

STRC NEWSLETTER

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Technology | Enterprise | Development



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

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

STRC is a registered society, 'Science & Technology Resource Centre Foundation Gadchiroli', under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860).

Social Entrepreneurship : Essential Networking Strategies

Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC) has recently embarked on to the social entrepreneurship sphere by creating a consortium of various local agencies working towards preservation, promotion and development of sustainable businesses around traditional art-forms. Traditional but dying art-forms such as Bamboo Craft, Dhokra Art, Gond Paintings, Earthen Pottery / Terracotta, along with wild honey and other tribal food items are now being proposed to be placed under one umbrella brand '*Gondwana Craft*', ready to cater the niche market.

As a social entrepreneur, an important part of our job is to get connected with like-minded individuals who can help the business reach its full potential. Networking enables building relationships that are mutually beneficial. Through networking, one would discover new business opportunities, land high-quality leads, make reliable connections leading to increase in the visibility of the business. Persistent efforts in networking would also result in access to various funding sources. Connecting with people online, attending networking events and making a good first impression are the essential ingredients to create a strong base for the social entrepreneurship venture.

Social enterprise networks (SENs) can bring together individuals and organizations from various communities, social businesses, and places to form supportive networks where they can collaborate, have a collective voice, and access to resources, advice, and peer support. In order to obtain these resources, social entrepreneurs must build and maintain trusting relationships with their networking members. Networks are highly useful to enable the businesses to identify potential partners with common goals to work collectively and collaborate. Other benefits of networks include the ability to inter-trade, to be able to reach a wider market and to raise the profile collectively.

To help get the sales and marketing for the social enterprise up and running, as the umbrella organization we understand the following;

If the product (s) is good enough, sales isn't a dirty word. One must know who the customers are and get the pricing right, accordingly. The social enterprise must keep in mind to sell benefits, not features. The other vital cog in the wheel is gaining more visibility is through referrals, referrals and more referrals! The social enterprise must learn from rejections and must have a 'never give up' attitude.



Shri Ashis Gharai

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



Ajay Shahare

Scientific Officer,
Science & Technology Resource Centre
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Empowering Local Communities for Sustainable Livelihood Development through Integrated Fish and Poultry Farming in Gadchiroli district

Nestled in the heart of India's tribal landscape, Gadchiroli district is renowned for its rich biodiversity, vibrant tribal communities, and abundant water resources. However, the predominantly agrarian community often struggles with seasonal income fluctuations and a lack of diversification and grapples with pressing socio-economic challenges, including limited access to modern technologies and sustainable livelihood opportunities. One such sustainable livelihood opportunity, integrated fish and poultry farming is emerging as a beacon of hope to address these issues. Within this context, the Science and Technology Resource Centre at Gondwana University, Gadchiroli works towards bridging the technology gap by developing cost-effective solutions and facilitating technology transfer to bolster livelihoods, particularly in the aquaculture sector. This article delves into the transformative potential of integrated fish and poultry farming, shedding light on its capacity to uplift local communities and pave the way for sustainable livelihood development.

Our approach towards Implementing low-cost technologies and best practices:

01 Embracing Integrated Fish and Poultry Farming

Integrated fish and poultry farming represents a comprehensive agricultural strategy that harnesses the synergies between fish and poultry cultivation, yielding heightened productivity. This innovative approach holds the potential to revolutionize the lives of Gadchiroli's Fish Farmers by diversifying their income streams. Fish farming ensures a consistent income source throughout the year, while poultry farming adds a new dimension of financial stability.

02 Development and Transfer of Low-Cost Tools/Technologies

STRC is engaged in designing and supplying essential infrastructure, including cost-effective bamboo composite poultry sheds. These structures empower farmers with the necessary tools to embrace Integrated Fish and Poultry Farming practices. We have already developed and installed 25 units on ground. Along with that 04 Portable Carp-Hatcheries have been installed and are functional. STRC has also installed Fish Vending Machines to promote and facilitate hygienic fish sales.

03 Capacity Enhancement through Hands-on Trainings/Workshops

STRC conducts comprehensive training programs aimed at capacitating local farmers with the knowledge and skills essential for successful integrated farming. A special focus is placed on empowering women and youth, fostering inclusivity in the agricultural sector. 206 fish farmers under 6 Fish Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) have been trained on advance aquaculture practices.

04 Enabling Access to Resources

STRC ensures access to high-quality fish fingerlings, poultry breeds, and feeds to underpin the sustainability of farming operations.

05 Facilitating Market Connections

STRC plays a pivotal role in forging crucial market linkages, vital for ensuring sustenance income for the local fish farmers. Three Fish Vending Units have been installed in select locations for storing and selling live fish.

Collectively, these approaches are expected to yield desired results in helping local fish farmers adopt modern aquaculture practices leading to higher productivity and better access to market.

STRC is all set to have a Traditional Craft outlet at Futala Lake Viewing Gallery, Nagpur



In its effort to play the pivotal role to preserve, promote and market range of products under all the unique art-forms of the Gadchiroli region such as Bamboo Craft, Rock Dhokra, Gond Paintings, Earthen Pottery etc., Science & Technology Resource Centre (STRC), Gondwana University, Gadchiroli had approached Maha Metro Corporation, Nagpur through a EOI to claim an outlet at FUTALA LAKE VIEWING GALLERY, Nagpur. STRC was short-listed among many competitors to present its case as the facilitator and proprietor of the outlet and appeared before the designated members of the jury under the chairmanship of the Managing Director, Maha-Metro on 24th September 2023 at Metro Rail Bhavan Nagpur. STRC put its case forward with its unique one-umbrella product mix representing these dying art-forms, collaboration modalities, production capacity and a detailed business plan. A positive outcome of the effort is expected soon.



Project Update : Integrated Fish Farming at Aheri

(Supported by Manav Vikas Mission)

A one day workshop was organized on Pre and Post Stocking Management on 30th August 2023 at Medpalli, Aheri. District Planning Officer, Gadchiroli, Shri Arvind Tembhurne was present as the Chief Guest for the event. Shri. Tembhurne apprised the group of 36 participating fish farmers representing two project clusters, on various schemes under the Manav Vikas Mission.



During the technical session, Scientific Officer- STRC, Shri Ajay Shahare imparted hands-on knowledge on pre-stocking management such as pond drying, sludge and unwanted fish removal, eradication of aquatic weeds, and fertilizer application and also on post-stocking management such as seed stocking, fish-feed and disease management etc.



In-house and on-site demonstration on maintenance of water quality parameters including pH, temperature, ammonia, nitrate, hardness and dissolved oxygen etc. were carried out as part of the session.

The First Cycle of NAAC Assessment at Gondwana University

The first cycle of quality assessment of Gondwana University Gadchiroli was carried out by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) during 13th and 15th September 2023. A five member peer team comprising of Dr. Upinder Dhar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore (M.P), Dr. Anindya Syam Choudhury, Professor & Head, Department of English, Assam University Silchar, Assam, Dr. Madhulika Kaushik, Vice Chancellor, Usha Martin University, Ranchi, Dr. Ramanand Rai, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Dr. Narayan Prakash Giri, Professor & Dean, School of Yoga & Naturopathy, Om Sterling Global University, Hisar, visited the university for the purpose. The peer team conducted the assessment process based on the prescribed parameters under the Chairmanship of Dr. Upinder Dhar.

As part of the assessment process, NAAC Peer Team also visited different facilities at STRC such as STRC Skill Centre, University Yoga Centre and STRC Vaidya Chikitsalay. Visiting members also interacted with the faculty and students of Bamboo Diploma and inquired about the implementation and overall impact of the project.



Glimpses of the Month

New Academic Session of Bamboo Diploma Begins..

STRC has successfully commenced its new session (Winter 2023-24) of Bamboo Diploma. This course is designed to create young aspiring entrepreneurs in the sector. Out of the total intake capacity of 30 students, 23 have been enrolled in to the current batch. The two-semester course will be focusing on Developing Entrepreneurial Skills around bamboo craft using Innovative Teaching Learning Methods (TLMs). Dedicated faculties, a smart classroom along with a reasonably equipped workshop have been provided to create an engaging learning environment.



Project Update : Bamboo Common Facility Centre at Maldugi (Supported by Manav Vikas Mission)

A five day training cum production workshop for 24 beneficiaries is being organized under the Manav Vikas Mission supported project on Bamboo Common Facility Centre at Maldugi, Kurkheda. During the workshop, the beneficiaries are set to be trained on production of bamboo strips using STRC developed low-tech tool called 'Bamboo Strip Width Sizer'. This uniquely designed five day progressive training program has been planned to spread across the month.



Visits of Eminent Personalities and Experts

Senior Management of LLOYD Metals

Team of officials led by Shri S. Venkatesh, Managing Director, Lloyds Infrastructure and Construction Ltd., Shri Vikram Mehata, Resident Director, Lloyds Metals and Shri Sudhipto Lahiri, Senior Vice President - HR, Lloyds Metals visited Gondwana University, Gadchiroli for an interaction with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor regarding possible scope of collaboration with University and projected Lloyd Metals as a potential employer for university graduates. This meeting was held on 14 September 2023 at Science and Technology Resource Centre (STRC), Gondwana University Gadchiroli. The visiting team took great interest in STRC's Social Entrepreneurship model in Bamboo Craft.



Faculties of Bamboo Research and Training Centre, Chichapalli

Faculties of Bamboo Research and Training Centre, Chichapalli Shri. Shirish Kaner and Ms. Anshul Walia visited Science & Technology Resource Centre, Gondwana University, Gadchiroli on 27th August 2023. During the visit, they took special interest to learn about the functioning of STRC's Model Production Unit and interacted with STRC Scientific Officers.



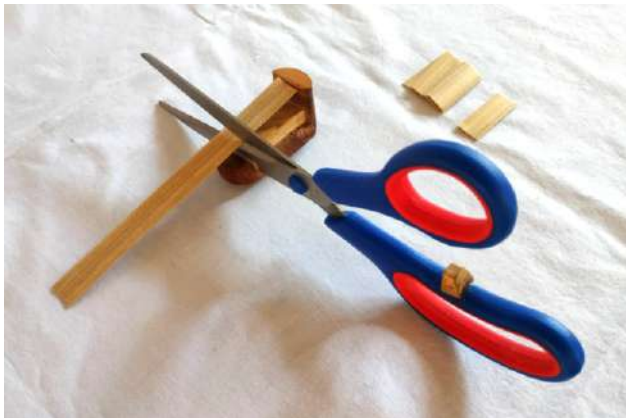
STRC DEVELOPED LOW-TECH TOOLS In Bamboo Craft



Bamboo Lotus Flower Toolkit



Width Sizer



Sizing Scissor



Flower Molds



Science & Technology Resource Centre
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli



About STRC

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.

Core Verticals

- » Aquaculture & Livelihoods
- » Bamboo Craft & Livelihoods
- » NTFP Medicinal Plants and Other Livelihoods
- » Applicable R & D and Academic Program Development
- » Communication for Development through ICT



STRC Offers :



**STRC Assistance for S&T
Application Scheme
Research Grants**



**One Year Undergraduate
Diploma in Bamboo
Entrepreneurship and
Design**



Vaidya Chikitsalay
A unique platform to promote
traditional healers and healing
practices