



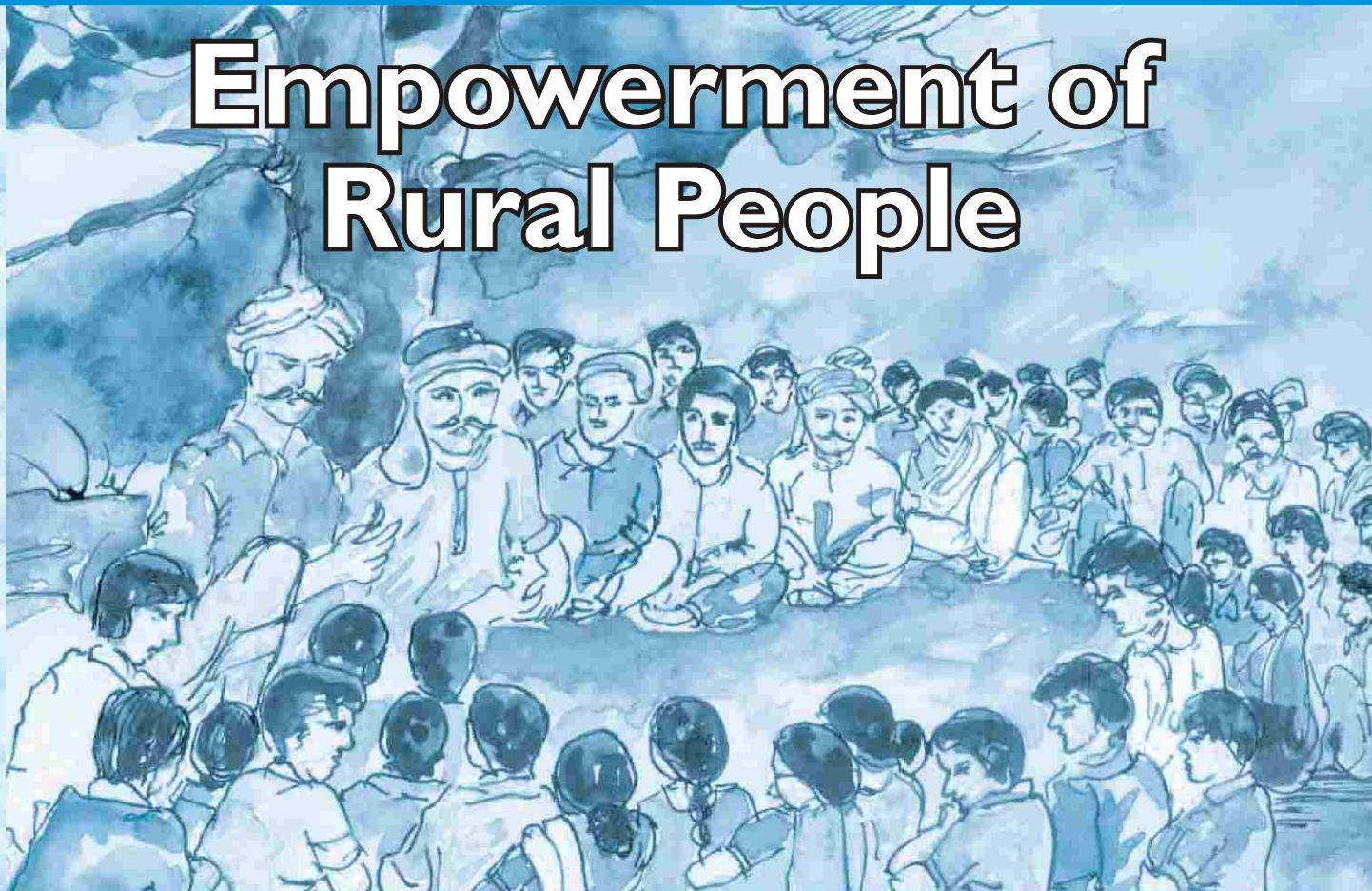
# पंचायत

PEOPLE'S EFFORT BRINGS SUSTAINABILITY

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## Empowerment of Rural People



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**ROLE OF PANCHAYATS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

The views expressed in the articles are of the writers and not of the IES. Your views are solicited as a feedback, I.E.S. would be pleased to solve your queries.

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### *Do U Know the following ....*

- There is nothing in this universe, which is non-medicinal, which cannot be made use of for many purposes and by many modes.
- Compared to other countries, India has among the largest burden of disease due to the use of dirty household fuels and 28% of all deaths due to indoor air pollution.
- In 1992, the 73rd Amendment of India's Constitution empowered Panchayati Raj institutions to perform role in the management of local natural resources (including forests) at the village level.
- The first use of the term 'Organic Farming' is by Lord Northbourne. The term is derived from his concept of "The farm as organism" and which he expounded in his book "Look to the Land (1940)", wherein he describe a holistic, ecologically balanced approach to farming.

### **The key ingredients for empowerment of Rural People:**

Motivation- Rural People should be motivated to form groups, which are should be encouraged to engage in income-generating activities using their own resources and capabilities.

Awareness raising and training- Awareness-raising in several areas, such as immunization, sanitation and primary education should be pursued.

Resource mobilization-Resources mobilization is a method of pooling individual resources through regular savings and voluntary contributions to create social capital.

Self-management- Groups should be capable of electing their own leaders and managing their own activities, such as the conduct of meetings, record-keeping, savings and credit operations, conflict resolution and community property management

Linkage building- Organizing self-help groups at the grass roots is a method of activating the "demand side" of decentralized policies by enhancing the capability of the rural poor to access the resources, opportunities and organizations of the state that are working for their development.

*Articles are invited on the topic of "Role of Panchayat in Energy Conservation" for the next edition of the Newsletter "PANCHAYAT".*

**Editorial**

The rural poverty alleviation through economic and social development was high on the state agenda in almost all countries of the Asian and Pacific region during the second half of the twentieth century. The participation and empowerment of people was one of the major concerns to achieve this goal. In India the Panchayati Raj system was introduced to empower the local community specially the participation of women.

The informations on the traditional knowledge and empowerment of the local communities are very important component. The problems of water and habitat destruction are some of the serious environmental problems. The Panchayati Raj Institutions can play very important role in this direction. This issue of panchayat deals with some of these problems and on the need to conserve medicinal plants.

We hope this issue will of your interest and we will appreciate your comments and suggestions.

**Dr. Desh Bandhu**  
President



## IMPORTANCE OF RATTANJOT PLANTATION IN RURAL SECTOR

Shabarni Dasgupta, Project Associate, IES

The new oil find in the desert may be the bio-diesel plant *Jatropha*, commonly known as "Rattanjot" in this part of the country. *Jatropha curcas* now spotted as an ideal source of TBO (Tree Borne Oil Seed). Farmers of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh have been putting the oil from its seeds to local use before the planning Commission concerned with the country's growing expenses over imports of crude 52 million metric tones of high speed diesel by 2006-07, decided to set up a bio-diesel Mission in 2002.

### About the Plant Rattanjot (*Jatropha*)

It grows like a weed in the wasteland and is used as a hedge by the rural folks to protect their crops. The tribes in Rajasthan and M.P make use of the oil from *Jatropha* seeds for lighting lamps. On a commercial scale, it can be planted on under-stocked forestlands, fallow lands and on farmers holding as agro forestry along with agricultural crops.

**Botanical name :** *Jatropha curcas*  
(Family: Euphorbiaceae)

**English names :** Physic nut, purge nut, pignut, fig nut, jatropha

**Table 2.1: Typical composition of *Jatropha* seeds [6]:**

	Possible Values	Typical Results
Oil Content	16-25%	18-23%
Protein Content	36-50%	38-45%
Fiber Content	3.5-6%	4.0-5.0%
Moisture Content	5-35%	8-15%

### Why *Jatropha* for oil production ?

The use of bio-diesel results in substantial reduction of unbrunt hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and particulate matters. It has no sulphur, no aromatics and has about 10% built in oxygen which helps it to burn fully it is being painted out. The plant can easily be grown on either side of railway tracks as it grows well in both arid and semi-arid conditions, requiring low fertility and moisture. The other advantages are the fuel's contribution to the national energy pool and the potential for creation of jobs in rural sector.

Presently most of the non-edible oils are obtained from seeds of the Indian tree species such as neem (*Azadirachta indica*), karanj (*Pongamia pinnata*), mahua (*Madhuca species*), undi (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), and *jatropha* (*Jatropha curcas*). Whereas the first four species grow into big trees, *jatropha* is a shrub that starts bearing fruits right from the first year onwards. Belonging to

Euphorbiaceae species (castor family), this tropical and sub-tropical crop can thrive well in low rainfall regions and soils with problems. It is a hardy, drought-tolerant crop, and fast growing, which can be easily cultivated without much care. Animals do not graze on *jatropha* plants, and the crop is widely propagated through seeds and vegetative means. Mass propagation through stem cuttings will ensure uniformity and early establishment. Mycorrhizal associations have been observed and are known to aid the plant's growth even in low availability of phosphorus. The standardized extraction process for edible oils can also be adopted for extracting *Jatropha curcas* seed oil. The filtering mechanisms have been modified, and other parameters for preparing the matured seed for extracting the oil have been standardized.

### Additional benefits of *Jatropha* plantations

- Fixation of up to 10 tonnes/hectare/year of CO<sub>2</sub> will benefit international carbon trade.
- Production of 1 tonne/ hectare/year of high protein seed cake (60% crude protein) can be potentially used for animal and fish feeds, and organic matter could be used as organic fertilizer particularly in remote areas.
- Utilization of various other products from the plant (leaf, bark and seed extracts) for other industrial and pharmaceutical uses.
- Localized production and availability of quality fuel.
- Restoration of degraded land over a period of time.
- Generation of rural employment.

### Future of the *Jatropha* plantation in Rural Sectors

Bio-diesel credit bank has been setting up by the PCRA. The executive director of the petroleum conservation and research association (PCRA) Leena Mehendale announced that "The target now is to bring 2.2-2.6 million hect area under the plant all over the country of Rajasthan so that we can start blending 5% bio-diesel extracted from *Jatropha* seeds with petroleum diesel from next year and take it up to 20 per cent by the year 2011-2012.

"This potential biodiesel crop can bring about major economic activity providing income and employment opportunities to the rural communities," says E Vadivel, Dean, Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. '*Jatropha* cultivation can generate an income of 25 000 rupees (520.83 dollars) per hectare in a year; and if grown over 200 hectares in a village, it can provide adequate employment to all landless workers all round the year,' explains Vadivel. □□□

## THREE NOVEL ABHIYANS TO ENERGISE PANCHAYATS

### Indian Environmental Society

The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj is carrying out three important Abhiyans (campaigns) to empower and encourage women and youth elected to the three tiers of panchayats to participate in the activities of their panchayats more effectively and also to involve themselves in expanding sports facilities in rural India.

**Panchayats mahila Shakti Abhiyan**, in collaboration with the national Commission for Women (NCW) under the overall rubric of the NCW's 'Chalo Gaon Ki Ore' programme, aims to bring together in each state / UT the elected women members of the panchayats at all three levels to give them a sense of self-confidence and solidarity, and provide a forum for the exchange of experience and information among themselves. At present, many women in the panchayats feel isolated and powerless, particularly because of the persistence of gender prejudices and gender discrimination in the social mores of village life. The Abhiyan aims to encourage a sense of sisterhood among elected women panchayat members by encouraging them to discuss their problems among themselves, prepare a charter of objectives and disseminate the charter at state, division, district, block and village levels through discussion among themselves. The success of the Abhiyan essentially depends on a sense of ownership of the charter of objectives by the members themselves. The Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan has been launched in Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka, Manipur, Haryana, and Goa.

**Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan** is being conducted in collaboration with the youth clubs, sports clubs, and mahila mandals affiliated to the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). The 2.5 lakh NYKS-affiliated youth clubs nearly match the number of panchayats in rural India. To a very significant extent, they cover the same

geographical area. At the same time, available indications are that between 40 percent and 70 percent of elected panchayat representatives are youth under 35, as defined in the National Youth Policy. Therefore, an endeavor is underway to synergise Youth Power in the NYKS youth clubs with Youth Power in the panchayats on the basis of a charter of objectives jointly prepared by youth club representatives and youth representatives in the panchayats and carried by the youth themselves from the state to the division / district / block / village levels. The Abhiyan has thus far been launched in Haryana, Punjab, Manipur and Goa. While many other countries have ageing populations, the vast majority of Indians are likely to be in the most productive phase of their lives during at least the first half of the twenty-first century, the average age in India now being around 23 years. Youth Power is, thus, the key to pitch forking India from its present low position in the UNDP's Human Development Index to a higher place in the human development league. The Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan is an attempt to reach out to the youth power available among the 80-lakh members of the NYKS and the approximately 20-lakh youth members of the elected local bodies.

**Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan** aims at synergising funding to panchayats with management by the NYKS youth clubs to ensure at least minimum organised games facilities in all village panchayats within the next five years. This is an ambitious programme which seeks to converge existing rural development schemes with additional central / state and voluntary funding to provide some 45 crore rural children, adolescents and youth who are today with no access to organised sports facilities with such access.



## EMPOWERING RURAL INDIA—RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Manmeet Singh Rathore, Project Associate, IES

Rural people are often recognised by the simplicity in their habits and living style. They live in village and their lifestyle is miles away from the urban luxury. As we already know that most of the people in India resides in rural areas and depend on agriculture and other jobs related to it for earning bread. The success of agriculture sector is completely dependent on water and most of the agriculture in India depends on rainwater for irrigation. Since the time immortal the agriculture sector has been worst affected due to shortage in rainfall or no rainfall. Rural people often depend on groundwater or other natural resources for their daily needs of water. In 21st century we need to look for some other alternatives rather depending on these limited resources, which are on the verge of depletion.

Rainwater harvesting has emerged as a promising alternatives to this problem. Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rain from roofs or from a surface catchments for future use. The water is generally stored

Rainwater harvesting is a simple economical and eco-friendly technique of preserving every drop of water by guiding the rainwater that falls through small diameter pipes to borewells, pits and wells. Let us all work together to overcome the problem of water scarcity in our country by harvesting this precious bounty of nature.

in rainwater tanks or directed into mechanisms, which recharge groundwater. This is appropriate in many parts of the world like India, where there is enough rain for collection and conventional water resources either do not exist or are at risk of being over-used to supply a large population. Rainwater harvesting can provide lifeline water for human consumption, reduce pressure on water resources and the need to build reservoirs, which may require the use of valuable land. Traditionally, rainwater harvesting has been practised in arid and semi-arid areas, and has provided drinking water, domestic water, water for livestock, water for small irrigation and a way to replenish ground water levels. Rainwater harvesting in rural areas of India - the model of the history - has in it as much potency today as it ever did before. It is, in fact, only with this rudimentary skill that people are able to survive in water scarce areas. Recognising this fact, our ancestors had learnt to harvest water in number of ways:

- They harvested the raindrop directly. From rooftops, they collected water and stored it in tanks built in their courtyards. From open community lands, they collected the rain and stored it in artificial wells.
- They harvested monsoon runoff by capturing water from swollen streams during the monsoon season and stored it various forms of water bodies (Baowali).
- They harvested water from flooded rivers

The rainwater collected can be stored for direct use or can be recharged into the groundwater. Rain is the first form of water that we know in the hydrological cycle, hence is a primary source of water for us. Rivers, lakes and groundwater are all secondary sources of water. In present times, we depend entirely on such secondary sources of water.

Water harvesting can be undertaken through a variety of ways

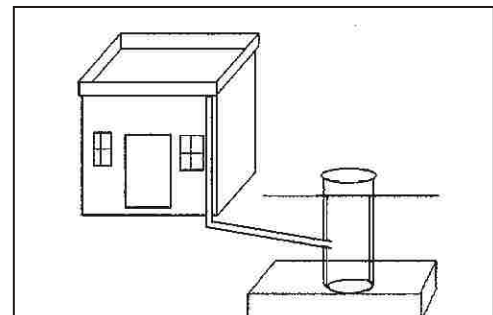
- Capturing runoff from rooftops
- Capturing runoff from local catchments
- Capturing seasonal floodwaters from local streams

### How can we harvest rainwater?

Rain water that falls on the roof is collected and injected into the ground water reservoir through the following methods/structures:

#### 1. Abandoned Dug Well

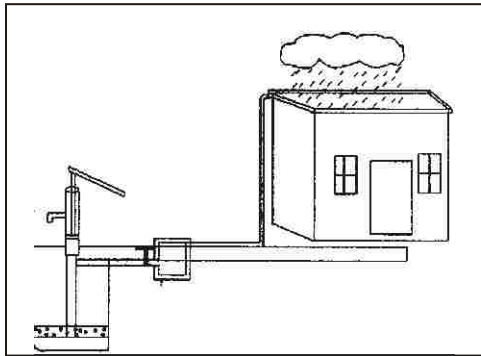
- I. A dry dug well can be used as a recharge structure.
- II. The recharge water is guided through a pipe to the bottom of well or below the water level to avoid scouring of bottom and entrapment of air bubbles in the aquifer.
- III. Recharge water should be silt free.
- IV. It is more suitable for the building having roof area more than 1000 m<sup>2</sup>.



V. Regular chlorination should be done to avoid bacterial contaminations.

## 2. An Abandoned/ Running Hand Pump

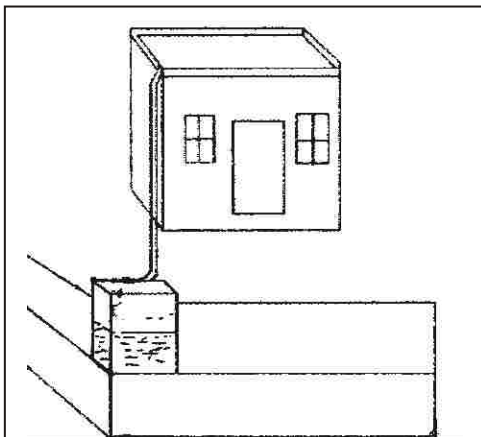
- I. An abandoned or running hand-pump can be used for recharge.
- II. This method is suitable for the small house/ building having roof area of 150m<sup>2</sup> or less.
- III. Water is directed from the rooftop to the hand pump through pipe of 50 to 100mm in diameter.



- IV. For hand pump, which is running, a closing valve is fitted in conveyance system near hand pump to avoid entry of air in suction pipe.
- V. Recharge water should be silt free.
- VI. After recharging, the water pumped-out of this hand pump should be chlorinated before utilizing for drinking purpose.

## 3. Recharge pit

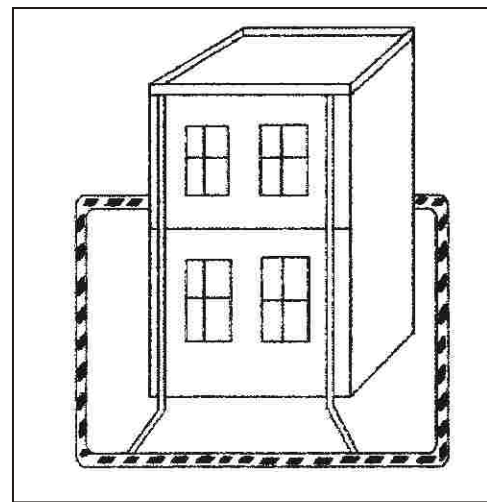
- I. Recharge pits are constructed for recharging the Shallow aquifer.
- II. These are constructed generally 1 to 2m wide and 2 to 3 m deep.
- III. After excavation, the pits are refilled with pebbles and boulders.



- IV. It is suitable for small buildings having the roof top area upto 100 sq. meter.
- V. Recharge pit may be of any shape i.e. circular, square or rectangular.
- VI. If the pit of trapezoidal shape, the side slopes should be steep enough to avoid silt deposition.

## 4. Recharge trench

- I. It is constructed when permeable strata of adequate thickness are available at shallow depth.
- II. It is a trench of shallow depth filled with pebbles and boulders.

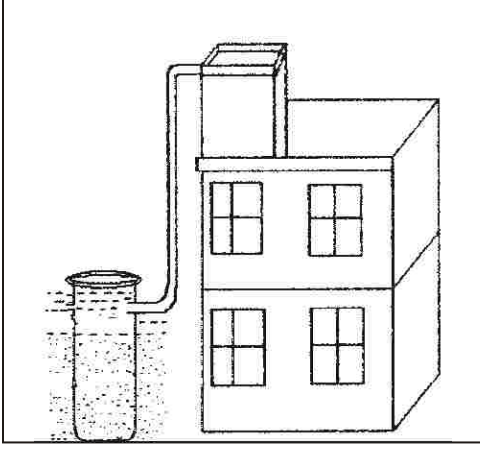


- III. These are constructed across the land slope.
- IV. The trench maybe 0.5 to 1 m wide, 1 to 1.5 m deep and 10 to 20 m long depending upon the availability of land and roof top area.
- V. It is suitable for the buildings having the roof area of 200 to 3000 sq. m.
- VI. Cleaning of trench should be done periodically.

## 5. Recharge shaft

- I. A recharge shaft is dug manually or drilled by the reverse/direct rotary method.
- II. Diameter of recharge shaft varies from 0.5 to 3 m depending upon the availability of water to be recharged.
- III. It is constructed where the shallow aquifer is located below clayey surface.
- IV. Recharge shaft is back filled with boulder, gravels and coarse sand.
- V. It should end in more permeable strata (sand).
- VI. Depth of recharge shaft varies form 10-15 m below ground level.





VII. Recharge shaft should be constructed 10 to 15 m away from buildings for the safety of building.

VIII. It should be cleaned regularly by scraping the top layer of sand and refilling it periodically.



## पंचायतों के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण संबंधी योजना

वार्षिक रिपोर्ट, पंचायती राज मंत्रालय (2005-06)

### ग्रामीण व्यापार केन्द्र

ग्रामीण व्यापारिक केन्द्र को अवधारणा सार्वजनिक-निजी-पंचायत-भागीदारी मंडल पर आधारित है। इसके अंतर्गत भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ द्वारा चुने हुए उद्योगियों को प्रोत्साहित करने बुनियादी और विशिष्ट नीतिगत सुदृढ़ता अपनाने पर बल दिया गया है, ताकि स्थानिय रूप में उपलब्ध संसाधनों और कौशल के लिए बेहतर बाजार की पुख्ता व्यवस्था की जा सके। ये चुने हुए प्रतिनिधि सभी स्तरों पर पंचायतों की मदद से प्रमोटर्स और सुविधा प्रदाताओं के रूप में उत्पादों एवं कौशल के लिए बाजार तालाश करेंगे ताकि एक ओर किसानों तथा प्रशिक्षित कारीगरों/शिल्पकारों के बीच और दूसरी तरफ उद्योगों और संबंध पक्षों के बीच प्रेरक भूमिका अदा की जा सके पंचायतें भूमि की पहचान, साझा वर्क-और अन्य ढांचागत सहायता उपलब्ध कराने तथा उचित प्रशिक्षण के आयोजन सहित विभिन्न प्रकार की सुविधाएं भी प्रदान करेंगी।

सार्वजनिक-निजी-पंचायत-भागीदारी अवधारणा का लक्ष्य किसी क्षेत्र में विभिन्न पक्षों शक्तियों का उपयोग करना है ताकि पंचायतों के माध्यम से आत्मरक्षित आत्मनिर्भर वाणिज्यिक मंडलों के आधार पर संबंध क्षेत्र के आर्थिक विकास में तेजी लाई जा सके।

### पंचायतों के माध्यम से जैव ईंधन का विकास

जैट्रोफा की खेती को प्रोत्साहित करने और सुविधाएं पहुंचाने तथा बायो डीजल के लिए आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में पंचायतों की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है,

These techniques can serve the following the following purposes:

- Provide drinking water
- Provide irrigation water
- Increase groundwater recharge
- Reduce storm water discharges, urban floods and overloading of sewage treatment plants
- Reduce seawater ingress in coastal areas.

The potential of rainwater harvesting in India is enormous and undeniable. In the process, it is forgotten that rain is the ultimate source that feeds all these secondary sources and remain ignorant of its value. Water harvesting means to understand the value of rain, and to make optimum use of the rainwater at the place where it falls.

दूसरी वजह यह है, और वे उनका रख रखाव करना है ये भू-भाग या तो बंजर है अथवा उन्हें इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा रहा है या फिर उन पर अवैध कब्जे हैं क्योंकि पंचायतें उन्हें सामुदायिक उपयोग के लिए सुरक्षित रखने में असमर्थ रही है।

योजना आयोग ने बायो-डीजल के बारे में राष्ट्रीय मिशन के गठन का प्रस्ताव किया था, जिसमें बड़ी संख्या में जैट्रोफा कार्यक्रम के पेड लगाने उसके उसके बीजों से तेल निकालने के लिए एकसपेलर इकाइयों की स्थापना और बायो डीजल के कच्चे तेल में मिलाकर मिश्रित डीजल बनाने के लिए बायो डीजल-संयंत्र स्थापित करने और अंततः इस तरह के मिश्रित ईंधन के विपणन के उपाय शामिल किए गए।

पंचायती राज मंत्रालय ने अपने ग्रामीण व्यापार केन्द्र कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत पंचायतों के जरीये जैट्रोफा और करंजा की खेती को प्रोत्साहन देने की योजना बनाते हैं। इसके लक्ष्य इस प्रकार है

- ☞ मौजूदा बंजर भूमि का उत्पादक इस्तेमाल।
- ☞ पंचायतों की सहायता करना ताकि वे अपने नागरिकों के लिए व्यापक आधार वाली स्थानीय आर्थिक गतिविधि शुरू कर सकें।
- ☞ ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में प्रचुर मात्रा में उपलब्ध-बायो-मास का दोहन करना।
- ☞ प्रतिनिधिक पंचायतों की केंद्रवर्ती भूमिका के साथ सामुदायिक दृष्टिकोण पर बल देना ताकि समुदाय और स्थानीय पंचायत दोनों को ही अधिकार तथा आर्थिक लाभ और वित्तीय साधन जुटाने के अवसर प्रदान किए जा सकें।





## POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN RURAL INDIA - STRATEGY AND PROGRAMMES

10th Five Year Plan : 2002-07 (V2\_ch3\_2)

At the beginning of the new millennium, 260 million people in the country did not have income to access a consumption basket, which defines the poverty line. Of these, 75 per cent were in the rural areas. India is home to 22 per cent of the world's poor. Such a high incidence of poverty is a matter of concern in view of the fact that poverty eradication has been one of the major objectives of the development planning process. Indeed, poverty is a global issue. Its eradication is considered integral to humanity's quest for sustainable development. Reduction of poverty in India is, therefore, vital for the attainment of international goals.

Agriculture wage earners, small and marginal farmers and casual workers engaged in non-agricultural activities, constitute the bulk of the rural poor. Small land holdings and their low productivity are the cause of poverty among households dependent on land-based activities for their livelihood. Poor educational base and lack of other vocational skills also perpetuate poverty. Due to the poor physical and social capital base, a large proportion of the people are forced to seek employment in vocations with extremely low levels of productivity and wages. The creation of employment opportunities for the unskilled workforce has been a major challenge for development planners and administrators.

Poverty alleviation has been one of the guiding principles of the planning process in India. The role of economic growth in providing more employment avenues to the population has been clearly recognized. The growth-oriented approach has been reinforced by focusing on specific sectors, which provide greater opportunities to the people to participate in the growth process. The various dimensions of poverty relating to health, education and other basic services has been progressively internalized in the planning process. Central and state governments have considerably enhanced allocations for the provision of education, health, sanitation and other facilities, which promote capacity building, and well being of the poor. Investments in agriculture, area development programmes and afforestation provides avenues for employment and income. Special programmes have been taken up for the welfare of scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs), the

disabled and other vulnerable groups. Anti-poverty programmes that seek to transfer assets and skills to people for self-employment, coupled with public works programmes that enable people to cope with transient poverty, are the third strand of the large anti-poverty strategy. The targeted public distribution system (TPDS) protects the poor from the adverse effects of a rise in prices and ensures food and nutrition security at affordable prices.

The success of the anti-poverty strategy can be gauged from the decline in poverty levels from 37.27 per cent in 1993-94 to 27.09 percent in 1999-2000 in the rural areas. In absolute terms, the number of rural poor fell below the 200 million mark for the first time since 1973-74. However, this achievement falls short of the Ninth Plan projections. At the beginning of the Plan, it was projected that, with a growth target of 6.5 per cent per annum during the Plan period, only 18.61 per cent of the population would be below the poverty line by 2001.

This shortfall can be attributed largely to the uneven performance of states in poverty alleviation. The distribution of poor across states is also disparate, with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa accounting for 69 per cent of the poor in 1999-2000.

Kerala, Haryana, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan experienced a sharp reduction in poverty levels (a drop of more than 12 percentage points between 1993-94 and 1999-2000). Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu also registered significant reduction in poverty (8-12 percentage points). However, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have shown virtually no reduction in poverty levels. In fact, these are the states where the absolute number of poor has actually gone up between 1993-94 and 1999-2000.

### Anti-Poverty Programmes in the Ninth Plan

- Integrated Rural Development Programme/
- Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
- Wage Employment Programmes
- Jawahar Rozgar Yojana/Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana
- Employment Assurance Scheme

- Food for Work Programme
- Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- Rural Housing
- Social Security Programmes
- Land Reforms

### Strategy for the Tenth Plan

The Approach Paper to the Tenth Plan has set a target for reduction of poverty and creation of high quality gainful employment during the Plan period. The projected GDP growth rate of 8 per cent for the period 2002-07, if achieved, would lead to reduction of incidence of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007. Compared to 1999-2000, poverty is expected to decline by 15 percentage points by 2011-12. Effective implementation of anti-poverty programmes would be central to achieving the planned reductions in poverty. The challenge before the State is to provide employment opportunities, which provide enhanced incomes. This become more important in view of the fact that substantial additions to labour force are expected to take place during the next five years. Enlargement of self and wage-employment programmes and their effective delivery becomes an imperative in such a scenario.

### Delivery Mechanism

Poverty alleviation programmes have been designed to address different facets of rural poverty. Micro credit-linked programmes provide a package of services including credit and subsidy to set up micro enterprises. Wage employment programmes address the issue of transient poverty. Besides, schemes for infrastructure development and provision of basic services contribute to the well being of the rural people. Successful implementation of these programmes requires and appropriate policy framework, adequate funds, and an effective delivery mechanism. Past experience shows that the mere availability of fund is not likely to eradicate rural poverty. Nor is the design of the rural development programmes, no matter how refined, a sufficient condition. The success of these programmes ultimately depends on the capability of the delivery system to absorb and utilise the funds in a cost-effective manner. An effective and responsive district-level field machinery with a high degree to commitment, motivation, professional competence and, above all, integrity has been recognised as one of the prerequisites for successful implementation of anti-poverty programmes.

An effective delivery system has to ensure people's

participation at various stages of the formulation and implementation of the programmes, transparency in the operation of the schemes and adequate monitoring. International experience shows that greater functional and financial devolution to local governments results in higher allocation of resources for social sectors and more efficient use of resources. Such trends in social spending have been witnessed in many Indian states as well.

The increasing integration of India in the global economy, the budget constraints faced by both central and state governments and inefficiencies in the administrative structure led to the development of a consensus to devolve powers to local institutions to enable people's participation in administration. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments that conferred statutory status on PRIs and urban local bodies did not have only democratic decentralisation as their objective. These institutions were also seen as a process for harnessing and channelising the people's innate abilities to bring about rural transformation in a way that every individual acquired his/her rightful place in the social, economic and political arena.

The Ninth Plan has called for the devolution of functional responsibilities, administrative control on government functionaries dealing with subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution and financial resources for taking up developmental programmes to the PRIs. There has been mixed progress on this front. Political devolution as taken place. Elections have been held and women, SC/STs and other marginalized groups have got political representation in the rural areas. Problems encountered in the process of evolution of panchayats has been taken care of with the intervention of courts, civil society organisations and increased public awareness. The strengthening of forces that facilitate political empowerment of rural communities would be an important area of action in the Tenth Plan period. Issues of transparency, accountability and development would require greater attention. States which have lagged behind in devolving functions and finances to panchayats would have to be encouraged to empower the panchayats.



## From the Print Media

### KALAM FOR FOCUS ON RURAL AREAS

*The Statesman, Friday, February 16, 2007*

Gandhinagr, Feb.-15 : With 70 per cent of India's population living in rural areas, the President today called for a synchronised development of urban and rural regions of the country. Speaking at the Vibrant Gujarat Urban Summit today, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam said: "Redevelop urban areas and also develop the cluster of village in surrounding areas." The President laid great emphasis of employment generation in these village clusters. He also said that rural culture should be nurtured. Dr Kalam spoke of "green buildings" which ensure saving of 30-40 per cent of energy and use of solar power in villages and new architecture. "Use municipal waste to generate power" was his advice. He suggested water harvesting in every home and desalinisation in view of Gujarat's long coastline.

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, demanded that the cities of Gandhinagar, Karamsad and

Porbandar be also brought under the Jawahrial Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. At present, only Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot and Vadodara are covered under this scheme. Mr Modi added that Gujarat will be taking up development of 168 cities during the Nirmal Gujarat Year.

#### Cabinet approves President's address

The Union Cabinet today cleared the of the President. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's address to a joint sitting of Parliament on the opening day of the Budget session on 23 February. The address was given final touches at a meeting the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh had with Dr Kalam last evening, and the formal approval was given at the Cabinet meeting chaired by him this morning adds SNS from New Delhi.



### WATER HARVESTING WILL BOOST FARM PRODUCTIVITY : Soz

*The Hindu, Friday, April 20, 2007*

Union water Resources Minister Saifuddin Soz has said the water harvesting schemes launched by his Ministry will ensure that India is among the top four countries in agricultural productivity in future.

He was speaking at a workshop on traditional water harvesting, organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti here on Wednesday.

Mr. Soz said the schemes would push up the agriculture growth rate to 4 per cent. "India will become known among the comity of nations for its food productivity. As agriculture yield depends on good supply of water, we are working with experts to ensure that water reaches everybody."

Senior journalist Mrinal pande stressed the need to in vole women in water harvesting. "Women are aware how much water they need for their household work, so their involvement is necessary," she said.

#### State of Yamuna

Ms. Pande expressed unhappiness over fact that despite spending crores of rupees on cleaning the 22-km

stretch of the Yamuna in Delhi the river was still very polluted. "I want to know where all the money has been spent," she said.

Veteran Gandhian and social activist Subba Rao said a nationwide "Jal Satagraha-2007" was launched on April 18, as it was on this day Mahatma Gandhi challenged the might of the British at Champaran in Bihar.

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti director Savita Singh said "Jal Satyagraha-2007" was launched to deal with problems relating to the fast depleting water resources.

#### Strategy

"I had gone to the Northeast and Champaran to get first-hand information on the water problems faced by the people there. We are working with Magsaysay award winner Rajinder Singh. There will be different kinds of interaction with the public and grass roots activists and then a strategy will be evolved," she said.



## Honorarium for Panchyati Raj Members

*The Hindu, Saturday, November 4, 2006*

Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Friday announced an honorarium for members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and declared that Sampla would have a Municipal Committee.

Addressing a well-attended rally in Sampla during his visit to Hassangarh Assembly constituency, Mr. Hooda announced that members of Zila Parishads and Municipal Corporation would be given an honorarium of Rs. 1,000 per month. Similarly, Block Samiti and Municipal Committee members would get Rs. 500 per month and Panchayat members Rs. 200 per month.

He further announced that the 174 registered gaushalas in the State would be given Rs. 1 lakh each as grant.

He disclosed that his regime had prepared a scheme under which connections for drinking water in both rural and urban areas would be provided free of cost for one year. Also, the Scheduled Caste families would be given a water storage tank of 200 litres capacity along with one tap free of cost.

While paying tributes to the legendary late Sir Chhotu Ram, Mr. Hooda announced that since Sampla is birthplace of the "Leader of the peasantry", a polytechnic in his name would be set up there to enable the youth to get vocational education. Also, the Sir Chhotu Ram Museum at Sampla would be developed as a tourist complex. Mr. Hooda also announced a scheme for laying water supply and sewerage lines in Sampla town. He also sanctioned irrigation projects for enhancing the water carriage capacity of various canals.

Mr. Hooda indirectly attacked a former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader without naming him and ridiculed the "tea party" culture of this leader.

He remarked sarcastically that having "more tea in old age could spoil the appetite".

Mr. Hooda also hit out at leaders who were opposing creation of a Special Economic Zone that he said would provide more employment avenues to the youth. While asserting that his regime would ensure that the remaining portion of the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal was constructed in Punjab territory, he accused the late Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal and his clan of putting hurdles in the construction of the Canal.

He also thanked Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress Sonia Gandhi for enhancing the minimum support price of wheat.

Earlier, his son Deepender Singh Hooda, the Member of Parliament from Rohtak, addressed the rally. Other speakers include the Chief Minister's included Political Adviser Virender Singh, Meham MLA Anand Singh Dangi, Rohtak MLA Shadi Lal Batra, PCC Vice-President Chakarwanti Sharma, Salahwas MLA Anita Yadav, and District Congress President Preetm Singh Balhara.

Meanwhile, talking to newsmen, Mr. Hooda said there was no controversy relating to sealing in Haryana and encroachments were being removed from Government land on Court directions.



## Move to Improve Rural Power Scheme

*The Hindu, Monday, March 12, 2007*

In an effort to ensure the revenue sustainability of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), maintain infrastructure and provide uninterrupted quality power, the Power Ministry has made deployment of franchisees mandatory for management of rural distribution network.

The franchisees could include non-governmental organisations, users' associations and cooperative or individual entrepreneurs. This is expected to help in minimising the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT & C) losses besides improving the rural power distribution system. Under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), the

Ministry has also advised the State Power Utilities to franchise the electricity distribution system in such towns where the AT&C losses are comparatively high and the utility itself fails to reduce the losses significantly.

All the 27 State implementing the yojana, having executed tripartite and quadripartite agreements, have consented to deploy franchisees. Since the launch of the programme in April 2005, the implementing agencies have reported electrification of 32,052 villages and intensive electrification of 7,413 villages during the first phase till March 2.





## Environment Ministry advocates diversion of funds into tree plantation

*The Pioneer, Wednesday, September 6, 2006*

In an effort to increase tree canopy, Environment Minister A Raja wants diversion of funds from Rural Employment Schemes for tree planting. The Government also wants farmers to grow and harvest trees on non-forest private lands.

The Ministry is also understood to be mulling private investment for meeting the target of one-third forest cover by 2012. An additional 31.46 million hectares of forest and tree cover are required to be raised in the coming years. Keeping with the commitment, the 12th Finance Commission has allocated an additional Rs. 1,000 crore for forest conservation.

The Environment Ministry is working with Rural Development and Agriculture Ministries to impress upon them to spend two per cent of their allocation towards greening the vast wasteland. "We would like that 25 per cent of the plan outlay in Rural Employment Schemes to earmarked for planting trees." Raja said inaugurating a meet of conservators of forests and wildlife wardens on Tuesday.

Even the UPA's flagship scheme, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA), can meet the twin objectives of employment generation as well as protection and management of forest resources. Activities such as water conservation and harvesting afforestation

and plantation, land development, flood control drought proofing renovation of traditional water bodies, land development have large scope to make use of this Act and develop schemes for degraded areas, Minister of State Namo Narain Meena suggested.

The Ministry is also considering multi-stakeholder partnership programme, which could see private investment partnering with Government and farmers to grow trees on wasteland. The Government could lease out land, farmers will cultivate and the private sector could bring in initial investment and then buy back the produce from the farmer. The partnership will mean increase in tree cover by employing wasteland, profit for farmers and assured supply for the industry. Initiatives such as these, however, need support from State Governments who will have to allocate land.

The Environment Ministry is straddled between conservation and development needs as population growth exerts biotic pressure of forests. The earlier temperament of keeping people out of forests is impractical and invited allegation of being anti-people. People in and around the forests are part of conservation programmes in the past decade. "Reform the world over began to be people centered in the wake of popular ecological movements." the Minister said.



समाचार पत्रों से

## जापानी गांवों की तरह विकसित होंगे अपने गांव

*राष्ट्रीय सहारा, 28 मार्च, 2007*

द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध में तबाह हो जाने के बाद फिर से दुनिया के विकसित देशों में बहुत ही अल्प समय में शुमार होने वाले जापान की विकास योजनाओं का अध्ययन भारत भी करा रहा है। दुनिया में सर्वाधिक सम्पन्न गांव जापान में हैं और वहां की 'एक गांव-एक उत्पाद' योजना ने जापानी गांवों की तस्वीर बदल दी है। इस अवधारणा की भारत में व्यवहार्यता, प्रासंगिकता तथा प्रयोजनीयता का अध्ययन ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय करा रहा है। अध्ययन अनुकूल आने पर इसी तर्ज पर भारत के गांवों के विकास का प्रारूप बनाया जाएगा।

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय से प्राप्त आधिकारिक जानकारी के मुताबिक भारत सरकार जापान के 'एक गांव एक उत्पाद (ओवीओपी)' अवधारणा की अपने देश में उपयोगिता का गहन अध्ययन कर रही है। जांच और अध्ययन कार्य 'जापान एक्टर्नल ट्रेड आर्गनाइजेशन (जेटरो)' तथा भारतीय उद्योग परिसंघ (सीआईआई) द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से किया जा रहा है। वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय इस कार्य में एक माध्यम बना हुआ है।

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह ने बताया कि इसको कार्यरूप देने की कोई समय-सीमा फिलहाल नहीं तय की गयी है। 'एक गांव एक

उत्पाद' की अवधारणा जापान में शुरू करने के मूल में ऐसे उत्पादों/उद्योगों का पता लगाना था, जो प्रत्येक क्षेत्र को अच्छी तरह से लाभ पहुंचा सके। जापान सरकार की इस योजना के प्रति एक सोच यह भी रही कि इससे लोगों के बीच स्वायत्तता और स्वैच्छिकता का बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि जापान के ओवीओपी (एक गांव एक प्रोडक्ट) के सिद्धांत बहुत ही काबिलेगौर हैं। इसके तहत गांवों में वैश्विक रूप से स्वीकार्य उत्पाद बनाना है। क्षेत्र की क्षमता का उपयोग करते हुए अलग-अलग कार्यों के माध्यम से 'ओवीओपी' की अपधारण को पूरा करना और लोगों में चुनौतीपूर्ण तथा सृजनात्मक भावना का विकास करने के प्रति उन्मुख बनाना भी इस योजना का मूल सिद्धांत है।

जापान में यह योजान वहां के सर्वांगीण विकास की धुरी बनी हुयी है। इसके सिद्धांतों पर अमल कर वहां की सरकार ने एक तीर से कई निशाने साधे हैं। इससे प्रत्येक गांव एक इकाई के रूप में पूरे देश में जानी जाती है। और उनका विकास हुआ है। ग्राम्यवासियों का रोजगार के अवसर गांव में ही मिलने से लोगों का पलायन शहरों की तरफ नहीं हो रहा है। इससे



## देश में भूमियुद्ध का शुरूआती चरण

राष्ट्रीय सहारा, 25 अप्रैल, 2007

भारत में हरित क्रांति के जनक व सुप्रसिद्ध कृषि वैज्ञानिक डा. एमएस स्वामीनाथन ने हरित क्रांति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र की तर्ज पर खेती के लिए भी विशेष कृषि क्षेत्र बनाए जाने की जरूरत बताई है।

डा. स्वामीनाथन ने कल यहां अध्ययन विकास संस्थान के रजत जयंती समारोह में कहा कि देश 'भूमियुद्ध' के शुरूआती चरण में है। छोटे और मझौले किसानों की भूमि को औद्योगिक इकाइयां और विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र स्थापित करने के लिए अपहृत किया जा रहा है। राष्ट्रीय कृषि विज्ञान

अकादमी के अध्यक्ष डा. स्वामीनाथन ने कहा कि छोटे काश्तकारों को तत्काल प्रोत्साहन की आवश्यकता है। काश्तकार अपनी जमीनों को बेचने की एवज में मिले रुपयों को एक-दो वर्षों में खर्च कर देते हैं और बाद में वह मजदूरी करने लगते हैं। इसलिए इन किसानों के लिए वैकल्पिक रोजगार मुहैया कराने वाली नीति की जरूरत है।

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## पंचायती राज मंत्रालय के अधीन होगी डीआरडीए

हिन्दुस्तान, 13 जनवरी, 2007

योजना आयोग ने ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत काम करने वाली जिला ग्रामीण विकास एजेंसी को पंचायती राज के मंत्रालय के अधीन काम करने वाली जिला योजना समिति के अंतर्गत करने का प्रस्ताव रखा है।

इस प्रस्ताव से पंचायती राज मंत्रालय वे ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय में जमीनी स्तर पर नया विवाद खड़ा हो सकता है। पंचायती राज, मंत्री

मणिशंकर अय्यर के अनुसार श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी ने निर्देश दिया है कि जिला ग्रामीण विकास एजेंसी को जिला परिषद के साथ मिला दिया जाए और सांसद इसकी जिला सतर्कता तथा सांसद इसकी समिति की अध्यक्षता न करें। शुक्रवार को पंचायती राज संस्थानों की राष्ट्रीय विकास परिषद की अधिकार प्राप्त उपसमिति की बैठक के बाद अय्यर ने कहा कि इस बैठक में पर्याप्त समय गतिविधियों के आकलन पर विचार-विमर्श करने पर दिया गया और सहमति बनी कि आकलन इस वर्ष 31 मई तक

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## शहरों के मुकाबले ग्रामीण इलाकों में तेजी से बढ़ रहे उद्योग-धंधे

राष्ट्रीय सहारा, 13 जून, 2006

नवीनतम आर्थिक गणना के अनुसार देश में आर्थिक सुधार कार्यक्रमों के जोर पकड़ने के साथ छोड़े-बड़े उद्योग धंधों को विस्तार हुआ है और उनमें रोजगार के अवसर भी पहले की तुलना में अधिक बढ़े हैं। आमधारणा के विपरीत इस गणना से यह तथ्य सामने आया है कि सुधारों के नए दौर में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आर्थिक गतिविधियों की वृद्धि दर शहरी क्षेत्रों की तुलना में तेज हो रही है। केंद्र सरकार के सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय द्वारा आज पांचवीं आर्थिक गणना के अनुसार 1998 से 2005 के बीच उपक्रमों की संख्या सालाना 4-8 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि के साथ 3.03 करोड़ से बढ़ कर 4.2 करोड़ तक पहुंच गयी। इन उपक्रमों में 9.9 करोड़ लोगों को रोजगार मिला हुआ है। इससे पिछली गणना अवधि के दौरान उपक्रमों की वृद्धि दर 2.36 प्रतिशत थी।

इस गणना में खेती और वागवानी को छोड़ बाकी क्षेत्रों के उद्योगों को ही शामिल किया जाता है। पांचवीं आर्थिक गणना अवधि के अधिकतर समय केंद्र में भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नेतृत्व वाले राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन (राजग) का कार्यकाल रहा। केंद्रीय सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्री जी के वासन ने पिछले वर्ष संपन्न की गयी इस गणना के अनंतिम नतीजे जारी करते हुए बताया कि पिछले सात वर्षों में उपक्रमों में रोजगार में सालाना 2.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है जबकि पिछली गणना में वार्षिक रोजगार वृद्धि 1.7 प्रतिशत थी। श्री वासन ने बताया कि इन उपक्रमों में काम करने वाले सभी 9.9 करोड़ श्रमिकों में से पांच करोड़ ग्रामीण और 4.9

करोड़ शहरी क्षेत्र में है। कुल श्रमिकों में से 52 प्रतिशत मजदूरी या वेतन पर काम करते हैं। लेकिन सर्वेक्षण में यह बात भी सामने आयी है कि इन उपक्रमों में कार्यरत लोगों में महिलाओं का हिस्सा 19 प्रतिशत ही है। सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन विभाग के सचिव आर सी पांडा ने इस पहलू को निराशाजनक बताते हुए कहा कि शहरी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में महिलाओं का हिस्सा तो केवल 14 प्रतिशत है जबकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में यह 24 प्रतिशत है। आर्थिक गणना से एक बात फिर उजगार हुई है कि आर्थिक गतिविधियों में तेजी का बड़ा फायदा औद्योगिक रूप से अगड़े कुछ राज्यों को ही मिल रहा है। कुल उपक्रमों का 50 प्रतिशत पांच राज्यों आंध्र प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, तमिलनाडु, उत्तर प्रदेश और पश्चिम बंगाल में सीमित हैं। 85 प्रतिशत इकाइयां गैर कृषि उपक्रमों और बाकी खेतीबाड़ी को छोड़ अन्य कृषिसंबंधित गतिविधियों में संलग्न हैं। कुल उपक्रमों में से 5.38 लाख (1.4 प्रतिशत) में दस या दस से अधिक श्रमिक कार्य करते हैं। श्री वासन ने कहा कि सरकार ऐसे उपक्रमों की डायरेक्ट्री प्रकाशित करेगी। इन 5.83 लाख उपक्रमों में से 2.25 लाख ग्रामीण और 3.58 लाख शहरी क्षेत्र में हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि ये आंकड़े राज्यों को योजना प्रक्रिया की दिशा सुधारने में मददगार होंगे। श्री पांडा ने यह भी कहा कि कुछ अर्थशास्त्री कहते आ रहे थे कि आर्थिक सुधारों का फायदा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को नहीं हुआ है। यह रिपोर्ट उनकी धारणा को निराधार साबित करती है।

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## Messages



Panchayat newsletter promotes and helps the NGO's in many ways

*Rahbar Charitable and Welfare Society (Utter Pradesh)*



ENVIS Newsletter gives us information on Science and Technologies and in Future the Publication may be sent to us.

*Dr. D.P. Uniyal (Dehradun, Uttarakhand)*



This Panchayat magazine is very useful source for the NGO's. It is encouraging the social workers those who are working in this field of panchayat and environment.

*R.P. Shinag (Meerut, U.P.)*



Women empowerment case studies from the Newsletter are very useful for us.

*Dr. Maheshwar Dutt. (G.T.B. Enclave, Delhi)*



This is useful, but please make more voluminous.

*Seema Tripathi (Lucknow)*



ENVIS Newsletter से हमें बहुत सी जानकारी मिलती है, हम चाहते की आप हमें प्रदुषण सम्बंधित जानकारी भी इस पत्रीका में छापें।

*श्री एम.एस. ईनामदार, औरंगाबाद, महाराष्ट्र*



Kindly send us the 'Panchayat Newsletter' regularly & also send us the dates of your Seminar & Exhibitions.

*Dr. Jaswinder Singh Bilga (Amritsar)*



Give information about good technology & Send us your Newsletter regularly.

*Dr. T. Viruthagiri (TamilNadu)*

# Role of Panchayats in Environmental Management

ENVIS Newsletter

## Glimpse of the Website [www.iespanchayat.net.in](http://www.iespanchayat.net.in)

ENVIS CENTRE ON  
ROLE OF PANCHAYATS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The website has compiled all the relevant data and comprehensive information on different components of Panchayati Raj and Environment. The website contains information on databases developed; geographical distribution of Panchayats; success stories, areas of Panchayati Raj co-operation; elections, finance, query services; bibliography; resource repository etc.

We hope that the information contained in the website will suffice your requirements.

We would appreciate your comments & suggestion about the website so that we can update it as per the requirements of our browsers.

**Wish you a Happy browsing on [www.iespanchayat.net.in](http://www.iespanchayat.net.in)**

The Centre invites for Publications :

- Reports on Panchayati Raj (specially related to environmental management).
- Short report on seminars/workshops on the related topics are also invited. Those found suitable will be published in the newsletter.
- Articles for the newsletter "Panchayat" are invited.

### Forthcoming Events

- **International Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development.**  
*Date* : June 1-3, 2008 *Venue* : Athens, Grece
- **3rd National Conference on Environmental Education**  
*Date* : 1,2 September, 2008 *Venue* : New Delhi

For detail log on to [www.environmentevents.org](http://www.environmentevents.org)

#### Book Post

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