

# The Livelihood School

## Current Update



## 1 Introduction

The Livelihood School works in building the capacities of the livelihood practitioners, building and disseminating knowledge that supports practice. The school completed its third year on 18<sup>th</sup> April' 2010 of being a registered independent society. BASIX, a new generation livelihood promotion institution had set up the school with a vision of impacting millions of livelihoods of the poor of Bharat through the functioning of the school.

The school has two functions:

- I. **Knowledge Building:** includes building knowledge about the processes, methods and principles of promotion of livelihood of the disadvantaged sections of the society, especially of the poor and women in a sustainable, socially and economically equitable manner.
- II. **Knowledge Dissemination** includes disseminating knowledge on livelihoods and livelihood promotion issues to a large number of practitioners, through offering courses on livelihood promotion, in addition to some customized programs.

## 2 Major Accomplishments

The Livelihood School has crossed many milestones over its journey of more than three years. The school has extended its reach in poor states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and North East, covering a total of **21** states. The school has also offered programs for practitioners from **other nations**. It has reached to a total of **10,371** livelihood practitioners including PRI representatives through a total of **292** knowledge dissemination programs. The school has its team of **25** staff with **15** core faculties and **105** extended faculties.

### Progress At a Glance

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| 1 | Established as an strategic business unit of Indian Grameen Services (BASIX) | 18 April' 2004 |
| 2 | Registered as a Society  | 18 April' 2007 |
| 3 | Centers: Regional Centers  | 3              |
| 4 | Faculty Members  | 120            |
| A | Internal Faculty Members   | 15             |
| B | Extended Faculty Members   | 105            |
| 5 | Knowledge Building   |                |
| A | Number of Published papers in Journals/Books                                 | 15             |
| B | Number of Cases Developed  | 75             |
| C | Livelihood Learning Group (LLG) Workshops                                    | 10             |

|   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
|   | Number of Practitioners Attended LLG                | 350    |
| D | Action Research Accompaniment                       | 33     |
| E | National level Seminars                             | 2      |
| F | Research Studies                                    | 23     |
| 6 | Knowledge Dissemination –PLP                        |        |
|   | Total Number of Programs Conducted                  | 292    |
|   | Total Number of Trainees                            | 10,371 |
| A | Number of Standard Programs Conducted               | 50     |
| B | Number of Customized Programs Conducted             | 64     |
|   | Number of Trainees                                  | 2,669  |
| C | Number of Livelihood Orientation Programs conducted | 178    |
|   | Number of Trainees                                  | 7,702  |

### 3 Progress in Detail

Over the years the school has taken up various activities around its two functions such as conducting various case studies, paper publications, research studies, action research, knowledge dissemination programs etc. The details are mentioned below:

#### *Knowledge Building*

##### 3.1 Case studies

The School has conducted **75** case studies of various livelihood promotion initiatives across the country. The School has also developed **19** thematic cases around Micro finance, Watershed development, Dairy based livelihood intervention, Rural Tourism and NTFP based livelihoods.

School has adopted innovative approach of facilitating the practitioners to document their experiences in the form of case studies through *case writing workshop*. Such write shops have been conducted for organizations like MYRADA, SEWA Union and BASIX.

*In the current year the school developed cases on effective utilization of NREGA funds at the PRI level for augmenting livelihoods. The school undertook a total of 10 cases across the country.*

##### 3.2 Research Studies

The school has conducted a total of **23** research studies. These studies are around various issue based livelihood intervention. Some of the studies that the school has undertaken are

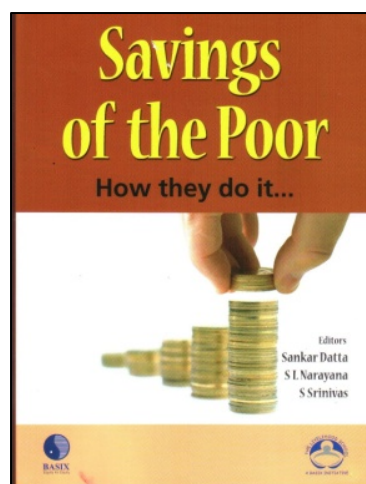
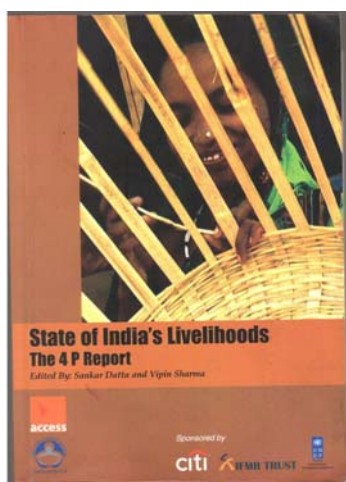
| Title of the Study   | Sponsorship  |
|--|--|
| 'Savings Behavior of the Poor Households' including 'financial diaries' methodology and 6 cases of savings innovations | Ford Foundation  |
| Sub sector studies on Goat Rearing, Dairy, LAC and Mahua   | State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Chattisgarh   |
| Impact of multiple lending on the borrowers of microfinance in Andhra Pradesh  | ABN AMRO (Part)  |
| Study on livelihood intervention for the persons living with HIV/AIDS  | FXB India  |
| Study on livelihoods of forest dwellers in upland areas in North Eastern States  | Centre for Economic and Social Sciences-Hyderabad (CESS), Indian Institute of Bank Management, Guwhati |

*Recently the school has done a study of **Alternate Implementation Methodology (AIM)** for Government of Bihar which captured the learning from experiences of sharing functions of delivery of public goods with private, civil society organizations, outside the traditional government entities while government focused on governance. The lessons learnt are expected to facilitate better implementation of NREGA, NRLM and other state lead livelihood initiatives especially in Bihar.*

### 3.3 Publications:

The school has a total of 21 publications in its knowledge collection. These publications are of various kinds covering different themes:

- ***A Resource Book for Livelihood Promotion*** authored by Mr. Vijay Mahajan, Dr. Sankar Datta and Ms. Gitali Thakur
- ***State of India's Livelihoods: The 4P report*** jointly published by The Livelihood School jointly with the Access Development Services.



- **Experiences of Livelihood Promotion Institution:** “An Experience of BAIF-RRIDMA”, “Experiences of Livelihood Promotion Learning from the field: Cases of MYRADA in Action”
- **Livelihood Promotion Strategies:** “TRIAD - An Effective Livelihood Promotion Strategy”, “Community Participation in Livelihoods Promotion”,
- **Cases on Livelihood Intervention:** “Case Studies on Dairy Intervention”, “Case Studies on Microfinance Intervention”, “Cases on Watershed Intervention”, “Agriculture based Livelihood Promotion( Experiences from Eastern India)” etc
- **Cases on Success Stories:** “The Master Weaver with a Difference”, “From Leaf to Livelihoods”, “Crafting the Livelihoods”

The school has added three new publications this year: (i) Solar Home Lighting System, (ii) Compilation of Case Studies on Livelihood Interventions based on Non Timber Forest Produce and (iii) ‘Savings of the Poor’ based on a large scale research conducted on savings behavior of the poor, supported by Ford Foundation.

### 3.4 Paper Publications:

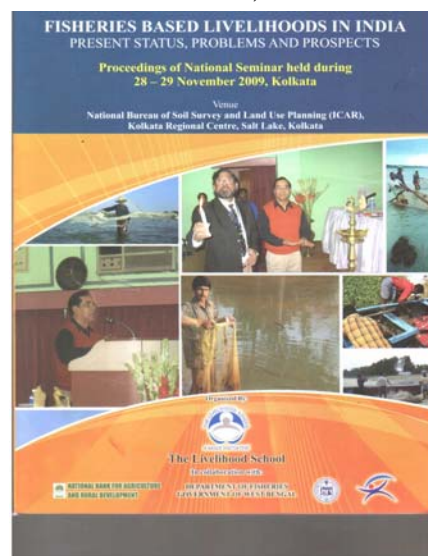
The School faculties have presented various papers at national and internal workshops and forums adding up to **15 papers**. Some of the papers also got published in various journals and books. The details are:

| S. N. | Title  | Publication/ Forums  |
|-------|--|--|
| 1     | Human Resource Implication of Micro-finance  | Asia Micro-finance Summit, Hanoi,  |
| 2     | The Contract Farming of Potato   | International Journal of Enterprise Development and Microfinance                                 |
| 3     | Grass-root Politics in Watershed Development and Management: A Study of Malwa Region (MP)  | MEKAL- INSIGHTS  |
| 4     | Groundwater Resource Conditions, its Socio-Economic Impacts and Policy-Institutional Options: a Case Study of Vaishali District of Bihar | Routledge, Francis and Taylor Group, UK.   |
| 5     | Livelihood Enhancement through Participatory Watershed Development: A Study of Malwa Region (MP)   | National Seminar on Rural Transformation and Changing Agrarian Relations in India, MPSSR, Ujjain |
| 6     | SRI Interventions in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> National Symposium on SRI India 2008 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University       |
| 7     | The People: Their Livelihoods and Critical Challenges in State of India’s Livelihoods: 4P Report   | The Livelihood School and ACCESS Development Services  |

| S. N. | Title  | Publication/ Forums  |
|-------|--|--|
| 8     | Possibilities: Livelihood Opportunities and Potential in State of India's Livelihoods: 4P Report | The Livelihood School and ACCESS Development Services  |
| 9     | Challenges in Utopian Inclusive Growth   | National Workshop on <i>"Inclusive Growth: India in Global Perspective"</i> held at Kolkata in March,09 organized by The Livelihood School     |
| 10    | Inclusive Governance, A Necessary Condition to Inclusive Growth                                  | National Workshop on <i>"Inclusive Growth: India in Global Perspective"</i> held at Kolkata in March,09 organized by The Livelihood School     |
| 11    | Small scale Rural aquaculture in West Bengal: Livelihood Promotion Perspective                   | Asia Pacific Meet – of World Aquaculture Society   |
| 12    | Inclusive Value Chain: A Case Study of Namdhari Fresh Limited                                    | Inclusive Value Chain in India: Linking the Smallest Producers to Modern Market  |
| 13    | Combating Climate Change through Sustainable Agriculture   | International Conference on Climate Change and Developing Countries (ICCD 2010) being organized by CEET, Kerala in February, 2010 at Kottayam. |
| 14    | Leveraging Livelihoods for Muslim Women in Hyderabad   | Indian Journal of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences- Mumbai   |
| 15    | SHG-Bank linkage: Impact on Livelihoods of the Poor, based on the secondary data.                | Indian Journal of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences- Mumbai   |

### 3.5 Knowledge Consolidation through Mutual Exchange

- Livelihood Learning Group:** The School facilitates a unique reflective forum of practitioners and academicians, the Livelihood Learning Group (LLG), where the group through a process of reflecting and sharing conceptualize and generalize the learning as knowledge. The school has facilitated **10** workshops of the LLGs with a total articipation of **350** practitioners. Various themes were taken for the workshops, such as Livelihoods and Livelihood Promotion, Market led Livelihood Interventions, Status of livelihood Promotion in Andhra Pradesh, Strategies for Livelihood Promotion for Andhra Pradesh, Livelihoods and Livelihood Promotion Challenges in the Northeastern States, Is Minimalist credit adequate or do we need Credit Plus etc.
- Workshops and Seminars:** The school has organized national level workshops jointly with many organizations covering themes such as *"Financial Inclusion: Strengthening Savings Services"*, *"Inclusive Growth: India in Global Perspective"*. The school has organized two national level seminars on *'Fisheries based Livelihoods: Present Status, Problems and Prospects'*, and *'Future Options of*



*Agriculture – Corporate, Contract or Cooperative Farming?’* at Kolkata and Bangalore respectively. School has published the synthesis of the seminar ‘Fisheries based Livelihoods’



India Livelihood Day Summit, 2009, New Delhi

Since 2008, the Livelihood School has been partnering with Access Development Services in organizing the **India Livelihood Day Summit** along with the Microfinance Summit. As a knowledge partner, the School was engaged in developing the State of India Livelihoods (SOIL Report). More than 600 participants registered for the Livelihood Day- 2009.

### 3.6 Curriculum Development

- The school understands the importance of developing curriculum based on practitioner-oriented knowledge for offering its various programs on livelihood promotion. Hence, the school has a process of developing the curriculum which includes conducting thematic cases. Curriculums for following seven modules to offer standard programs have been developed by the school.

| Sl. No | Curriculum on Module                         |
|--------|--|
| 1      | Fundamentals of Livelihood Promotion (FLP)-1 |
| 2      | Fundamentals of Livelihood Promotion (FLP)-2 |
| 3      | Watershed based Livelihood Promotion         |
| 4      | Livestock based Livelihood Promotion         |
| 5      | Micro Finance based Livelihood Promotion     |
| 6      | Marketing for Livelihood Promotion           |
| 7      | Promoting NTFP based Livelihoods             |

In addition to curriculum for its standard programs, the school develops curriculum for its clients on their request. Some of them are:

- Curriculum on sub-sector analysis, livelihood project preparation and management and business plan development for Madhyam Foundation.
- Curriculum for Livelihood orientation for PRIs of five districts in Uttarakhand.
- curriculum for three levels of staff for Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihood Project (MPRLP)
- Curriculum for a regular Masters program on "Micro finance, Micro enterprises for Livelihood promotion" for Kasturbagram Rural Institute, Indore.

- A **training manual** on governance, business plan and book-keeping for training of SHG federations engaged in enterprise promotion in *Tamil* under the Women Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project, Tamilnadu (Vazhdhu Kaatuvom Project-VKP).

### 3.7 Accompaniment

The accompaniment support building knowledge from action research projects. The school provided such accompaniment support **33** action research projects of BASIX, providing conceptual and documentation support.

### *Knowledge Dissemination*

### 3.8 Programme in Livelihood Promotion (PLP)

The school has offered *50 standard programs* and *64 customized programs* put together **114 programs reaching to 2669** practitioners. Some of the customized programs that the school offered to its partners were:

| Theme of the Program   | Sponsorship  |
|--|--|
| Programs on Entrepreneurship and Marketing Strategy  | World Vision, Bangalore  |
| Training of SHGs to take up NTFP based micro-enterprises by conserving biodiversity and managing the natural resources               | Bio-diversity Conservation Project of CG-MFP Federation.                 |
| Livelihood education program for NABARD officers including DDMs in Bihar   | NABARD, Bihar  |
| Program on designing Livelihood interventions  | UNDP supported Jharkhand Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS), Ranchi    |
| FLP-2, with a new set of case lets in Oriya  | Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP), Government of Orissa |
| Module on Micro financing livelihoods building focus on micro finance systems, and product development for promoting livelihoods for | OSCARE network and for various micro finance providers in Tamilnadu.     |
| Program on Livelihood Visioning and Promotion Strategies   | CARE India-Jharkhand, OFSDP-Orissa, and WDC, Bihar                       |
| Training of Trainers of Governance and Book keeping for economic activity groups supported by SHG federations                        | VKP-Tamilnadu  |

*Recently, the School was invited to offer an orientation of Gateway Agencies engaged with Rural Business Hubs at Sawai Madhopur, Udaipur and Banswara in Rajasthan. The participation comprised of representatives form NISBUD, ACCESS Development Services and people's representatives from Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samities.*

***Beyond the Boundaries:** The school has offered training programs for practitioners from other nations. An International program for the partners of ‘**Banking For The Poor**’ (BFTP) Network was carried out in association with BASIX Academy on July, 09 at Hyderabad. The Ford Foundation has sought support of the School in establishing an institution with similar focus in **Africa**. An exposure visit was organized for the representatives and partners of the Foundation from Africa.*

### 3.9 Livelihood Orientation Program

The school conducted a total of **178 livelihood orientation programs** covering a total of **7702** participants including BDOs/CEOs, zilla panchayat members, Sharpanches, PRIs and Project Facilitation Team members in MPDPIP, Chattisgarh for State Institute of Rural Development, Ajeevika, Uttarakhand ,People Science Institute, Dehradun, CRS, Rajasthan, Sa-Dhan Partners, Jan Chetna Sansthan, Rajasthan, Asha Niketan Welfare Centre, Bhopal etc.

### 3.10 Field Based Livelihood Intervention support

In Bihar, the School is offering field based intervention support to the ‘SHG federations’ in livelihood planning and supporting livelihoods of 200 families. These federations are promoted by the Women Development Corporation. The School designed curriculum on Governance on Book Keeping for the SHG federations.

## 4 Partners and Collaborators

| Purpose                                | Partners and Collaborators  |
|--|---|
| Scale and Outreach                     | State Institute of Rural Development, Chhattisgarh and NIRD   |
|  | Women Empowerment project in Tamilnadu (VKP), Women Development Corporation, Bihar  |
|  | UNDP, Sa-dhan, RBH, Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (MPDPIP), MRDS, Shillong, Rural Business Hub – Rajasthan  |
|  | Sa-dhan, & Ford Foundation  |
| Being Sentient-innovation and learning | Ford Foundation   |
|  | Indian Grameen Service/ World Bank  |
|  | Chhattisgarh- Minor Forest Producer’ Federation   |
|  | MYRADA-Bangalore, Self Employed Women’s Association – SEWA , BASIX, Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP)  |
|  | NABARD, IAT, Access Development Services  |
|  | Solutions for the Poorest, Grameen Foundation   |
| Academic Engagement                    | Centre for Economic and Social Sciences- Hyderabad (CESS), Indian Institute of Bank Management, Guwhati, Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Kolkata, Indian Institute of Rural Development – Anand ( IRMA), Kasturba Gram Institute- Indore, Management Development Institute (MDI)-Gurgaon |

## **5 Up coming Programs**

The School in collaboration with *Grameen Foundation-USA* designed an action research project aimed at developing a methodology for reaching the ultra poor with financial and livelihood enhancement services in a sustainable manner. The Project shall be implemented in Belaganj block in Bihar.

The School shall be engaged in strengthening the Livelihood enhancement plans of 12 Project partners of Indo German Watershed Development program implemented by NABARD in Andhra Pradesh.

*The School has three Regional Centers (i) Bangalore – Southern India Centre (ii) Kolkata – Eastern India Centre and (iii) Bhopal- Western India Centre , Satellite Centers: Raipur and Patna, Website: [www.thelivelihoodschool.in](http://www.thelivelihoodschool.in)*

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