

Diversified Activities of SIRD, Assam

The State Institute of Rural Development, Assam is the apex body in the broad field of training and research in rural development. The institute was registered under Societies registration Act 1860 during April' 1998 and thereafter administrative and financial autonomy has been conferred by the government.

Vision

Concerted efforts are on to make SIRD, Assam a Centre par Excellence for training and research in the broad field of rural development.

Mission

Thrust on Mandatory courses.

Since 1998 the institute has been making relentless effort to diversify its training and research activities in the broad field of rural development. Training programmes of the institute has increased manifold. With the increase in

the number of courses, the institute has made sincere effort to improve and maintain the qualitative aspects of the training programmes. Number of mandatory courses conducted per year have been increasing year after year. During the last three financial years, the institute organized 511 courses exclusively for officials working in the broad field of rural development at different levels. Most heartening aspects of the progress is that Line Departments has reposed confidence in the State Institute of Rural Development, Assam so far as qualitative aspects of the training programmes for the officials are concerned. A large number of officials belonging to Line Departments have also undergone training in the institute.

The institute made collaborative effort with various organizations, institutes and experts to diversify its training programmes for the officials as well as non officials.

The SIRD, Assam has taken up a planned approach towards building the capacity of the elected representatives of panchayats in the light of the devolution of functions, functionaries and funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions in the

state. elaborate arrangement has been made to impart training to the newly elected 25610 numbers of elected representatives of panchayats in three subject specific rounds.

Diversification of Activities:

Besides the mandatory core training programmes, the institute has been diversifying its activities in the following areas:

- a. Types and nature of Training programmes other than core programmes.
- b. Clientele groups.
- c. Social mobilization through IEC activities.
- d. Community mobilization through building the capacity of NGOs/CBOs/Village level facilitators etc.
- e. Action research activities.
- f. Implementation of special projects to try out innovative aspects.
- g. Implementation of activity specific special projects in cluster of villages to try out new initiatives.

- h. Identification and popularization through demonstration of simple technologies for the growth of income generating activities.
- i. Intensive and extensive effort for capacity building of rural people on managerial aspects and technical skill.
- j. Extension of income generating activities through proper demonstration for replication in clusters.

The institute has resolved to march ahead with all the above activities maintaining a proper balance among all of them and without compromising the quality of the mandatory responsibilities.

Mandate

With the above background, functions and objectives of the institute can be summed as follows:

- i. To organize training courses on various operational details, planning, implementation procedure, appropriate technology, cost effective methods and techniques, monitoring for officials and non officials in the implementation of various rural development programmes.

- ii. To organize training courses for the elected representatives of panchayats on subject specific rounds.
- iii. To organize training courses to build the capacity of the NGOs, CBOs, rural Facilitators, Animators etc.
- iv. Capacity building through skill oriented training programmes on management development, technology transfer, activity specific skill upgradation etc. for self

employment in rural areas by taking up economically viable activities.

- v. To conduct seminars, workshops for various issues on education, health, sanitation, drinking water, environment, social justice, women empowerment, social mobilization etc. for officials and non officials.
- vi. To organize awareness campaign at the field about various socio economic problems and government interventions.
- vii. To undertake research and action research works to try out new initiatives as well as to create demonstration effect.
- viii. To implement pilot projects for development of micro enterprises and to create avenues for employment generation.

**Growth in the activities of SIRD, Assam
Training Achievement
(1st April, 1998 to 31ST March,2008)**

| Sl NO. | Category | Number of Participants |
|-----------|--|---------------------------|
| 1 | Elected representative of Panchayats | 44,795 |
| 2 | Functionaries of Panchayats | 12,069 |
| 3 | Officials of Line Departments and organisations | 20,816 |
| 4 | Representative of NGOs and Community Organisations | 31,420 |
| 5 | Micro enterprise development | 83,157 |
| 6 | Sensitisation on social mobilization | 1,05,188 |
| | Total | 2,97,445 |

Training programmes organized on different rural development programmes during 2005 - 06 to 2007 - 08.

| 2005-2006 | | | |
|-----------|--|----|-----|
| 1. | Wage employment (SGRY, IAY) | 13 | 436 |
| 2. | National rural employment guarantee scheme | 14 | 565 |
| 3. | Identification of key economic Activities under SGSY for Officials | 16 | 579 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------|--------------|
| 4. | TOT courses under SGSY | 23 | 793 |
| 5. | Watershed / wasteland Development | 12 | 408 |
| | Sub total | 64 | 2216 |
| 2006-2007 | | | |
| 1. | Wage employment (SGRY, IAY) | 27 | 2275 |
| 2. | National rural employment guarantee scheme | 47 | 2086 |
| 3. | Identification of key economic Activities under SGSY for Officials | 20 | 707 |
| 4. | TOT courses under SGSY | 79 | 3029 |
| 5. | Watershed / wasteland Development | 10 | 267 |
| 6. | Health, sanitation, drinking water | 16 | 614 |
| 7. | Maintenance of accounts | 43 | 1040 |
| | Sub Total | 242 | 10018 |
| 2007 - 2008 | | | |
| 1 | National rural employment guarantee scheme | 49 | 1938 |
| 2 | Identification of key economic Activities under SGSY for Officials | 14 | 518 |
| 3 | TOT courses under SGSY | 50 | 2122 |
| 4 | Watershed / wasteland Development | 2 | 65 |
| 5 | Decentralized planning | 149 | 6914 |
| 6. | Health and sanitation | 3 | 93 |
| 7. | OTC | 6 | 932 |
| | Sub total | 273 | 12582 |
| | Grand total | 581 | 24816 |

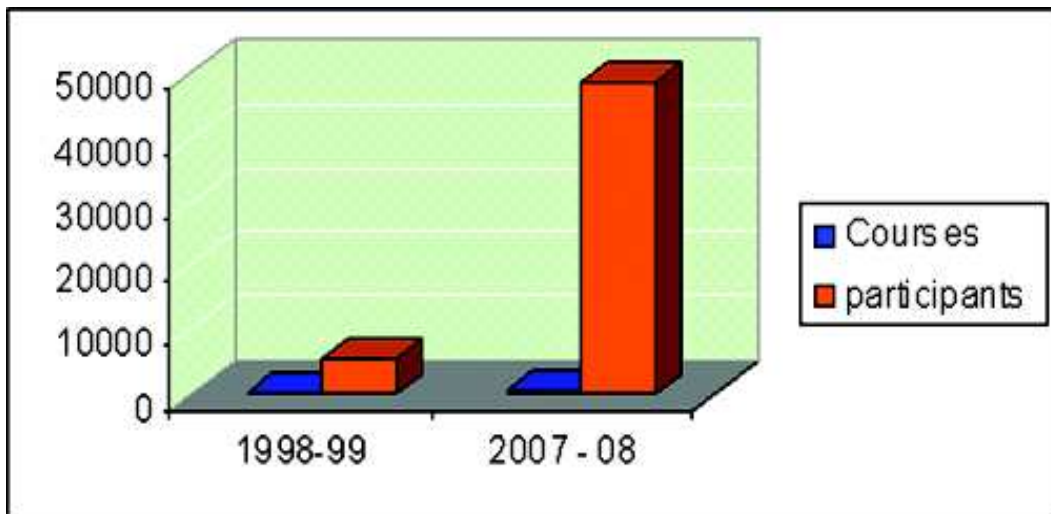
Growth and Impact

The SIRD, Assam has been increasing and diversifying its activities year after year. A glimpse of growth of the activities undertaken by the institute is given below:

1. Total courses organized:

As against 97 courses organized covering 5987 participants, the institute organized 833 courses covering 48987 participants in the year 2007 - 08 belonging to various clientele groups.

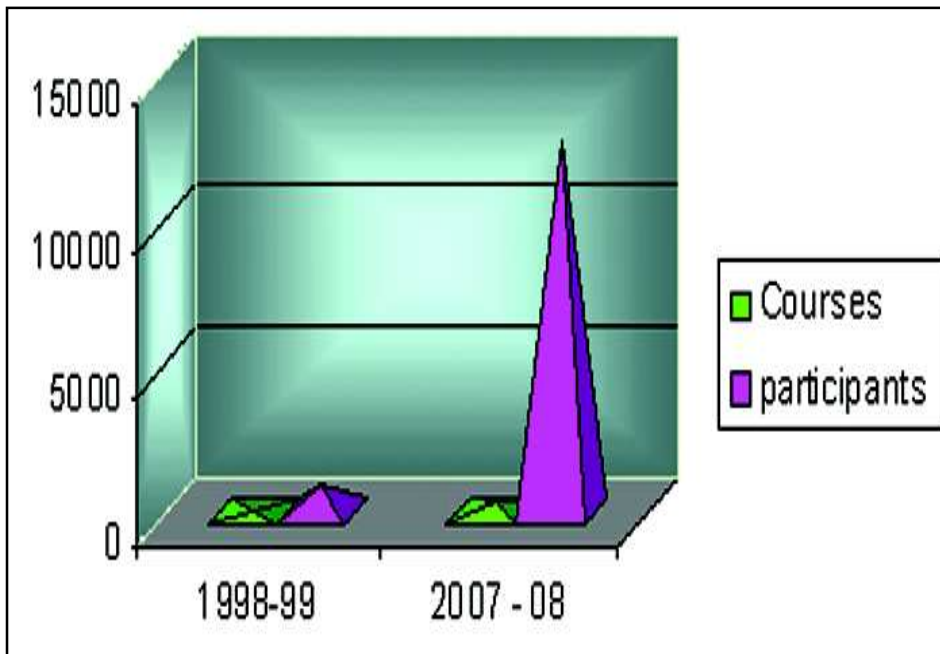
| 1998 - 1999 | 2007 - 2008 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 97 courses 5987 participants | 833 courses 48987 participants |



2. Training for officials:

As against 21 courses organized covering 835 participants in the year 1998 the institute organized 273 courses covering 12582 officials in year 2007.

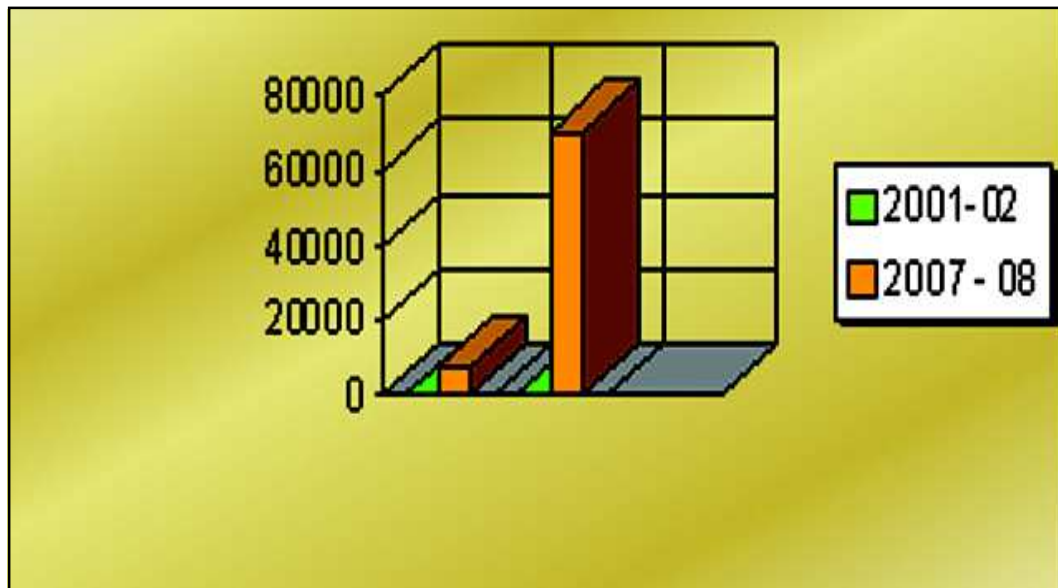
| 1998 - 99 | 2007 - 2008 |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 21 courses | 273 courses |
| 835 participants | 12582 participants |



3. Social mobilization:

The institute organized 49 groups covering 490 families in the year 2001 - 02. Number of SHGs organized and assisted by the institute increased to 7087 numbers in the year 2007 - 08.

| 2001 - 02 | 2007 - 2008 |
|--------------|----------------|
| 49 groups | 7087 groups |
| 490 families | 70870 families |



4. Growth in Credit Mobilisation:

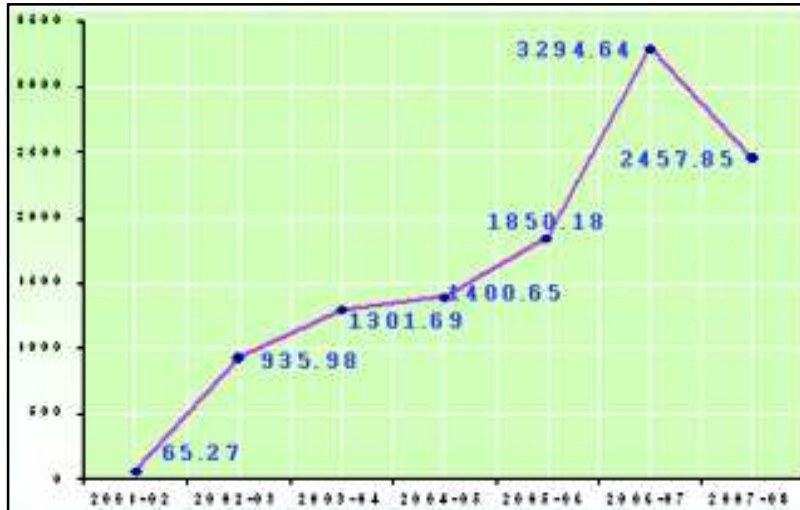
Growth of the quantum of credit mobilized from different banks and financial institutes for the SHGs has shown the following trends.

Growth in Credit Mobilisation.

| Sl no | Year loan | Number of SHGs loan sanctioned | Amount of [Rs in lakh] |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 2001-2002 * | 49 | 65.27 |
| 2 | 2002-2003 | 955 | 935.98 |
| 3 | 2003-2004 | 1249 | 1301.69 |
| 4 | 2004-2005 | 1404 | 1400.65 |
| 5 | 2005-2006 | 1250 | 1850.18 |
| 6. | 2006 - 2007 | 1287 | 3294.64 |
| 7. | 2007 - 2008 ** | 893 | 2457.85 |
| Cumulative Total | | 7087 | 11306.26 |

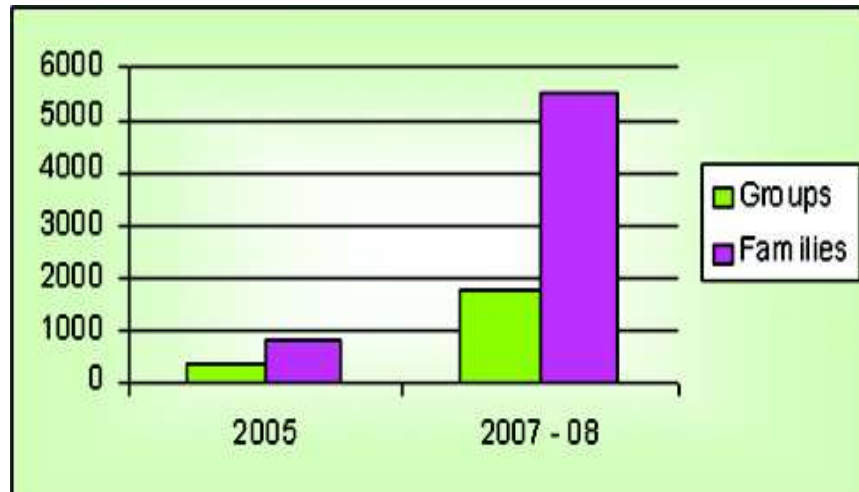
* From November, 2001 onwards ** Upto 31/03/2008

* Number of special projects for development of SHGs have come down in the year 2007 - 08 as the institute has taken up new special project for Joint Liability Groups.



5. **Development of Joint Liability Groups for self employment:** The institute organised 317 Joint Liability Groups and mobilized credit amounting to Rs. 842.47 lakhs from banks and financial institutions in the year 2005. This has increased to 1757 Joint Liability Groups and credit amount of Rs. 5511.71 lakhs in the year 2007 - 08.

| 2005 | 2007 - 2008 |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 317 groups | 1757 groups |
| Rs.842.47 lakhs | Rs. 5511.71 lakhs. |



6. **Activity clusters developed:** The institute has developed a large number of cluster of villages wherein 7717 SHGs and 2100 Joint Liability Groups have been running various income generating activities under the special projects of SIRD in various sectors availing bank loan and other support from SIRD.

7. **Self employment oriented courses organised:** The institute organized 2288 courses covering 83,157 numbers of entrepreneurs, women, farmers etc. to facilitate income generation in the rural areas from 1999 to March' 2008.

Lessons learned

Lessons learned through diversification of training and research activities by the SIRD can be summed up as follows:

- a. It is very important to give practical orientation to the training and research activities.
- b. Class room based training programmes should be supplemented by field based programmes.
- c. Field based training programmes are shared learning process for the institute as well as for the clientele groups.
- d. Covering of wide range of courses and clientele groups help the institute to keep itself abreast with various dimensions of rural development

in the field.

- e. Diversification of activities help the institute to establish linkages with various institutes and organizations which in turn enriches academic capacity of the institute.
- f. Field level action research activities taken up directly by the institute helps the institute to keeps itself abreast with the rural dynamics and experience so gathered becomes good input for the training programmes of officials and non officials.

Multi dimensional, multi sectoral approach in training and research activities enriches the institute in the broad field of training and research.

Achievements and recognition

Visit of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam: The effort of the SIRD, Assam to make its training and research activities more field based got ultimate recognition on 17th October' 2006 when Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the then President of India visited Gumoria a cluster of

villages developed by SIRD wherein 500 women have been rearing Charra Chemballi ducks for egg production. The SIRD, Assam introduced Charra Chemballi duck having high egg laying capacity in association with Kerala Agricultural University to add value to the activity of rearing ducks in backyard condition. Duck rearing is a traditional activity in Assam. But an indigenous duck lay only 40 - 50 eggs per year whereas a Charra Chemballi duck lay around 200 eggs per year per duck. Dr. Kalam had a direct interaction with the members of the SHGs whose quality of lives have been transformed by rearing of Charra Chemballi ducks.

Dr. Kalam highly appreciated the success of the SHGs of Gumoria village and mentioned it in National Level Seminars as source of inspiration.

"In Gumoria village in Assam, the self help groups are developing duck rearing practices based on inputs from agricultural specialists from Kerala with the initiative of the Assam Government. Pride was writ large on the women as they explained their accomplishments".

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS VISITED SIRD, ASSAM
DURING 2000 - 2001 TO 2007 - 2008.**

Sri Ajoy K. Singh, Lt. General (RTD.), His Excellency, Governor of Assam

Sri A. R. Kohli, His Excellency, Governor of Mizoram

*Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam at the Summit of the Powerless,
New Delhi, 20 November 2006
after Gumoria visit.*

Infrastructure

The institute has 16 (sixteen) Extension Centres / Growth Centres / Common Facility Centres at zonal level under its to cater to the training needs in a decentralized manner.

Besides facilities for conducting training programmes for officials and elected representatives of panchayats along with hostels, each of the above mentioned centres has got the following facilities for practical training on skill upgradation, management development and transfer of appropriate technology on a host of activities starting from agriculture to computer application.

Facilities available

- ◆ Handloom designing.
- ◆ Weaving.
- ◆ Diversification of Handloom products.
- ◆ Yarn processing.
- ◆ Dyeing & calendaring etc.
- ◆ Poultry hatchery with parent stock & brooding for improved variety.
- ◆ Eco Hatchery for fish seed.
- ◆ Pig breeding.
- ◆ Nursery for planting material.
- ◆ Marketing.
- ◆ Computer DTP Centre.
- ◆ Vermicompost.
- ◆ Food processing.
- ◆ Floriculture.

- ◆ Fodder with Dairy.
- ◆ Plantation of Medicinal plant.
- ◆ Horticulture.
- ◆ Mushroom production.
- ◆ Training facilities with hostel.

Institute of Development of Entrepreneurs in Assam (IDEA)

The SIRD has developed a separate wing to build the technical and managerial capacity of the artisans, entrepreneurs, farmers, members of SHGs. etc. in its second campus at Kahikuchi, near Guwahati Airport. The separate wing is known as Institute of Development of Entrepreneurs in Assam (IDEA). IDEA is expected to cater to the growth of various facilitating components of entrepreneurship quality of youth.

**Training centre with technical
support of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad**

The institute has been running a training centre on developing skill for making value added bamboo and cane products with technical support of National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

**Computer Aided Design centre with technical
guidance of National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kolkata**

Computer Aided Design Centre on textiles has been opened at Kahikuchi for diversification of design in handlooms and textiles for value addition with technical guidance of National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kolkata.

**Skill development centre in
association with MICOBOSCH, Bangalore**

Skill development training centre has been opened in the

trade of automation, power tools, electrical works, carpentry, plumber works in association with MICO BOSCH, Bangalore for employment in service sector.

The SIRD has created the above facilities by mobilizing resources under different special projects entrusted to it by Government of India and Assam Government.

Note of Appreciation

I must compliment SIRD, Assam on the very good work that is being carried out by the institute, which I am sure will achieve even greater heights in the years to come.

Dr. J. S. Sarma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of R. D. Government of India (July' 2001).

It is heartening to note that the State Institute of Rural Development, Assam is playing an active role in the state towards organising the SHGs and capacity building for income generating activities.

M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister,

Sri Tarun Gogoi, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam along with Sri Chandan Brahma, Hon'ble Minister, P & RD, Assam distributing cheques to the youth taking up productive income generating activity under Chief Minister's Jeevan Jyoti Swarnojan Yonana

Members of the Employment Review Committee of Assam interacting with the weavers

Rural Development (20th May' 2002)

"I must also congratulate you and your colleagues for setting up a very fine institute which could definitely serve as the role model for rural development activities in the state".

*Sri Jatin Hazarika, Chairman, Government of Assam,
Administrative Reforms Commission in 2003.*

The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) has been doing very commendable work. To day, it has attained the status of a model institute in the country.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam in the budget session 2004 - 2005

SIRD, Assam has pioneered successful SHGs movement in Assam and has received recognition in all India level.

State Bank of India in June' 2005

Dr. Subas Pani, IAS, the then Secretary to the

**Sri Subash Maharia, Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development,
Government of India**

**Sri Lalit Mathur, IAS, Addl. Secretary, Government of India,
Ministry of Rural Development**

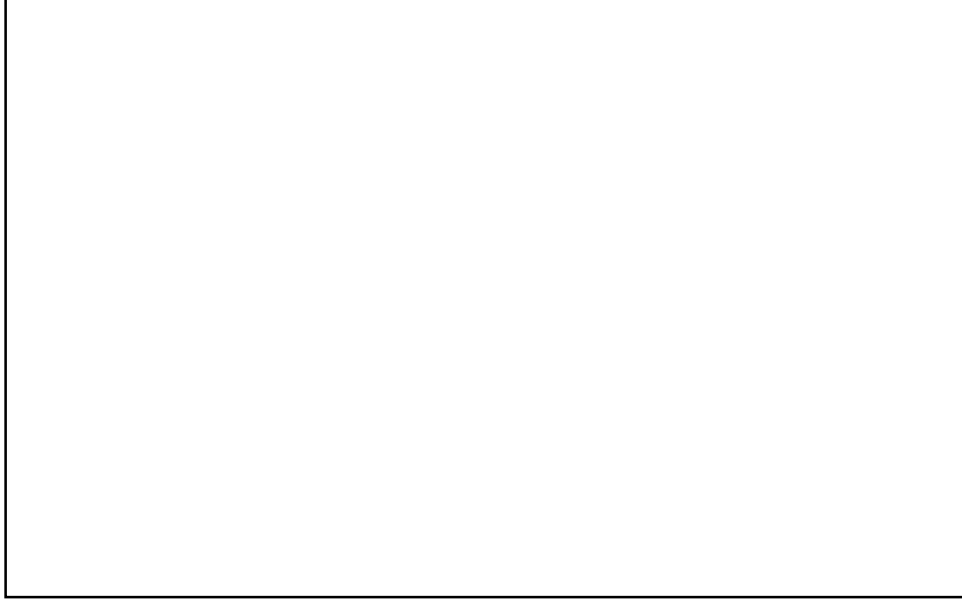
**Sri P. N. Shali, Advisor, Planning Commission & Consultant, Special Project,
North East, Government of India**

**Sri M. Shankar, IAS, Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Rural
Development.**



**Dr. J. S. Sarma, IAS, Jt. Secretary, Government of India,
Ministry of Rural Development**

**Smt. Reba Nair, IAS, Advisor, Planning Commission,
Government of India**



Sri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Commerce, Government of India

Dr. A. V. S. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD, Hyderabad

Government of India visited the campus of the IDEA on 10-10-2007. Appreciating the work done especially under SGSY programme, Dr. Pani suggested that the Assam model of training needs to be encouraged for its replicability and the IDEA campus of the SIRD could be developed as a Centre of Excellence for IT and skill development.

Subas Pani's comment and suggestion
on the SIRD's approach of training.

In the XIXth Colloquium organized by the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India at Mysore on 21st February,2005; SIRD, Assam has been recognised as the Centre of Excellence in Employment Generation and this has been formally communicated by the Director General, NIRD, Hyderabad.

NIRD, Hyderabad.

Thrust areas in mandatory core programmes for officials and

**Smt. Asha Swarup, IAS, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of
Rural Development, Government of India**

**Dr. Kamal Kant Jaiswal, Member Secretary, National Commission for
Unorganised Sector, Government of India**



**Dr. Subash Pani, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development,
Government of India**

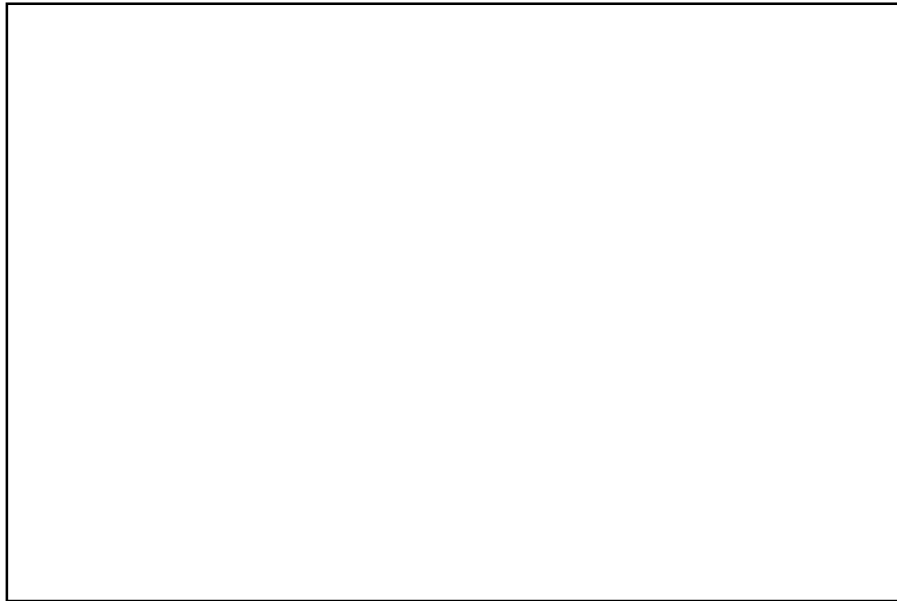
**Sri W. Lakra, IAS, Jt. Secretary, Government of India,
Ministry of Rural Development**

elected representatives of PRIs.

The SIRD, Assam has given adequate emphasis on organizing various mandatory core programmes for officials and non officials. Thrust is on organizing courses under flagship programmes of the Ministry. The institute has been organizing and will continue to organize various courses on the following programmes:

Training of trainers: The SIRD has been sponsoring Faculty Members / selected Resource Persons to attend ToT courses in NIRD, Hyderabad and NIRD, NERC for various flagship programmes. This process will continue. The NIRD's off-campus training programmes at the SIRD has helped the institute in organizing training programmes on different subjects subsequently through Extension Centres. The SIRD has also deputed selected officials, academicians, Faculties of different institutes to different national institutes like Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Institute of Rural Management, Anand, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research, Chandigarh besides,

Sri Chinmoy Basu, IAS, Dy. Director General, NIRD, Hyderabad



Sri J. K. Mahaptra, IAS, Jt. Secretary & Dr. Amar Singh, IAS, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

NIRD. These trained up people are being engaged by the institute for conducting various training programmes on rural development. Considering the large number of training programmes to be conducted in the ensuing years, number of TOT courses will have to be increased manifold including NIRD's off campus ToT courses at SIRD.

Decentralized approach in organizing training programmes: The SIRD organizes the training programmes in a decentralized manner in its Extension Centres and Growth Centres besides organizing courses in its HQ at Khanapara. The Assam has 27 districts, 219 Blocks and 2203 Gram Panchayats. it is not possible to call all the officials and elected representatives working at grass root level to the state HQs. Efforts are on for strengthening the facilities of the Extension Centres and the Growth Centres so that training programmes can be organized simultaneously for different districts through the Extension Centres and Growth Centres to ensure maximum coverage. The SIRD has developed a panel of Resource Persons besides its own Faculty Members to be used as Resource Persons for taking sessions in the Extension Centres.

Training need assessment: The institute assesses the training needs of different clientele groups in different ways. Training needs are assessed on the basis of the following aspects:

- a. Job responsibility.
- b. Performance problem.
- c. Introduction of new programmes.
- d. Introduction of new guidelines and policies.
- e. Identification of thrust areas of different programmes.
- f. Objectives and implementation procedures of different programmes.
- g. Requirement of the implementing authorities assessed through feedback received through interactions in workshops, seminars, review meetings etc.
- h. Feed back from evaluation and monitoring reports.

Training modules: Subject / programme specific training

**Ms Rashmi Priyadarshini, IAS, Director, SGSY, Ministry of Rural
Development, Government of India**

**Smt. Smita Chugh, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development,
Government of India**

modules are prepared and revised and updated as per the requirement of the trainees.

Course materials: Course materials on different programmes and subjects are prepared by the institute in different local languages. Different components of a programme are taken care of and separate reading materials are prepared for those components.

Utilization of training infrastructure of other agencies: The SIRD has selected some reputed institutes and organizations of the state for organizing various courses in a collaborative manner using their training facilities not only in the state HQs but also in different districts HQs. Courses and clientele groups will be identified for organizing courses in such associated organizations.

Networking and linkages: The SIRD, Assam has established linkages with specialized institutes situated inside and outside the state for academic support. Some of the institutes have provided quality inputs and technical guidance in transferring appropriate technology for income generating activities taken up in the rural

**Sri Jatin Hazarika, Chairman, Administrative Reforms
Commission, Government of Assam**

Sri R. K. Dutta, CMD, Oil India Ltd.

areas. The SIRD keeps on sending Faculty Members, entrepreneurs, members of SHGs, farmers to these institutes situated in different parts of the country for training and exposure.

- a. Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Thrissur.
- b. National Institute of Technical Teachers Training Institute, Chandigarh.
- c. Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujrat.
- d. National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.
- e. National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kolkata.
- f. National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana.
- g. Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.
- h. University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore.
- i. MICOBOSCH, Bangalore.
- j. Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana.
- k. Central Duck Breeding Farm, Hessaraghatta, Karnataka.

Sri Jiten Choudhury, Minister, Rural Development, Tripura

A team of MLA from Delhi Assembly.

- l. State Poultry Development Organisation, Hesaraghatta, Karnataka.
- m. Central Poultry Development Organisation, Hesaraghatta, Karnataka.
- n. Central Silk Board, Bangalore.
- o. Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore, Karnataka.
- p. Indian Institute of Bank Management, Guwahati.
- q. Indian Institute of Entrepreneurs, Guwahati.
- r. Assam Agricultural University, Guwahati.
- s. North Eastern Space Application Centre, Umiam, Meghalaya.
- t. Indian Society of Agro Business Professional, New Delhi.
- u. ICAR, Umiam, Meghalaya.
- v. Central Inland Fishery Research Institute, Guwahati.
- w. Fulia Tangail saree Bayan Silpa Samabay Samity Ltd. Nadia, West Bengal.

- x. North Eastern Regional Institute of Water & Land Management, Tezpur, Assam.
- y. Cane & Bamboo Technology Centre, Guwahati.
- z. Weavers Service Centre, Guwahati.

IEC activities: The SIRD proposes to involve electronic media, doordarshan and radio for wide dissemination of information on panchayati raj and rural development. This has been incorporated in the perspective plan under BRGF.

Action research and implementation of self employment oriented projects: As already mentioned, the SIRD, Assam has been implementing a few self employment oriented special projects sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and Assam Government. The implementation of the special projects sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is almost over. The institute has been implementing Chief Minister's Jeevan Jyoti Swarniojan Yojana and certain components of Employment Generation Mission of the State Government for providing self employment to educated

youth with bank loan and government margin money. The SIRD has been implementing these projects to demonstrate as to how the educated youth can successfully develop micro enterprises for their sustainable self employment in the rural areas when required support services are systematically converged and provided to the entrepreneurs. The projects are implemented through the Joint Liability Groups of educated youth, women, farmers etc. The projects have shown encouraging result in the field. Activity clusters developed in agriculture and allied sector under these projects have become centers of attraction. The institute has been given the responsibility of assisting 50000 youth in the ensuing 3 - 5 years for development of micro enterprises in Joint Liability Groups. Massive training programmes will have to be organized in several dozes for these youth in the ensuing years. **The separate wing called Institute of Development of Entrepreneurs in Assam will take care of this self employment oriented activities without hampering of mandatory responsibility of training and research of the SIRD.**