

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Training Programme for Farmers in Hazaribagh

Hazaribagh, Jharkhand: IGSSS organised a training programme for the farmers in Hazaribagh to help them prepare strategies for programmatic intervention under its livelihood initiative. Farmers shared their traditional experiences on the availability of the natural resources such as land, water, forest, animal and their effective utilization in an interactive process. The training programme focused on providing knowledge and information on sustainable agriculture practices. The training focused it discussion towards the change in weather pattern in the last three years and its impact on the agricultural practices.

The training programme highlighted the available land types, irrigation facilities and cropping pattern practiced by the villagers and proper mechanism and risk mitigation strategies to deal with poor rainfall. Other critical issues such as source of income, causes of distress migration, availability and usage of livestock by the community, significance of forest produce in the village life and status of handicraft trade were discussed. Farmers shared their level of awareness, accessibility and implementation of the social welfare



schemes. Development concerns such as the status of women in the context of the village was discussed.

The training programme also comprised of a two day field visit in the four villages to develop an understanding about the available resources in the village.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Barefoot Lawyers

Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh: A group of young people referred as 'Barefoot Lawyers', under the Youth Development programme of IGSSS are enthusiastic about their new role to promote awareness on the legal rights and entitlements among the marginalized communities in Arunachal Pradesh. IGSSS organised a training programme for these barefoot lawyers on various useful legal provisions meant for the development of the poor and vulnerable people and communities.

The youth shared that in the interior areas of Arunachal Pradesh people have not even heard about Right to Information (RTI) and Right to Education (RTE)

Act. They feel that these trainings will be helpful for them



to help people access their entitlements efficiently. The training programme was targeted toward the Puroik community who are considered to be one of the most marginalized tribes of Arunachal Pradesh and it enjoys special provisions under state and central laws.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

A Food Festival to Promote Peace



Chirang, Assam: IGSSS organised a food festival for women in the conflict ridden areas of Chirang district to promote harmony and peace. Around 250 women from 17 villages of Chirang district participated in the festival. The major attraction of the event was the different kind of 'Pitha' (a local delicacy made of rice or wheat flour). The women were divided into small groups, and a team of women who prepared 18 varieties of Pithas emerged as the winner. Besides preparing delicious food items, the women enjoyed the fun filled conversations, cracked jokes and shared humorous stories. The day lit up with lively song rendition and folk song performance delivered by women from the communities.

URBAN POVERTY

Demand for National Policy Framework on Rickshaw Pullers

New Delhi: Planning Commission members, TERI representatives and other Social Activists called for the need of a National Policy Framework on Rickshaw Pullers during a two-day workshop organised by IGSSS on the issues and concerns of Rickshaw Pullers. The workshop was attended by different stakeholders from 12 states of India.

The workshop highlighted the position of cycle rickshaw pullers in urban India; their marginalization in national and provincial policies of Urban Town Planning. The workshop demanded the need for a Uniform National Policy in setting up a mechanism for short distance mode of convenient, cost-effective and non-polluting public transport in Indian cities and

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Training on Sustainable Farming Practice



Amravati, Maharashtra: A farmer training programme focusing on organic farming practices and techniques of using vermi compost was organised by IGSSS. The training programme was designed to provide a better understanding on sustainable agriculture practices and better productivity. The farmers were provided scientific reasoning behind fruitful usage of organic methods and information about the ill effects of pesticides, the consequent harmful effect on their yield. The farmers were also provided practical demonstration and related agriculture inputs.

villages. The speakers assessed the social welfare schemes specifically designed for the informal



sector workforce such as the Rashtriya Swasthya Beema Yojana. The panel opined that such schemes could immensely benefit the labour force but for its effective realization nodal agencies need to be set up which will evaluate the ground level implementation.

The workshop drew attention on safeguarding the interest of the rickshaw pullers from the middlemen and the need of Traffic Training and Certification of Cycle Rickshaw Pullers to reduce number of road accidents. It also highlighted the need for health measures to protect the Rickshaw Pullers from diseases such as TB, Asthma and HIV/AIDS.