

# STRC NEWSLETTER

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**Science & Technology Resource Centre  
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli**

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### Developing a Sustainable Research Ecosystem in the University: An STRC Perspective

Research in the university ecosystem can have two vital contributions, a) it helps in building the foundation for socially relevant subject matters which are essential in driving the future of society and humanity at large and b) it inculcates scientific and social accountability and leadership traits among students/researchers. The Indian university research is at the crossroads which is closely coupled with developing new avenues for Sustainable Research Ecosystem (SRE). However, developing SRE indispensably depends on the unification with social realities, developing culture of collaborative research learning and facilitating outreach-practice based and emerging local-international market ecosystem.

Envisioning the STRC perspective towards Sustainable Research Ecosystem essentially requires fulfilling necessary and sufficient conditions;

#### a) Necessary conditions are:

- To provide required thrust to cultivate the R&D ecosystem and linkages with the University departments, local communities and industries;
- To strengthen and inculcate culture of locally relevant research culture in collaboration with the University

#### b) Sufficient conditions are:

- To strengthen Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) through inputs of S&T for local livelihoods
- To provide technical services that include applicable R&D activities, Innovation in product development, re-engineering, testing facilities, quality assurance and control, market research, workshops and capacity building programmes for local Communities
- To facilitate grants and capital, networking and other technical resources to incubate some of the viable technologies.
- To encourage research through merit-based peer evaluation of research projects along with incentives like awards for outstanding work.
- To intent to establish Centre of Excellence in the light of the core philosophy of STRC



STRC's 'Assistance for S & T Application Scheme', is a unique effort to create a research ecosystem in the University by encouraging and providing a wonderful platform for faculties, researchers, students, institutions and NGOs to get in applicable research and development. – Dr. Dhanraj Patil

*(The author heads the Department of Sociology, Gondwana University Gadchiroli)*

### Award of the First Research Grant under the STRC Assistance for S & T Application Scheme

Dr. Sonali Dhawas, Assistant Professor, Shri Sadguru Saibaba Science and Commerce College, Ashti was selected to be awarded the first Research Grant under the 'Assistance for S & T Application Scheme' of STRC, for her proposal titled 'Study on Sustainable Sources of Nutrients from Wild Vegetables in Dhanora Tehsil and Adjoining Areas'. Dr. Anil Chitade, Registrar, Gondwana University Gadchiroli, on Thursday, 18th November 2021, handed over the first instalment of the grant to Dr. Dhawas, in presence of the Dean, S & T, Gondwana University Gadchiroli, Dr. Suresh Rewatkar and Chief Program Officer & Head- STRC, Shri Ashis Gharai.



### New Alliance for Development (Collaborations opportunities)

Recently STRC is in talk with Dvara E-Registry (formerly known as IFMR), conceived out of the idea that agriculture is to be considered as a viable and sustainable business option. Leveraging the power of technology and data analytics, with a goal to increase farm productivity and increased access to agricultural credit for smallholder farmers, Dvara has developed Doordrishti, a 360-degree web platform.



Dvara E-Registry works with Farmer Producer Organizations and their member farmers in rural India. Through Doordrishti platform, FPOs and farmers gain access to multiple services like plot digitization, crop analytics and advisory that enhance their crop productivity and reduces their cost of cultivation, give them access to loans and insurance and provide market linkages that help in selling their produce at a profitable price.

STRC is willing collaborate and seeking Dvara expertise with regard to developing a strong digital database of farmers/artisans/NTFP gatherers, along with Agronomy Services, FPO formation, Studies on the value chain, market analysis, technical handholding and support, information & promotion of FPO as well as capacity building programs for STRC staff and farmers too. Couple of Web interactions have led us to have a lot of clarity with regard to specific expertise required and future processes. STRC is positively willing to have a fruitful collaboration with Dvara E-Registry for future endeavors.

Similarly, STRC is in talks with BAIF for a possible knowledge partnership for a long-term multi-stakeholder project in Dhanora block of Gadchiroli, targeting around 4000 households in 22 villages with interventions such as irrigation, crop diversification, land degradation, forest-based livelihood aiming quality life, resilience climate change and livelihood upgradation. The possibilities are endless and STRC is thinking long-term collaboration beyond the said project period.

### Smart Villages: Technology for Sustainable Development(IC-SVTSD 2021)

STRC was invited to deliver a session in International Conference on *Smart Villages: Technology for Sustainable Development (IC-SVTSD 2021)* organized by Government Polytechnic, Sakoli through virtual mode on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. STRC presented on its role in science and technology based sustainable development elaborating STRC's efforts on developing various low-cost rural technology, challenges in adoption and its impact on ground.



## Flowers of December- Central Indian Landscapes

Sr. No.	Botanical name	Local Name	Local Distribution Status
1	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>	Chitrak	Pan Gadchiroli
2	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Ran Tulas	Pan Gadchiroli
3	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Bhuinimb	Pan Gadchiroli
4	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i>	Gudmar	North-eastern Gadchiroli

### Flowers of December Central Indian Landscapes



*Plumbago zeylanica* belonging to the family of Plumbaginaceae. Chitrak is one of the powerful digestive and carminative herbs of Ayurveda. It is used in most of the yurvedic medicines for indigestion.

*Andrographis paniculata* belonging to the family of **Acanthaceae**. The whole herb is bitter in taste and it is useful in burning sensation, chronic fever, malaria and intermittent fever.



*Ocimum basilicum* belonging to the family of **Lamiaceae**. Sweet basil has been used for thousands of years as a Culinary and medicinal herb. It acts principally on the digestive and Nervous Systems, easing flatulence, stomach cramps, colic and indigestion

*Gymnema sylvestre* belonging to the family of **Asclepiadaceae**. It is used as an eradicator of glycosuria, and is believed to neutralize the excess sugar present in the body. It is also used to treat other urinary disorders

