

**Date :3 November, 2010**  
**Time : 14:10 to 16.30 Hrs**  
**Workshop 8 : Ethical Development Practices for Sustainable Livelihoods- Issues and Concerns**  
**Coordinators: Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi**  
**Rapporteurs : Chetali Kapoor**

**Session 4 : Time 11 : 45 to 13 : 30**

### **Day 3**

The session began with the thought provoking question: “Should ethical framework be there at all for civil society elements?”

**Speaker 1: Shri Bhibhu Tripathi**  
**Project Presentation on Access to Energy Project**



Firstly Mr.Tripathi talked about the methodology; survey in twenty villages of Orissa was carried out so that the organization could address the livelihood needs. They collected primary data in domestic, community, agriculture, drinking water supply and small and primary enterprises etc. It was mentioned that the illumination sector consumes 31% of electricity. Balassore was chosen to be the model cluster. 100 w bulbs were replaced by 23 watt leading to the overall saving of 70% of electricity.

Secondly, identification of energy efficiency champions was carried out. Devising cost sharing mechanism was another important activity whereby the money saved would remain with village electricity committee. This money can then be spent for different purposes like establishment of franchises for exploring different means of livelihood.

The difference in energy use between developed and developing countries was emphasized upon. For example, 41% electrical energy is being used in the illuminating appliances. Mr. Tripathi mentioned that based upon the organization's field service data, illumination appliances use 0.241 units. It was emphasized that proper and optimum use of electricity is the goal of this programme. It was observed that in the evening hours, the villagers aren't getting good amounts of electricity. The aim therefore is to address this concern.

Some of the other concerns were voiced with the help of examples. For example, in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, *participation* of women was zero, but gradually the women participation increased. An appropriate time had to be selected so that women could come.

Change in attitude and practice was another topic of discussion. It was stressed that there is awareness amongst the villagers but then when it comes to bringing it into practice, they aren't so sensitive. Hence, because of attitudinal problems, a lot of energy is being wasted. It was also underlined that 30,000 Rs can be saved per year if behavioral changes are brought about.

*Mr. Sodhi's intervention:*

"We prepared an institutional format and set village energy committee. We established a trust. And we actually observed attitude changes. MRE has given us 25 villages now (we had 5 initially)."

He mentioned that the proper disposal of CFL has always been an important question whereby the villager is required to come and give it back to the Committee.

**Speaker 2: Mr. Arindam Das Gupta (handles micro enterprise development and management), Dhriti**

*For the young, by the young*

Mr. Gupta started off by saying that under employment is the major problem amongst the youth in India. Education system in India promotes entrepreneurship. He mentioned that his organization is involved in identifying, piloting and up scaling activities; "In the pilot phase, we set up a production facility and do baseline study at village level and then prepare business model."

He then pointed out that his organization moved from village to a larger level across the region.

Following this, Mr. Gupta gave an introduction to the Arecanut Programme. He then talked about bamboo based activities under SGP (UNDP). He said that under Arecanut, production units are run by local villagers.

The vision is that even if 30% raw material is available, we can have a hundred crore industry in rural Assam; "We are expanding and another 50 units are coming up."

It was also mentioned that the product is bio-degradable and compostable.

Following this, he said that Tamul Plates Marketing Company was earlier Dhriti but with time, the latter is going into a marketing, facilitation and monitoring role.

Elucidating the bamboo initiative, he said that “in the programme of bamboo mat composites, we are substituting plywood in the markets...We saw an opportunity of providing employment to people. We implemented the initiative among the people residing around Manas National Park.” Mats are being supplied to industries for making plies.

The goal is better utilization of raw material. And the basic challenges are that complete operation is by hand-so machines had to be developed to maintain the standards. While maintaining the standards is a top priority, it is also ensured that the machines are manual.

Moreover, the programme links up the community living near forest with the community trained in weaving activity through the bamboo trading centre (BTC). The products of the latter are brought to BTC from where it is supplied to the market.

Mr.Gupta highlighted the economic aspect by saying that weavers now get Rs. 30 per mat while earlier, they had an income of Rs.30 per day. He brought the attention of the audience to the fact that the income of artisans has gone up. Therefore it is significant that there are high economic outputs of the programme.

Talking about the experiences, Mr.Gupta said that the resource is local (competitive advantage of the community) and the skill and market is modern (new). This results in attraction of external money, creating a multiplier effect

He also said that it is to be noted that the organization has gone into the villages as a sectoral initiative, but participants have taken it as one of the activities amongst their portfolio of activities.

He concluded by mentioning the risks; Arencaut activity is suited to the condition when rainfall is bad. When rainfall is good, the villagers can benefit from agricultural activity. The major thing is to reduce (marketing) risks and investment of time to improve it in terms of quality and quantity

Mr.Sodhi

Planning took 6 months-when one phase got completed, things changed-the bottomline is that every program has to be given institutionalization

He also gave the example of *Janhit*. He said that in western UP, there is casteism and it is very difficult to make groups but organizations like Janhit have been able to penetrate such an area. He concluded by saying that trust, not contracts should be the emphasis of civil society relationships.

This was followed by the drafting of the declaration and recommendations

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Development practices must promote human values, mutual respect and dignity across the spectrum of society
- Sensitivity and awareness must be all-pervasive commencing with youth, schools and community institutions in transparent ways

- Ensure Government policy towards sustainable development is inclusive and respects traditional wisdom
- Active involvement of the vulnerable and under-privileged in decision making ensuring thereby equity and justice
- Devote ourselves to Mother Earth with humility and accept collective responsibility

