aspects of the Indian economy, particularly concerning industry and the corporate sector.  
<http://www.isid.org.in>

### News from the Development Sector

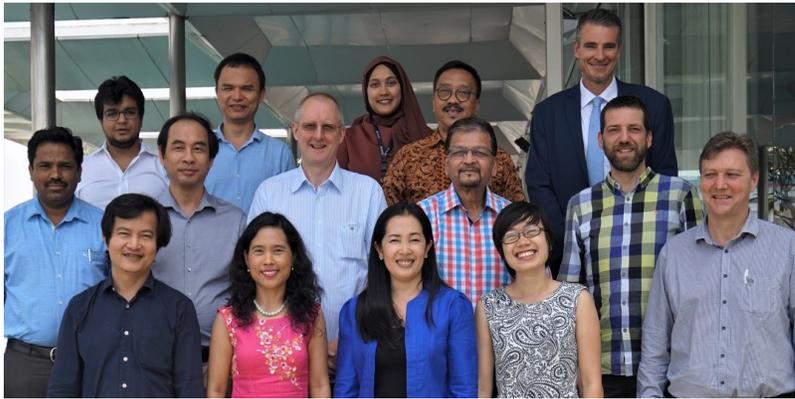
- **Parliament passes Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Bill -2016:** The types of disabilities recognised by the bill have increased from 7 to 21 which were demanded for a long time. It will thus help the PwDs who were deprived of the necessary support from government. Among other disabilities, acid attack victims have also been included in this bill.  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155592>
- **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Programme:** The HRD Ministry in collaboration with technical institutions have developed a programme aimed at addressing problems faced in rural India. This will be done by working with village clusters and developing technological solutions for the most pressing problems, which can be implemented by the district authorities..  
<http://www.dnaindia.com/academy/report-edu-institutions-to-adopt-villages-give-inputs-for-rural-policies-2292207>
- **Capacity Building Programmes, India and Africa:** Partnership between India and African-Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO), an organisation which works at eradicating thirst, hunger, illiteracy, disease and poverty in the region. These capacity building programmes will be conducted at institutes such as National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).  
<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cabinet-clears-india-aardo-mou-on-rural-development/articleshow/54693724.cms>



Wheels of Progress

## ILRT's Participation in Value Chain Capacity Building Network (VCB-N)

Realising the need to strengthen Value Chain Development and Market Systems in the region, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) constituted a regional Value-chain Capacity Building Network (VCB Network) of national Centres of Excellence (CoE) to support its implementing partners across the region, in developing inclusive and poverty-reducing market systems. ILRT was selected as one of the CoEs and is also a founding member of the network. The Steering Committee of the Network is chaired by Dr. Tabrez Nasar.



Meeting of the network in India in late November 2017, which was accepted in principle.

Dr. Tabrez Nasar as the Chair and Dr. Rajendra Singh Gautam as the Lead for Training Demand Assessment (TDA) Task Force, attended the first Steering Committee meeting of the VCB Network in Jakarta, Indonesia, from April 19 – 21, 2017. The TDA that ILRT conducted for four IFAD funded projects in India was much appreciated. Among other things, ILRT has offered to host the next Annual General

## Seminar on Demystifying Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture

Acknowledging the high impact of changing environments on the livelihoods of the poor, ILRT invited Dr. Julian Gonsalves, an environmentalist based in the Philippines, to deliver a lecture on climate change adaptation in agriculture where he highlighted the impact of climate change on the already vulnerable small and marginal farmers as well as on the ecological ecosystems. The seminar also highlighted the dilemma, farmers face on how to draw the line to maintain a balance between food security, ecological sustainability and their own income security. Dr. Gonsalves brought in examples of experiences of farmers in the Philippines who have revisited their farming strategies where they were eventually able to decrease their contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This was done through innovations in crop choices, varied use of soil, methods for irrigation, pattern of sowing, and farming techniques. Among other people invited, we also had Dr. MV Gupta, an Indian biologist and fisheries scientist and recipient of the World Food Prize in 2005 and the first Sunhak Peace Prize that carries an award of 1 million US\$ in 2015.



## Seminar/Conference & Courses Attended by Faculty

In order to address challenges in the Aquaculture sector and to better understand the impact of innovation towards management systems, and ultimately fish farmers' incomes, the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India (CHAI), organised a workshop titled "Dynamics of Challenges and Options in Integrated Aquaculture," on November 2nd 2016, in Patna, Bihar. This workshop was participated by fish farmers engaged in fisheries in private ponds, entrepreneurs, NGOs, academic and research organisations. Dr. Dilip Kumar, Chair of ILRT Board, led a panel discussion and was also felicitated by Mr. Giriraj Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, for his commendable contribution towards the fisheries sector. Mr. Avinash Kumar, Lead Faculty, attended the workshop.

Mr. Avinash Kumar and Mr. Shashank Singh attended a six-day workshop during February 13-18, 2017 on Audio-Visual Media as a Tool in Research for Social Science Researchers at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi .

Mr. Avinash Kumar completed an online certificate course "Camera, Exposure and Photography from smart phone to DSLR" in February 2017. The course was created by Michigan State University and was available on Coursera portal.

### Study of Change in Livelihood Status of Self-Help Groups (SHGs): Gujarat Forest Department

Gujarat Forestry Research Foundation, Gandhinagar has awarded a project to ILRT- "Study of Change in Livelihood Status of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) established during JICA Phase II". The key objective of the study is to assess the role played by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) program in bringing changes in the livelihood status of SHG members. The duration of study is six months and the study sample will comprise 80 SHGs and 240 SHG members. The study will generate important insights for deriving lessons on livelihood promotion through forest based activities

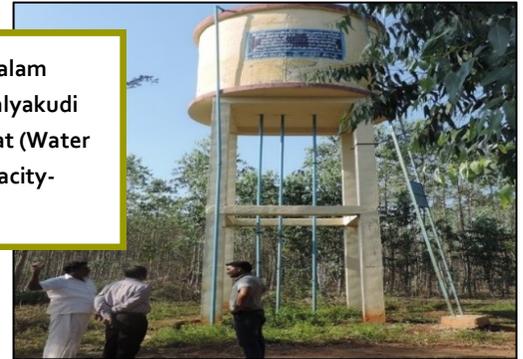
### Supporting Eco Development Committees: Jharkhand Forest Department

Jharkhand Forest Department has awarded a project to support the Eco Development Committees-EDC (constituted in Palamu Tiger Reserve to reduce the biotic pressure by engaging community participation) to develop micro-plan. ILRT has to support the EDCs of five villages to develop micro-plans.

### Pure and safe drinking water: CSR of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC):

ILRT has received a CSR project from (ONGC) for provision of 'Pure and Safe Drinking Water' in four villages in Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu. Four Reverse Osmosis (RO) treatment plants will be set up in the villages of Sendurai and Udayupalayam. ILRT will work on awareness campaigns about benefits of safe drinking water, installation of RO plants in the villages, capacity building of community on management of water resources, and transfer of responsibility of RO treatment plants to the community through formation of RO Water Users Association.

Kilimangalam village Palyakudi Panchayat (Water Tank capacity- 20000L)



### Market research to support women enterprise development: United Way Delhi (UWD):

ILRT has been engaged with UWD (a CSR resource channelizing agency) in undertaking market research to support their women enterprise development project in Kapasheda, an industrial belt in South Delhi. Most of the families in the locality are migrants from UP, Bihar and West Bengal. The women from this location are mostly educated up to class 10th and are being supported by UWD for enterprise promotion. To provide an idea of the consumption basket size and related aspects viz. buying behaviour, ILRT has developed a schedule of market assessment which is being carried out by the women who are trained for the purpose.

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