### STRC NEWSLETTER



**Technology | Enterprise | Development** 

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#### **Advertisement**





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



#### Shri Ashis Gharai

Chief Program Officer & Head, Science & Technology resource Centre (STRC), Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Conceived and funded by Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Government of Maharashtra, Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC) is an autonomous institute established in concurrence with Gondwana University, Gadchiroli. STRC is entrusted with generating livelihood opportunities by deploying appropriate science and technology, particularly for the under-served tribal communities of the Gadchiroli region since 2014. As a centre of excellence for sustainable value creation, STRC is leveraging local resources, relevant knowledge and appropriate technologies for human capacity development. STRC acts as a catalyst to science and technology based development of the region and as a bridge between knowledge activities of the University and enhanced livelihoods in the neighborhood.

### India's G20 Presidency; One Earth, One Family, One Future!

Come the December 1st, 2023, a momentous day in India's history as we assume G20 Presidency taking over from Indonesia. The G20 summit is an annual affair with rotating Presidency. This year, India holding the 18th presidency would be a watershed moment in the history of the largest democracy and the fastest growing economy in the world. As we move onward and upward in the quest of seeking pragmatic global solutions for the wellbeing of all, and in doing so, manifest the true spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'The World is One Family'.

India's G20 priorities are aligned to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and to secure a better and a shared global future for the generations to come. India with its multi city events planned between December 2022 and March 2023, across the country leading to the 2023 Summit will strengthen India's agenda and the six thematic priorities of India's G20 presidency, such as;

- a) Green Development, Climate Finance & LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)
- b) Accelerated, Inclusive and Resilient Growth
- c) Accelerating Progress on SDGs
- d) Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure
- e) Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century
- f) Reforms for Women-led Development for socioeconomic progress

Like all other select cities across the country, Nagpur was all decked up and drenched with decorative lights to host Civil Society C-20 inception meetings during a two-day event held between 20th and 21st March 2023. Multiple meetings were organized with an aim to accelerate the progress of Sustainable Development Goals and to address social and economic development concerns of developing countries by facilitating discussions among G20 nations. Delegates from across the globe landed in the orange city to participate in this world event.

(Source: https://g20.mygov.in/ https://www.moes.gov.in/



# Science & Technology Resource Centre, Gondwana University Gadchiroli adjudged as the 'Best Livelihood Development Idea' at the Accelerated Technology Commercialization (ATC 2.0) Program; An RGSTC Mumbai and Desai Sethi School of Entrepreneurship (DSSE) - IIT Bombay initiative

Desai Sethi School of Entrepreneurship (DSSE), IIT, Bombay in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Govt of Maharashtra and Bio-Medical Engineering Technology Innovation Centre (BETiC, IIT, Bombay) co-instituted the "Accelerated Technology Commercialization" to support translational research and innovation centric projects across Maharashtra state to commercialize its products. Among many other RGSTC Mumbai funded projects, 'Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC) at Gondwana University Gadchiroli', was chosen by the joint project team of IITB-RGSTC to be part of the 'Accelerated Technology Commercialization (ATC 2.0)' program at IIT, Bombay campus, held during 9th to 11th March 2023. The program was inaugurated by Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Government of Maharashtra.

During the three-day training program, participants were oriented on various aspects such as; research translation and commercialization, business model and go-to-market strategy etc. Chief Program Officer and Head, Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC), Shri Ashis Gharai presented STRC's low-tech bamboo products in the utility craft and lifestyle product space, agri-allied farm tools and the low-cost tool-kit for artisans along with the idea for a rural entrepreneurship ecosystem for possible commercialization. The jury comprising of heads of institutions, Professors of Practice IIT Bombay, Member Secretary RGSTC and Senior Advisor RGSTC adjudged STRC project as the 'best livelihood development idea'. Following with the training program, DSSE will continue to guide and handhold STRC to have a commercialization strategy for its products in future.





### **Local Partnerships for Human Capacity Development**

Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC) realizes the fact that knowledge, skill and appropriate technology centric human capacity development of a region needs local cooperation and collaboration. Local organizations, agencies and individuals involved in the process with sectoral expertise and experience will always have a major stake in the development process. Hence, it is a noble idea that Govt/ Non-govt counterparts and related agencies come together to co-create strategies and utilize respective sectoral expertise for a more effective long-term impact.

Considering the need of collaboration, STRC has been in talks with agencies working in the region with similar mandate and relevant expertise. In this process, STRC has taken proactive- steps to have constructive dialogue and to collaborate with Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Nagpur, Ministry of AYUSH, GoI and Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune as knowledge partners for all its herbal plant related initiatives. Similarly at local level, STRC has collaborated with 10 Ashram Shala Schools for its Environment Education for Tribal Schools project.

In this context, STRC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding this month with Aamhi Aamchya Arogyasathi (AAA); a non-govt organization led by Dr. Gogulwar having experience and expertise in medicinal/aromatic plants sector as a knowledge partner. STRC and AAA will together will ensure ethnobotanical aspects of the traditional medicinal knowledge and its application in Gadchiroli context.





### Science & Technology Resource Centre continues its efforts to create

### a comprehensive Vaidu Directory

Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC) published a preliminary 'Vaidu Directory'; a handbook of local traditional healers and their plant based healing practices with detailed information on 30 Traditional Healers (THs). The preliminary handbook was published on 15th September 2022. STRC as on date is focused on developing a comprehensive 'Vaidu Directory' of about 130 Traditional Healers (THs) across the Gadchiroli region.

In this context, STRC is conducting rigorous field surveys in



southern blocks to collate primary information to document the indigenous medicinal knowledge and healing practices of local Traditional Healers (THs) through personal interviews, scientific evidence-based observation and discussion. Till date total 92 Traditional Healers (THs) have been identified from 09 Tehsils of Gadchiroli District.



### STRC in-house R & D Outcomes in Bamboo based Agri-Allied Tools are Ready for Field Trials

STRC's in-house R & D efforts in the last 12 months to create Agri-Allied tools as 'low-cost technology solutions' to address livelihood concerns of the local communities have yielded significant results. One such product is the 'Bamboo Composite Poultry Shed'. This product also has been accepted for 'Design Patent', recently.

Part of its field trial, STRC is distributing this Bamboo Composite Poultry Shed to needy and landless farmers as an alternate livelihood option on a first come first serve basis. This unique shed made of bamboo and



sheet metal with a production cost below INR 8000/- will hold up to 80 chicks and is reasonably sturdy and durable. Based on the results of the field trials and feedbacks from the beneficiaries, further R & D will be carried out to improve the product.

### STRC's Efforts to Promote Women Bamboo Artisans is now Reaping Results

STRC has been lending a lot of focus to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem with an artisancentric approach in the bamboo-based livelihood sector. STRC's efforts to develop entrepreneurial capacity among local women with advanced technology and business facilities have led to the establishment of small-scale industries in bamboo.

STRC trained Women SHG (20 women) from Armori Block of Gadchiroli District generate a revenue of INR 90,000/- by selling STRC Bamboo Flag Badge and Cloth Packaging Pouch.





### 'Matshya Mahotsav 2023' Celebrated at N. K. Aquaculture, Saoli

In association with Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Cultural Affairs, a one-day workshop 'मिन्छमार व मत्स्यसंवर्धकासाठी मत्स्यमहोत्सव व कार्यशाळा' was held on

Saturday, 04th March 2023 at N. K. Aquaculture, Matsyabij Kendra, Pendhari, of Saoli taluka in Chandrapur district. The festival attracted thousands of fish farmers, retailors and many stakeholders in the fisheries sector together under one umbrella.

Science & Technology Resource Centre was invited by the Department of Fisheries to participate and showcase its effort in scientific fisheries. STRC was also provided a stall to disseminate our aquaculture intervention related information and showcased few of its Bamboo Craft items. The event gave us an opportunity to have technical collaborations, stakeholder engagements, exchange of new technologies related to fisheries, knowledge regarding various government schemes and market availability etc.

During the day-long event, the Chief Guest Shri Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister for Forests, Cultural Affairs and Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra, appealed to the participating farmers to explore opportunities in fishery-based livelihoods and assured all kinds of support. The Guardian Minister for Chandrapur and Gondia was presented with a STRC Bamboo Flower Bouquet as a token of love.



The Forest Minister is being felicitated by Fishery Dy Commissioner with the STRC BAMBOO LOTUS BOUTIQUE



### Science & Technology Resource Centre at 'Mahalakshmi Saras Mela 2023'

On behalf of the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission (MSRLM), the popular State level 'Mahalakshmi Saras Mela-2023' was organized from 8th to 19th March 2023, this time at the CIDCO Exhibition Center in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. It is yet another purposeful platform at the State Level, creating financially uplifting opportunities for SHGs to showcase and sell handicrafts and art work. It is a highly innovative and unique opportunity to bring rural cultures together. National Bank for Rural Development (NABARD) nominated Science and Technology Resource Center to participate and showcase its Bamboo Craft products during this mega event.



### Opportunity of collaboration with Agharkar Research Institute, Pune in Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plant Resources

Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, Maharashtra with support from Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Mumbai, Government of Maharashtra is entrusted to develop a comprehensive DPR on 'Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plant Resources'.

In this context, ARI reached out to Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC) for knowledge support in the Medicinal Plant domain. A two-member team led by Dr. Mandar Datar, Scientist D, ARI along with Dr. Manish Rajankar Maharashtra Genebank Project (Nisarg Mitra Mandal, Bhandara) visited STRC



on 27th Feb 2023 to discuss and understand more about relevant STRC interventions in traditional medicinal knowledge space and to explore further possibilities of collaboration.

#### International Day of Forests celebrated at Science & Technology **Resource Centre**

Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC) celebrated the International Day of Forests at STRC on 21st March 2023. On the occasion, a session on 'Forest and Health', this year's theme, was organised at STRC for staff and students of Bamboo Diploma. Addressing the gathering, Chief Program Officer & Head, STRC appealed that, forest and forest produce



lie at the core of STRC's efforts and it influences each one of us at some point or the other. We, as responsible citizens and professionals in the sector must contribute towards the betterment of our forests.





## STRC Assistance for S & T Application Scheme

This scheme presents an unique opportunity for R & D inclined short term, small grant for relevant, applicable research projects to support STRC mandate and to help create an R & D eco-system.



### Nature of Projects Under the Scheme



- 1 S & T Studies and Surveys
- 2 Location Specific Research & Innovative Technology Development
- 3 Pilot Scale Demonstration Project
- 4 Replication of Successful Models
- 5 Joint Programs
- 6 Awareness and Training
- 7 Projects with Students Participation

### **How to Apply**



Ph.D. Scholars,
Researchers, Faculties, Master
Students, NGOs and Exceptionally
Relevant R & D based Proposals from
Independent Individuals/ Institutes

### **Research Grant**



Up to 6 Months

### **Project Duration**



Up to INR 1.0 Lakh

### How to Apply?



Go Through the Detailed Scheme Document



Assess the Proposal Relevance



Draft the Pre-Proposal in the Prescribed Format



Submit Your Pre-Proposal

### Application are invited throughout the year

Please visit our website for scheme details and proposal format.

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