



Caritas India is the official National Organisation of CBCI for Social Concern and Human Development



Issue 57

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FARM Northeast

Caritas India launched a new Natural Resource Management programme, Facilitating Agricultural Regeneration Measures in Northeast (FARM Northeast) on 7 June 2013 at Guwahati. Mr. Gaurav Gogoi, APCC member and the founder Secretary of Food Foundation inaugurated the program.

The launch was graced by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati Archdiocese and Chairman of NEDSSS, Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, Chairman of Caritas India, Mr. Gaurav Gogoi, APCC member and the founder Secretary of Food Foundation, Rev. Fr. Paul Moonjely, Asst. Director of Caritas India, Mr. R.M. Talukdar, AGM of NABARD, Assam, Dr. D.N. Kalita, Program Coordinator, KVK Kamrup, Assam, Rev. Fr. Varghese Velickakam, Director of NEDSSS and Directors and Asst. Directors of 11 DSSS.

The program will bring socio-economic empowerment in the field of food security and provide livelihood options for marginalised small farmers in Northeast. The program is designed for 189 villages in 11 districts of Northeast. Around 18372 small farmers will achieve food security and multiple livelihood options. Through the program, farmer clubs will be able to utilize available Govt. Schemes for self development.

Caritas India has planned number of activities like awareness & capacity building, practical demonstration, soil testing and characterization of land, identification and reviving of traditional good agriculture practices to actualise its goal. The project will mainly focus on the integrated eco friendly farming system, multiple cropping and market linkages.

The program will adopt People Led Development Approach (PLDA) where farmers will be the actual implementers of the project activities and the implementing partner will play the role of facilitators. Apart from this, project also will follow other approaches like-Right based Development Approach, Result Based Management Approach and Participatory Decision Making Approach.

Reiterating the need of working together with the Govt. and likeminded NGO's, Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati and Chairman of NEDSSS requested Mr. Gaurav Gogoi, NABARD, KVK and ICAR representatives to extend their support in this new venture of Caritas India and DSSS.

Citing the example of successful implementation of Caritas India NRM projects in other parts of the country, Rev. Fr. Paul Moonjely, Asst. Director of Caritas India shared Caritas India's Perspective on Livelihood promotion/NRM.

Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, Chairman of Caritas India welcomed the launch and exhorted the participants to link the program with the Govt. programs in their respective states.

-Jonas Lakra



HIMALAYAN TSUNAMI

Serene and natural beauty of Uttarakhand suddenly became the vicious target of nature. Often referred the "Land of the Gods" became the place of tragedy for its own inhabitants and pilgrims. Allegedly more than ten thousands people have lost their lives and property in the floods since 14th June 2013 due to flash floods and landslides caused by cloudburst in the region. Although there were stray incidents of dead bodies being traced from the river side, no official record has been found. 8 out of 13 districts of Uttarakhand were reportedly affected.

From 14 to 17 June 2013, Indian state of Uttarakhand and adjoining areas received heavy rainfall, which was about 375% more than the benchmark rainfall during a normal monsoon. This caused the melting of Chorabari Glacier at the height of 3800 metres, and eruption of the Mandakini River which led to heavy floods near Kedar Dham, Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand. The upper Himalayan territories of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are full of forests and snow-covered mountains and thus remain relatively inaccessible. They are home to several major historic Hindu and Sikh pilgrimage sites besides several tourist spots and trekking trails. Heavy rainfall for four consecutive days as well as melting snow aggravated the floods. Warnings by the India Meteorological Department predicting heavy rains were not given wide publicity beforehand, causing thousands of people to be caught unaware, resulting in huge loss of life and property

The total 27 villages selected were either washed out or cut off from main town. A set of criteria has been formulated for identifying and prioritizing the vulnerable areas for initiating the proposed program. This set of criteria was finalized after discussing them with the community workers and staff working in other community centric programs.

Caritas India together with Karuna Social Service society, its implementing partner had deployed all their existing staff in the relief operations. The organization also mobilized volunteers from their schools and colleges. With the contacts from the college of social work (Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai) they also got 40 students. The students supported the organization in relief distribution and also in doing the detail needs assessment. The needs assessment was conducted to design the recovery and reconstruction program in the affected villages.

Caritas India has taken steps to be part of the coordination mechanism of Sphere India, sharing regular updates. Caritas India was part of the joint assessment with Uttarakhand government, United Nation Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) and Sphere India. In each of the district, partners have ensured that the district administration informed about the process and area. The local NGOs and authority have ensured that there are no gaps of duplicity in relief.

Volunteer: The relief program has been able to generate volunteers from Doctors for you, RUPCHA, Nirmala Niketan and Pratham. All together around 200 volunteer helped in the process of relief phase, through providing medical support, assessing needs of affected population, distributions of relief etc.

How did we do it?

- Caritas India has been present at the ground since June 17, 2013
- In partnership with the local partner, Karuna Social Service Society, Caritas India conducted the on- spot rapid assessments in Rudraprayag and Pauri Garhwal on June 19
- The process of selection of villages and target households starts at village level with community workers (Resident Community Workers) who live in the respective village. They provided details about the damage and needs and prepare in consultation with the head of the village a list of potential beneficiaries.
- The targeted direct beneficiaries belong mostly to marginalized communities such as Nepalis, displaced families, labourers, people below the poverty line, and female headed households. Direct beneficiary identification mechanisms and criteria
- Preference and emphasis was given for women, children, elderly and disabled.
- The first relief intervention was conducted on June 21, 2013 for 400 affected individuals with cooked food aid, clothing and sanitation kits
- The procurements were done from Dehradun and neighbouring towns to ensure speedy deliverance of aid.
- 2nd round of needs assessment was conducted in July, 2013
- Needs were prioritized, villages and districts were identified
- 4 rounds of relief distribution were conducted since June 21st 2013 with 5 medical camps treating 600 patients with generic and curative care.
- 250 volunteers (local and from outside Uttarakhand) had been mobilized to facilitate the relief operations
- Medical team of doctors, nurses and psycho social counsellors had been mobilized to provide medical aid.
- Caritas India will also worked with local partners such as ATI (Appropriate Technology India) and PRAGYA (specialised in health) to create a consortia on the recovery aspect.

-Babila



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

“ Jati na pucho Sadhoo Ki puch lijiye Gyan!
Mole karo talwar ka, padi rehne do mayan! „

This is one of the proverb of Saint Kabir Das (most interesting poet of Indian mysticism), where he accentuated on importance of knowledge and said that “it's not the person who is important, but his/her knowledge power which is important. As ultimately knowledge works not the caste and creed of person!”

Completing her more than 50 years and working with about 210 partners; Caritas India has emerged as India's biggest network development organisation, structuring and institutionalising this entire 50 years experience of field and programme, issues and solutions in future Caritas India vision to establish herself as knowledge resource hub for development sector!

Knowledge has power to bring out sustainable change in the society and in life of downtrodden people! But important is that available and acquired knowledge must be appropriately, managed, shared and transformed into various community service delivery tangible and non-tangible products. Keeping this as the base concept of strengthening Caritas India as a hub of

knowledge resource for the development sector; Caritas India had organised a two day workshop from 27th-28th June 2013 at YWCA-New Delhi on 'knowledge management' for her programme and thematic staff. Workshop has been facilitated by highly experienced resource person Mr. Vengatesh and assisted by Ms. Madeline Brewer from International Center For Research on Women(ICRW).

Caritas India Director Fr. Frederick D'Souza inaugurated the workshop with focus on strengthening Caritas India's 'knowledge based services' to her partner organisations, community and other stakeholders in the development sector. Adding to it Fr. Paul Moonjely, Asst. Director, Caritas India shared the 'Cycle' of knowledge management-initiated from knowledge gather-formation to knowledge delivery to be systematically channelized in the overall service delivery of Caritas India.

- Its first of this kind of workshop on Knowledge management in Caritas India in her 50 years of operation
- A pool of human resource (from various development programme themes) within Caritas India has been generated to strengthen knowledge system
- Experience of field has been turned into knowledge products like Research, Policy Papers, abstracts, Proposals and IEC documents
- Considering the present scenario of synchronization of funding sources-need of working on revenue knowledge products probably in the form of sustainable development initiatives!

KEY OUTCOMES

- The entire workshop has been able to generate a pool of human resource in Caritas India on knowledge management, its systems and its delivery in the form of a new department in Caritas India known as –Knowledge Management headed by Mr. PM Philip (HoD, Partner Support) along with 16 team members
- Road map of Caritas India to deliver 'knowledge based services to the development sector

Workshop concluded with note of thanks to the key resource persons and a plan to take knowledge base across the programmes, partners and development sector!

-Vinod Pandey



Improving livelihood capital through resilient agriculture practices

Water is the essence of human life but every year people of Bihar face its grim reality in terms of flood and water logging. Total flood prone area of Bihar is 21 68.80 lakh hectares which is 73.06 percent of its total geographical area and 17.2 percent of the total flood prone area in the country. Flood situation is severe in northern plains of Bihar where it damages agriculture production every year. The assessment under Partner for Resilience (PFR) programme shows that the cause of low agriculture production is majorly due to flood, weather change, increased use of chemical fertilisers and lack of irrigation facilities. Each of these reasons has their own dimensions for low productivity of agriculture. The small farmers needed a sharp idea to increase the agriculture production to strengthen livelihood capitals to adapt in present climatic conditions.

While Bihar Government under Agriculture road map of Bihar is taking initiatives through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), National

Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) but that is not enough to support small farmers. During the process of increasing livelihood capital, PFR programme was able to form 64 farmers clubs out of which 26 are already registered under ATMA, and NABARD for technical support to adapt and mitigate the agriculture loss and damages. During the discussion process with ATMA and KVK scientists and linking farmers with scientific technology replacing traditional, new ideas of flood tolerant agriculture practices solution were exhibited. The farmers from Begusorai, Sitamari, West Champaran, East Champaran and Munger proactively engaged themselves with KVK and Rajendra Agricultural University PUSA, to get flood resistance high yield certified seeds to replace Hybrid seeds as a solution to their agriculture low productivity.

Farmers has taken the decision to use high yield weather resilient crop after realizing the evil effect of hybrid. PFR programme has taken lot of tool to convince and motivate farmers to use high yield weather resilient crops, as the yield of hybrid is more than high yield seeds because marginalized farmers are more concerned about production, as agriculture is main source of livelihood.

Beside these challenges 400 farmers who will intervene resilient agriculture in Karif 2013, (100 farmers of Begusarai and 50 farmers of Sitamarhi districts, 140

farmers from West Champaran, 60 farmers from East Champaran and 50 farmers from Munger districts) decided to have weather resilient seeds from PUSA Agriculture University. In this regard farmers' representatives from all the districts along with project staff visited University Seed processing unit to know more about the different seeds and their features. In order to improve the yield in flood prone area and to combat variable climatic conditions. Mr. K.M.N. Singh (In-charge seeds processing unit) addressed farmers about different varieties of seeds available with university. The farmers have selected two varieties of seeds, Swarna sub - 1 which can with held flood water for 17 days and Rajendra Bhagawati as short term crop for 110 to 115 days as the solution of their agriculture problems. During interaction with the University representative farmers were informed about the Productivity, sowing method, and Physical verification of the certified seeds. 355 farmers procured seeds from PUSA and as an agreement it was ensured that farmers to be in touch with KVK regarding their problems and adoption of newer technologies which can sustain productivity level.

-Anjan Bag



Vulnerability Analysis & INNOVATION SCOUTING

Traditional agriculture that propped up food systems across the country took a retrogressive turn with the advent of green revolution. Shortsighted campaigns of various governments bulldozed traditional farming systems to the brink of extinction. The aggressive agenda of popularizing 'modern agriculture' resulted into the heavy dependence of farmers on market. The rich traditional agriculture knowledge of communities was eventually superimposed by modern agriculture practices which failed on the parameters of local viability in spite of achieving higher productivity. By the time the dangerous ramifications of green revolution shook the world out of its slumber, indigenous agriculture system had already lost its footing. Frequent failings of modern farming and decline of traditional agriculture knowledge put the smallholder farmers in a fix – whether to keep faith on the costly and loss-prone modern farming system or to return to traditional agriculture system, which has nearly drifted out of prevalence.

Caritas India, under its Strengthening Adaptive Farming in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (SAFBIN) programme conducted an intensive community-based innovation scouting and vulnerability analysis for recording community's perceptions about the crop vulnerabilities and traditional agriculture practices. The exercise, which was conducted in 30 villages in Sagar, Satna and Mandla districts, had the objective of rediscovering the traditional practices that have the potential to offer locally sustainable and feasible solutions to the agriculture challenges faced by smallholder farmers of rain-fed areas. SAFBIN envisages building farmers' resilience to the vagaries of climate change and helping them recoup agriculture sovereignty that the much-celebrated Green Revolution had robbed them of.

Apart from enabling communities to appreciate its own treasure of agriculture knowledge, the process had the purpose of identifying agriculture practices that could be trialed for checking their suitability to the present agro-climatic conditions. SAFBIN, an On Farm Agriculture Research (OFAR) programme, conducts participatory agriculture research to develop candidate models that are robust, resilient and locally viable. The candidate models are developed by farmers by conducting trials which combine the good practices of traditional and modern farming systems. The methodology of identifying the vulnerability and traditional innovations was grounded on community's reflection process and analysis. Communities were helped to understand the effects of climate change on their crops especially pest attacks and rapidly-reducing crop productivity. The process helped farmers understand the interactivity of climate, crop growth, soil characteristics and farm inputs.

Smallholder farmers, this year, have decided to conduct trials on three food crops i.e., paddy, black gram and Kodo millet. Hence, the community's analysis of vulnerability and traditional remedial practices were specific to these crops. Community's prepared

crop calendar of each of these crops and listed down the vulnerabilities these crops face in various critical stages of plant growth. During the process, farmers identified several vulnerabilities which have been seriously affecting their crops and destabilizing food security of villages.

While adhering to the guiding principles of Farmers' Collective Led Approach (FCLA), SAFBIN team facilitated the interaction thereby creating a community-based platform for reflection and analysis. One of the important insights of the community analysis was the keen interest that was evinced by the community in the process. Farmers' satisfaction and happiness in sharing about their rich traditional knowledge which is capable of offering solutions to most of their agriculture challenges was no less remarkable either.

SAFBIN India had conducted similar exercise last year as a preparatory step of Kharif trial. The process contributed to the rediscovery of 183 traditional practices/innovations in the areas of pest management, soil health management, moisture management, storage systems and seed development and preservation.



Community engagement

-Saju M.K.

Clubbing strength of the farmers

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction a program supported by Caritas India in North East India and implemented by Women's Development Centre (WDC), Guwahati, in 15 villages under Morigaon district has lot of stories to tell. Of these clubbing strength of the farmers is one among the stories. With the help of WDC the villages have constituted what they call a farmers' club in an effort to move a step to keep the program moving on with the support from NABARD and Government schemes even after the project is closed.

Farmers' club is a registered body under NABARD where about 10 farmers of a village come together and undertake trainings, activities and planning to augment their farming methods and status after consensus. They can access government schemes and benefits with the aid of this farmers' club. In the CMDRR project, WDC had initiated formation of such farmers' clubs to so they can bridge the gap between the Government and the farmers and the latter can access opportunities, more so in the event of a disaster like floods. They conduct trainings, awareness etc. in their villages by informing WDC that acts as a node between the village and the concerned experts/trainers.

The members of the farmers' club discuss with other people in the village regarding their needs and problems. A total of 13 farmers' clubs have been registered under NABARD in Morigaon in 15 project villages. These farmers' club acts as a bridge between the village people and the government and also functions as a Task Force Group in the event of floods.

Apart from trainings, the farmers' club performs another significant function- preparing the Plan of Action (POA). Morigaon has 632 villages and 85 panchayats. In this context, a farmer's club becomes a decentralized structure of taking the concerns of the villages to the Gram Panchayat. While a Gram Panchayat conducts 4 (effectively 1 or 2) meetings every year, a farmers' club meets regularly once or twice a month and as and when required and discusses their issues together with the rest of the village. Women are an integral part of the process. As put by Kanchanmoni Gohain, District Development Officer, NABARD, "Co-ordination is more important than assistance in the farmers' club that can result in linkage with many agencies".

-Thangsha Sebastian

Jawaharilal Hazarika, president of Nabakharbori Krishak Sangha farmers' club happily narrated the benefits that the farmers' club could bring in to the villages after its formation. "We receive heavy floods every year and suffer huge loss of agricultural produce. With the help of the club we have brought free seeds for the village, and procured pump sets on a heavy discount. This is a great help for us as now we have the power to reach the government and access opportunities", he commented.





Window NORTH EAST INDIA

Northeast India actually has a 'GROWTH STORY'

Northeast India actually has a 'growth story' that can potentially reduce opacity between mainland and Northeast India, said Gaurav Gogoi, the Founder of Youth Forum on Foreign Policy, in his response to a host of issues discussed by a 14 member group representing various indigenous communities of NE region residing in New Delhi.

Northeast India actually has a 'growth story' that can potentially reduce opacity between mainland and Northeast India, said Gaurav Gogoi, the Founder of Youth Forum on Foreign Policy, in his response to a host of issues discussed by a 14 member group representing various indigenous communities of NE region residing in New Delhi.

Asking for a shift of focus from weaknesses to strengths of the region, Gaurav narrated examples of MC Mary Kom of Manipur, Somdev Devvarma of Tripura and Jayanta Talukdar of Assam who continues to hit national headlines in the field of sports, making Northeast India known to the world.

Describing corruption as the root cause for the lack of development in most part of the region, Gogoi who is also a member of Assam Pradesh Congress said 'rural develop' is the key to economic growth of the region. He was participating in a two-hour long consultation conducted by Caritas India in the interest of the people of Northeast India on May 4 at Caritas India head office, New Delhi.

On the flip side, the consultation with no preconceived agenda discussed various issue as perceived by NE intellectuals, academicians, bureaucrats, student leaders and social workers mainly from Delhi city.

Only thirty percent of Tripura's population are tribal's said Dr. Biplab Jamatia, Associate Professor in IGNOU, New Delhi

and majority of them live in far flung villages. With no education and political power, they are deprived of legal entitlements as compared to people who settled from across the border.'

"The people from the region are purportedly scattered in thought and idea" said Executive Director Fr. Frederick D'Souza, "and a space like they may lead to new initiatives, if people so desire."

"India's North Eastern Region is a rainbow country ... extraordinarily diverse and colorful, mysterious when seen through parted clouds..." records the North East Vision 2020 Document. "Troubled by history and geo-politics, the North East remained one of the most backward regions of the country." Although with 10 percent of the gross budgetary support earmarked in the document, the region is still by far under developed in comparison to the rest of India.

'Most Government resources are accessible only to the influential people who already have money and power.' Recalled David Boyes from his experiences, the entrepreneur from Northeast. Referring to the issue of unemployability, Boyes said that the young people in the region lack exposure to technical education.

A second round consultation is proposed for September this year. The members in the consultation unanimously agreed for a need to organize a policy (NE) think tank, counseling strategy for the youth from NE and to initiate a common platform for all NE organisations for united approach to various issues.



Gaurav Gogoi:
Northeast India actually has a 'Growth Story'

Northeast India actually has a 'growth story' that can potentially reduce opacity between mainland and Northeast India, said Gaurav Gogoi.

-Amrit Sangma

Knowledge sharing workshop on AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOOD



CARITAS INDIA with support from SCIAF (Scottish International Aid Fund) initiated a preparatory project which is basically a research study to understand the impacts of climate change in the Sundarbans, West Bengal India in Feb'13. The research study has already been initiated by the School Of Oceanography, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.

workshop on Agriculture and livelihood in the Sundarbans- Practice, Technology and Policy. The objective of the workshop was to create a platform for exchange of ideas amongst a highly interdisciplinary group of experts and practioners across the state on Sundarbans.

The workshop was attended by more than sixty people comprising representation from Universities, Govt. Department, NGO/INGO, media and people from field specifically a few farmers, fishermen, honey collectors etc from the islands. The Caritas team of eastern India comprising of Ms. Amrita, Mr. Pallab and Ms. Asha worked hard to make the workshop successful.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Registrar of Jadavpur University Dr. Pradip Kumar Ghosh who in his inaugural speech emphasized the importance of holding such collaborations with Jadavpur University and thanked Caritas India also for taking up such projects. Deliberations were from the field of Agriculture and salinity management, energy and water from reknowned experts. The workshop coverage has been undertaken by two important and lead news agency of the state namely the Telegraph and the Times of India.



As a complementary effort to the research study and stakeholders mapping exercise a few important workshops has been planned which will be organized in a phased manner. A workshop has therefore been organized on 6 th of May'13 at Jadavpur University (TEQIP Hall) with the theme "Knowledge sharing

SUNDERBAN

Some of the important issues emerged out of the workshop:

- A cohesive platform is needed for the cause of the Sundarbans.
- There was a strong urge for lobbying on the market development potential of agriculture produce like aromatic rice, dry fish and honey support price in Sundarbans
- Good models and technology is available and lot of work has been done by many. The challenge is to standardize those(area specific) and make them available for many more in Sundarbans
- Water issue in Sundarbans should be looked from the lens of ecosystem service. Energy should be looked beyond electricity for income raising by entrepreneurs
- Youth and women should be organized and access to vocational training services should be available more in Sundarbans to avoid migration and displacement ,lobbying and advocacy issue

-Amrita Mukherjee

Learnings' shared during Seminar on Food Security



Leading its unique way of bridging the gap between the field realities and the organisational strategies, Caritas International Belgium organised a seminar to bring together the development actors from the developing countries to discuss and prioritise the organisational strategies of Caritas Internationalis Belgium on food security. Mr. Sunil Simon from the NRM section of Caritas India participated in the workshop organised from June 17 – 22, 2013 and shared the learning from food security interventions of Caritas India. Based on the learning from the SAF-BIN programme, he contributed on the need assessment in research interventions focusing on food security. This seminar was attended by more than 45 persons including staff and partners of Caritas Internationalis Belgium from various parts of the world.

A poster prepared by Mr. Sagar (JVS) and Mr. Patrick (Caritas India) on the achievements of Facilitating Agricultural Regeneration measures (FARM) implemented by Jeevan Vikas Sanstha (JVS) in Amravati was displayed during the seminar. This programme supported by Caritas Belgium is focusing on addressing the farmers' suicide issues in the Vidarbha region and it is currently in the second phase of its implementation.



Debate on "Participatory Methods and Tools" at BOKU University

As part of the interaction with BOKU University (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna) Mr. Sunil Simon, Programme Manager of South Asia Coordination Unit (SACU) of SAFBIN programme, interacted with the MS students in a debate moderated by Dr. Michael Hauser, Head, Centre for Development Research on "Participatory Methods and Tools" on 25th June, 2013. He shared about the relevance of participatory methods and tools used in SAF-BIN programme which helped the students to gain first hand insights on how to use participatory methods / tools when working with farmers. BOKU is the research partner of SAFBIN programme co-financed by European Union.

PUBLIC HEARING

On the realization of

FOR RULE OF LAW

SCHEDULED CASTE



Lawlessness and violation of human rights are very common in the state in Bihar. Acute social disparity, extreme poverty and discrimination largely accentuate the violations against the marginalized section especially Schedule caste "Dalits", women and landless class. The cases of human rights' violation in the state during the last four years under different categories are increasing at an alarming rate for realization of rule of law at grass-root level. Cases pertaining to atrocities against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women have registered an upward trend. Atrocities and abuse acts as major impediment to the realization of Right to live with dignity.

Caritas India continued its efforts for protection and safeguarding Human Rights of Scheduled caste "Dalits". It involved strengthening of community based organization for playing active role in identification of violation cases and breaking the culture of silence of most marginalized section of society against atrocities / abuses.

Caritas India and People Vigilance Community for Human Rights (PVCHR) successfully organized a state-level Public Hearing on the realization of rule of law for scheduled caste in Patna on 17 May 2013. Its principal objective is to provide a platform to the Schedule Caste especially Mahadalits for sharing their atrocities against them and to come out with recommendation for the state government for improving the human rights situation of Schedule Caste especially mahadalits. The Public Hearing managed to draw 45 survivors from 6 districts of Bihar.

Fr. Paul welcomed all the guests, representatives of CSOs, social activists, media representatives and survivors. He also acknowledged the efforts and initiatives of Caritas India, PVCHR, DASHRA and Dalit Adhikar Manch for organizing Public Hearing in the state of Bihar.

Caritas India invited Mr. C. K. Tayagi, Presenting Officer, National Human Right Commission (NHRC), Mr. J. S. Pandey, Retd. DGP, Uttarakhand, Mr. Saheen Nazar, Professor, Sharda University, Delhi, Mr. Ramshraya Singh, General Secretary, PUCL, Ms. Shruti, Managing Trustee, PVCHR, Fr. Prakash Louis Director, Manthan as a jury members to preside over this public hearing.

Primarily, Case Sheet of 45 survivors related to abuse and atrocities against women, children and most marginalized sections of the society especially SCs / Mahadalits were prepared by CARITAS India, in support with Dalit Social Forum, DASHRA and Local Social Activists. All survivors shared their testimony in the Public Hearing. It was observed during the collation of survivors' cases that victims were badly treated by police and local dominant high caste groups. Police authorities have not taken action in many cases of abuse / atrocities against accused.

During the Public Hearing it was suggested that marginalized section of the society should voice against atrocities in planned and organized ways. In a long process of getting justice there is a need to do proper follow up of the cases as it ultimately disturbs the wellbeing of marginalized groups.

-Girish Peter

According to Bihar State Human Rights Commission in 2012

12490

cases of human rights violations received during the past four years since 2009

out of which
40%

of the cases were related to police atrocities

till May 2012 the Commission lodged

2247

cases of police excesses

These cases include third degree torture in police lock-ups, custodial deaths and custodial rape.

Human
Rights
VIOLATION



Journey together in partnership with Kerala Social Service Forum (KSSF) for 8 long years ever since the Killer Tsunami engulfed the coast line of India in December 2004, Caritas India successfully concluded the CMDRR intervention in Kerala.

To embrace the closure of the program meaningfully, Caritas India KSSF along with the 10 partners organized a state level function on May 14, 2013. The programme was hosted by Quilon Social Service Society. More than 400 Task Force Committee members and CBO members participated in the programme.

The function was presided over by His Excellency Joshua Mar Ignatius, Bishop of Mavelikkara and Vice Chairman JPG Commission KCBC. His Excellency stressed about the role of NGO in Risk Reduction process and the need for Government – NGO partnership in development activities in his presidential address. Fr. Paul



Moonjely, Assistant Executive Director, Caritas India in his key note address provided a clear picture of CMDRR and the resulting changes due to the initiative of the Task Forces and DSSS.

Sri. Shibu Baby John, Honorable Minister for Labour and Rehabilitation inaugurated the programme. In his speech, he appreciated the approach of CMDRR and recommended for a

development of master plan for every panchayat by DSSS before winding the programme. The master plan would be beneficial to local authorities to design their development project according to the need of the area. Mr. M.J. Binu, Ward Councilor, Eravipuram South and Mrs. Elliamma Issac, President Block panchayat Edappally also felicitated the meeting.

Celebrating Partnership

Caritas India supported Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Project came to a formal closure with a State Level Sharing Workshop along with Valedictory programme

held at Seva Kendra, Kolkata on 25th June 2013. CMDRR project was on ground for last 12 years in West Bengal. In its initial days the concept was known as Community Based Disaster Response (CBDP).

But slowly the school of thoughts have changed and now it is not only response to disaster but preparedness prior to disaster to reduce risk in a democratic way. The program was blessed by His Lordship Bishop Salvador Lobo, Bishop of Baruipur and Rev. Fathers from different Diocese who were part of the program for last 12 years.

CBDP project started as a response to the flood in West Bengal in 2000. The program was huge success and within 6 months of implementation a significant positive change was in community awareness on response and post disaster management was observed. By observing the impact Government recommended and requested for expansion. These 36 months program is a joint undertaking of Caritas India, Caritas Spain and la-Caixa Spain.



FIELD SUPERVISORS TRAINING OF IMCP-II



Intensified Malaria Control Project II (IMCP-II) recognises the importance of working closely with community and scale up effective preventive and curative interventions. Two days of refresher training was organised for its Field Supervisors (FS) in two batches in DSSS Imphal Training Hall and Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati from 30-31st May, 2013. Around 48 FS (3 females and 45 males) both new and old participants attended the training.

The training focused on two fold objective: to update knowledge and skills of FS on latest guidelines and policies of national program on diagnosis and treatment of malaria, with special emphasis on management of pharmaceuticals and health products, recording and reporting, supervision and monitoring and to assess the field activities being taken up by the FS through discussions.

Resource Persons used different methods like presentations, group discussions and one to one interactions to diversify the training modules. The Pre and Post test were conducted to assess the knowledge and skills acquired from the training. Through Role play participants was introduced to the process of conducting BCC activities within the community.

Officials from the State Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme, Assam also participated in the training as resource persons and gave inputs on the malaria diagnosis and treatment, use of bivalent Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kit. Other facilitators from the Caritas India and took the sessions on the Pharmaceutical and Health Products Management (PHPM), recording and reporting on revised templates, BCC activities and financials procedures to be maintained by FS. Hands-on practice on maintenance of stock registers and preparation of outreach plan for FS were demonstrated and taught.



Renewing their Resolutions

13 partners and coordinators gathered in Suchetna at Kathgodam from May 14-15th, to review the Adhikar program that completed the mile stone of one year. 30 participants from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan, shared their experiences and stories of change in their area, with conviction. They made very enlightening presentations on the activities being implemented, challenges faced and the tangible achievements made by the focus groups in accessing the entitlements which were beyond their reach before initiation of ADHIKAR in their respective locations.



The participants were unanimous in their opinion that the gathering served as a platform to share learning's and also to get a new direction to move forward with the programme.

A Quiz contest organized by the Caritas India team on topics related to Rights & entitlements under Health, Education, MGNREGA generated a lot of interest among the participants to learn more on the various legislations and their provisions.

Further moving on, the participants were given inputs on Micro level planning in the villages and also on Rashtriya Swasthya Bheema Yojana (RSBY). Following is the Action plan for the coming 6-8 months.

1. Preparation of micro plans in all ADHIKAR villages, approved by the Gram Sabha.
2. Regular interface meetings with Govt. Depts. to strengthen collaboration and improve the convergence of efforts and resources for the benefit of the most excluded groups.
3. The focus groups to submit their complaints in writing for redressing grievance to the concerned government personnel and also facilitating the process of filing the RTI for relevant purposes during the year.

During the current year, 102 new SHGs have been formed and 11 old SHGs have been revived. 38 MNREGA Manch (groups) formed. 60 farmers groups are accessing the services Krishi Vignan Kendra, NABARD, and Agriculture and animal husbandry departments. The groups are working actively and this will lead to achieving the planned objectives in the future.

- During the last one year 1,235 people applied for Jobs under MNREGA works and 351 people received the job cards.
- 107 old women, 46 old men received old age pension.
- 88 widows started receiving widow pension.
- 8 handicapped people whose pensions were stopped was renewed and 39 new handicapped also got the pension
- 298 school dropout children and 308 eligible children joined the government schools in 24 target villages

-P.U. Francis

Celebrating Flood Safety Week



Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) had appealed NGOs to collaborate with district disaster management authority (DDMAs) to observe and celebrate flood safety week from 1st – 7 June. Caritas India, a prominent member organisation collaborating with BSDMA for different programmes in Bihar has been working towards leveraging Government & NGO partnership. This collaborative flood safety week was one such example. This was indeed a good opportunity to collaborate with government towards ensuring the safety of rural poor. Caritas India together with her partners has worked with Begusorai, and West Champaran district authorities for successful completion of the week long programme.

Throughout the week, rallies, school & block level sensitization programme, were jointly organised where Caritas India partners were invited as resource persons. In village level rallies, thousands of people joined together to promote safety of the people with slogans, placard etc. Each of the programmes were witnessed by the government officials.

In districts like Bhagalpur, they celebrated block level rally where 2000 people joined together and marched from village to block making communities aware on flood preparedness.

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We at Caritas India, ensure your time of service will be one of that tremendous growth.

- Environment for spiritual growth
- Diverse Community experience
- Professional & Educational experience

VOLUNTEERS

Today

LEADERS

Tomorrow



Adieu . Adieu !!!

Caritas India acknowledge the dedicated and relentless service of Mr. Ambrose Christy, Mr. Nandakumar, Mr. Arjuna Rao Merugu and Mr. Sebastian James who have completed their assignments with us. As they steps into a new stage of life we wish them success in their new endeavours and express our heartfelt gratitude for their services.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the overwhelming response to Caritas India's relief works during the Uttarakhand flash floods.

Individuals, students' groups, government officials, private agencies, hospitals, educational institutions and our partners from various states have poured in their generous support.

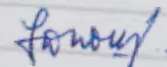
It is with great appreciation to this gesture, we continue to remain committed in reaching out to the most affected by the floods.

Your contributions have already reached to over 14,000 affected people providing them with basic food and household materials. It is also noteworthy that over 250 volunteers, including teachers, students, nurses, doctors and youth have actively participated in the first phase of our relief mission.

In the second phase, over the next one year at least, we hope to put in our resources for rehabilitating families in sectors of livelihood, health, education and sanitation. An intensive study on climate change will be an added value to our efforts to reduce impact of any impending natural disaster in Uttarakhand.

We shall also closely coordinate with the government of Uttarakhand along with a number of NGOs, producing a joint collaboration for ensuring entitlements to families who have their assets. While I invite friendly hands to join us in our future mission, I sincerely thank our local partner, Karuna Social Service Society for providing unconditional, round the clock service during the time of emergency. I also thank our international Caritas partners across the globe for coming out of their way to support this cause.

Caritas India was certainly one of the first to have responded to the disaster and will hopefully be the last one to leave.



Fr. Frederick D'Souza
Executive Director

Caritas India

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