

Annexure - III

Minutes of Guidance cum Monitoring meeting of i-STED.

The Guidance cum Monitoring meeting of i-STED was held on 14th October in Nakshatra Hotel at 3 P.M. The following officials attended the meeting.

1. Mr. S. Bhattacharjee, Executive Director, NERAMAC Ltd.
 2. Dr. R.K. Barman, Head (science & Technology), Assam Science & Technology Council. (ASTECC).
 3. Mr. Mrinal Krishna Choudhury, Additional Director (i/c), Assam Energy Development Agency,(AEDA).
 4. Ms. Mandira Sinha, Asstt. General Manager, SIDBI Regional Office Guwahati.
 5. Mr. Bidyut Bikash Bhuyan, Deputy Director, Industries & Commerce
 6. Mr. H.Priyakumar Sinha,Deputy Manager Training, Cane & Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC).
 7. Mr. Gautam Das, Asstt. Prof. & Officer In-Charge, IICPT, Regional Centre, Guwahati.
 8. Mr. Dilaur Rahman, Senior Manager, Assam Gramin Vikash Bank.(A.G.V.B).
 9. Dr. Md.Hasib, Regional Coordinator, BYST.
 - 10.Mr. P.C. Sarma, Secretary, NBIRT Assam Centre.
 - 11.Ms. Rajshree Anil, Proprietor, PUHOR, (Solar Home Lighting system.)
 - 12.Mr. K. Ahmed, Project Advisor i-STED,EDI Ghy.
- In attendance:-
- 13.Mr Swarup Choudhury, Sr. Project Officer i-STED, EDI,Ghy.
 - 14.Mr. Anjan J.Goswami Regional Coordinator (P), EDI,Ghy.
 - 15.Mr. Amarjyoti Choudhury Regional Coordinator, EDI GHY.

The meeting was guided by Mr. S. Bhattacharjee, ED, NERAMAC. After self introduction of all present, Mr. K.Ahmed, Project Advisor i-STED, in his welcome address gave a brief over view of the Project. He mentioned that during the initial implementation of the Project, it took time to aggregate appropriate technologies, technology providers as well as takers of technologies. It also took time to take the spirit of the Project to the focused entrepreneurs. Now that a platform has been made with the right type of Organisations having technical expertise in the core areas of the Project viz food processing, Cane & Bamboo & Renewable Energy (Solar), the stage has been set to consolidate the Project by aggregating the right type of entrepreneurs with appropriate technologies.

Mr. Swarup Choudhury, Sr. Project Officer i-STED gave a presentation of the activities carried out during 2014-15 and upto Sept. 2015-16. The member were requested to give their view on each of the sectors.

Renewable Energy:

Ms. Rajshree Anil gave an account of her entrepreneurial journey through mentorship of EDII Guwahati for promoting a solar venture on home lighting system. She also mentioned about linkages she got with Selco Foundation, TERI etc. in carrying forward.

Mr. P.C. Sarma, secretary, NBIRT mentioned about a three month training Programme for solar technicians being sponsored by MNRE & AEDA. He also requested to nominate candidates for the same by EDII.

Ms. Mandira Sinha, stressed the importance on use of solar energy to strengthened the rural entrepreneurs of north east.

Mr. Mrinal Krishna Choudhury, Additional Director, AEDA, gave his views on various aspects about solar system as well as cost pattern. He emphasised that there is a very good demand for trained technical manpower in solar sector, in view of Govt's new initiative to promote the solar sector . He also suggested that EDII should pick up a nearby village/area easily accessible from Guwahati so that all concerned can give their technical support in different sectors and which could act as a model to be replicated in other places.

Food Processing:

Dr. Gautam Das, Asstt. Prof. & Officer In-Charge, IICPT Regional Centre Guwahati, suggested that EDII take up Programmes on Cluster methodology. He also highlighted that the entrepreneurs in this sector are not getting financial support citing the cases of Goreswar entrepreneurs. Mr. K.Ahmed informed the members that six entrepreneurs are updating documents as desired by IDBI bank for bank loan and to be submitted shortly.

Dr. Hasib, BYST also informed the house that BYST is looking for suitable entrepreneurs in the sectors and their willingness to support EDII promoted entrepreneurs. However it was noted that the area of BYST is limited and that was one reason why Goreswar entrepreneurs were not considered.

Mr. S. Bhattacharjee, ED, NARAMAC talked about introduction of rice extrusion/dal analog technology. IICPT promised to look into the matter .Mr. K.Ahmed requested Sri Bhattacharjee to provide training to Food Processing entrepreneurs in Indian Institute of Packaging once it becomes operational in guwahati.

Dr. Barman, ASTEC suggested if the marketing strategy of **Bhogali** Products could be analysed to make a case study for replication. Mr. K Ahmed promised to look into the matter. He also gave a brief about discussion being held with Deptt. Of Food Processing, NEHU, Tura Campus for propagation of technology on processing of Jackfruit and Banana to various other products.

Sri Bhattacharjee gave a brief about such research being undertaken by AIDC through some expert. It was a unanimous decision to propagate these technologies in Assam/Tripura/ Mizoram etc. as part of i-STED Project in future.

Cane & Bamboo:

Mr. H. Priyakumar Singh of CBTC informed that the artisans trained in CBTC who are poor do not get financial support to upgrade their activities. Mr. K.Ahmed informed that EDII would be conducting 12 Nos. Programmes for Cane & Bamboo artisans sponsored by DC (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textile , Govt of India in different locations and suggested an integrated approach from CBTC. Dr. Barman also suggested that efforts be made to modernise & diversify bamboo products as in China has been doing through his own experience.

The house discussed various ways & means to create an entrepreneurial friendly environment and ease of doing business since entrepreneurs still face lot of bottlenecks to start enterprises. Here the role of Deptt. Of Industries & Commerce and Banks with regard to implementing PMMY was emphasised. Lot more can happen under the scheme once propagated on a common platform with deserved takers and/or stakeholders with EDII taking lead under this Project.

Mr. K. Ahmed, thereafter summarised the proceedings by requesting all concerned to create a common platform to provide required support to existing/ prospective entrepreneurs in the following areas.

- Science & Technology inputs including low cost technology & Support.
- Procedural support namely eases of doing business for registration etc.
- Financial support from Banks/BYST in deserving cases.

He also expressed that future of the Project will be exciting with following activities in pipe line.

- Installation of solar fish Drier at Jagiroad with technical Co-operation of AEDA.
- Demonstration of Solar Dryer for vegetable/ Fruit drying with technology procured from Society for Energy, Environment & Development (SEED). Hyderabad.
- Propagation of Solar poultry Incubator technology from Lifeway Solar.
- Mechanisation of furniture making by procuring technology from Guru nanak mechanical works.
- Demonstration of low cost technology for processing of Fackfruit & Banana to be provided by Deptt. Of Agri-Business Management & Food Technology, NEHU (Tura Campus) & to be propagated in Tripura, Mizoram & Assam.

The meeting ended with a Vote of thanks by Mr. Swarup Choudhury.