Monthly Newsletter

Science & Technology Resource Centre
Gondwana University Gadchiroli

A centre of excellence for sustainable value creation conceived & funded by Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Govt. of Maharashtra.

07132-223315
strc.gug@gmail.com

From CPO's Desk

Small Scale Rural Enterprise to Boost Rural Economy: Possibilities in the Post Pandemic Era

In the times we are living in, when the economic impact of the 2020 corona virus pandemic in India has been largely disruptive, unfortunately, not much has been spoken about the impact of COVID-19 on the rural sector, which constitutes a large part of the economy and overall consumption across product categories in the country. Reverse migration has further enhanced the pressure on the rural economy. Abrupt loss of income opportunities coupled with reverse influx of population in to the rural pockets has led to an unprecedented economic stress. It is nearly impossible to even put a ballpark figure to the kind of financial hit rural areas would take due to the pandemic.

With a distinct possibility of this new normal and the impending threat, most of the rural populace wouldn't re-migrate to the urban areas / cities to resume everything all over again. Hence, the focus should be on creating opportunities for income generation in the rural ambiance. Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC), Gondwana University, Gadchiroli is entrusted to take up the mandate of 'application of science and technology in rural livelihood development' forward. While applicable S & T in form of low-cost user-friendly rural technologies / practices (such as advance agronomy practices, innovative tools for farm / non-farm activities, small scale NTFP processing machines etc.) potentially can boost rural livelihoods. Small scale rural enterprise centered around available natural resource / farm produce has the potential to positively influence rural economy.

STRC promotes and facilitates establishment of viable natural resource driven rural business enterprises through skilling and capacitating rural youths including women.

This year, STRC has focused on developing local youth oriented small-scale rural enterprise such as Bamboo Gotul (CFC), Ornamental Fish Rearing Unit (OFRU) and small pilots such as Integrated Fish Farming (IFF), High Value Vegetable Cultivation and Scientific Poultry etc. in various talukas of the district. Currently, STRC is striving to ensure such small initiatives to take root and transform into best practices or replicable models for scaling up. In the long run, STRC aims to develop individual or focused group based small scale entrepreneurship models while playing the role of a technical and business facilitator.

Integrated Fish Farming (IFF)

Along with Poultry (Desi breed)

An Integrated Fish Farming (IFF) model uses multiple resource centric livelihood options around the primary intervention (fish culture). IFF refers to the simultaneous culture of fish along with other culture systems to provide assured income and livelihood security to the fishermen communities of Gadchiroli. It is envisaged that the training and skill development of farmers on IFF can encourage many fish farmers to adopt new technologies under integrated fish culture. STRC is promoting the IFF aimed at doubling the Fish Farmers' income and has initiated a pilot (fish and poultry) with Yashwanth Bhikaji Thakare of Jogisakhara, Armori. STRC is providing technical facilitation, hand holding and partial input support. Current pilot is projected provide an additional income of about INR 90,000/- *(i.e, combined projected income of INR 60,000/- from poultry and INR 30,000/- from fish cultivation respectively)* to the farmer.

R & D to Promote

Low-Cost Shed (Bamboo composite) for Backyard Poultry Initiative

STRC taking the lead to empower landless / marginal families through scientific rearing of poultry birds in their backyards. As part of STRC's Dhanora Development Plan (IDD-P), this effort will cater to 40 families in two phases.

Through internal R & D in consultation with MAFSU-Nagpur, STRC developed its first prototype of low-cost Poultry Shed (Bamboo composite) at Nimgaon, Dhanora for the purpose of demonstration and to understand its feasibility. STRC aims at providing these low-cost sheds to all the beneficiaries in a co-contribution mode.

Ecofriendly Bamboo Rakhi

Produced at STRC Bamboo Gotul Kondawahi

Recently established STRC Bamboo Gotul Kondawahi has launched its first line of product, Ecofriendly Bamboo Rakhi. Young artisans at Bamboo Gotul Kondawahi were specially trained to create beautiful designs (for Rakhi) and the entire production process took place in Kondawahi only. It was ensured that no plastic is used either for production or packaging.

Products were promoted through STRC website, social media and physical display platforms and sold through direct contact.

This effort helped those artisans to understand professional discipline, nuances of business, and importance of time management at work. Eco-friendly Ganpati can be another seasonal product in future. STRC will continue to put efforts to ensure such community level enterprises take root and create more opportunities.

Briefly

Economics of Bamboo

Formal Agreement with Kondawahi Gram Sabha on STRC Bamboo Gotul; a Common Facility Centre.

Vegetable Cultivation to optimise land use

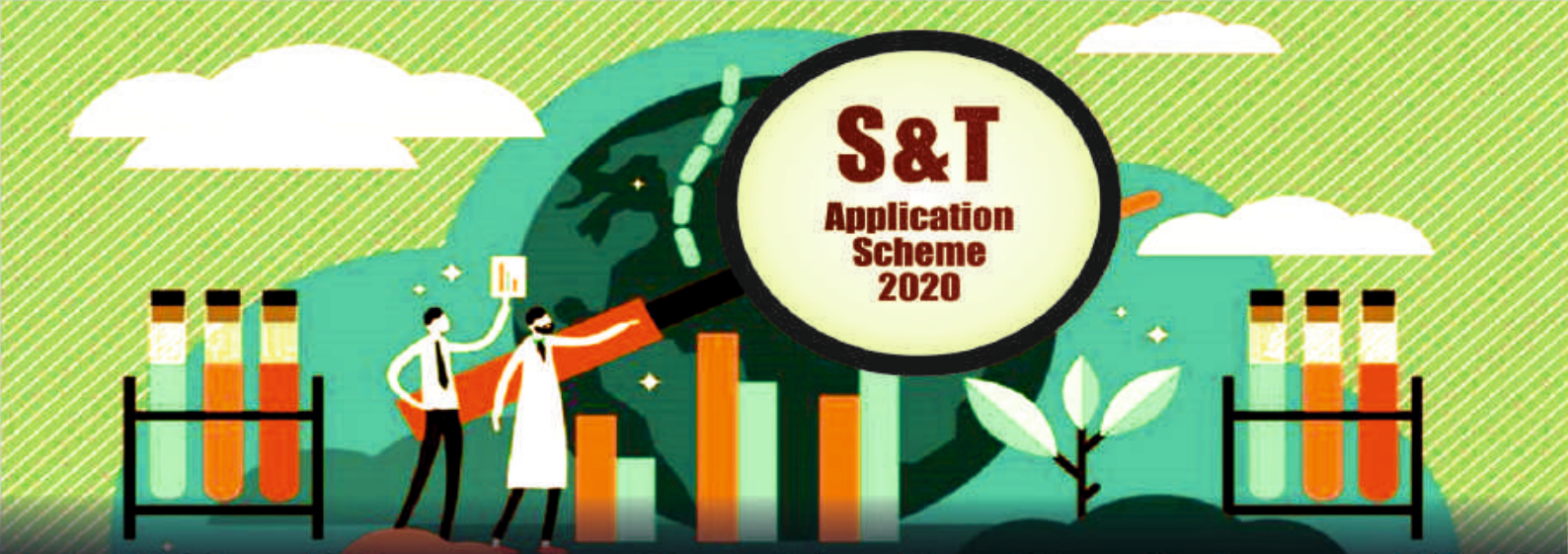
Documenting success of the High Value Vegetable cultivation initiative.

Saguna Rice Technique (SRT)

- Dissemination of Package of Practice (PoP). Farmer interaction and feedback.
- Demonstration on Jivamrut & Dashparni arka preparation and use.

Webinars on

- Agriculture startups opportunities and challenges.
- Farmers Producer Organizations for Better Future.
- A special initiative by Bamboo Development Board (MSBDB) to offer online business platform for rural produce; launch of Bamboo Forests NTFP section under the Market Mirchi portal. Promoting the idea of 'Mera Mobile Mera Market'.



STRC Assistance for S & T Application Scheme 2020

NATURE OF PROJECTS UNDER THE SCHEME

STRC seeks innovative applications, well thought-out training program, on-field interventions of local / regional significance and so on.

1. S & T Studies & Surveys
2. Location specific research & innovative technology development / application
3. Pilot scale demonstration projects
4. Replication of successful models
5. Joint Programs
6. Awareness and Training
7. Projects with Students participation

Short term projects on rural technology for improved livelihood, renewable energy, bio-diversity & NRM, water/ soil quality, local innovations, NTFPs, web based/ rural marketing & enterprise and health campaigns etc.

GENERAL GUIDELINES, TERMS & CONDITIONS

Proposals to link S & T application and STRC mandate / Short term (6 months) / Low budget (up to Rs.1.00 Lakh)

1. Proposals should have quantifiable objectives and Specific deliverables
2. Proposals may be formulated through consultative process with potential users to improve viability.
3. Project funds to be released to the Head of the institutions and PI assumes all financial responsibilities
4. The institute concerned to have/ provide core facilities for the project
5. Man power recruited under the project should be paid as per the institute/ govt. guidelines

PRE PROPOSAL / CONCEPT NOTE FORMAT

1. Problem Statement
2. Rationale/ Background
3. Objectives
4. Proposed Outcomes
5. Relevance to STRC mandate
6. Scale of potential
7. S & T Components
8. Methodologies
9. Approximate Budget (no breakup needed)

Note: Pre-proposals should not be more than three pages and to be submitted to cpostrc@gmail.com

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WITH THE DETAILED PROPOSAL

1. Endorsement from the Head of the Institution
2. Certificate from Investigator(s)
3. Detailed proposal (e-copy and five hard copies)
4. Names and addresses of Experts/ Institutions (up to three) who may be interested in the subject/ outcome of the project
5. For NGOs: Registration Certificate, MoA and Rules and Regulations of the Institutions & Balance Sheet, Audited Statement of accounts and annual report (last two financial years)

For further details of the scheme and procedure of application please visit www.strc.org.in / www.unigug.ac.in

www.strc.org.in / www.unigug.ac.in
strc.gug@gmail.com / cpostrc@gmail.com
07132 - 223315
MIDC Road, Complex, Gadchiroli – 442605 (M.S.)

Science & Technology Resource Centre
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

A centre of excellence for sustainable value creation conceived & funded by Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Govt. of Maharashtra