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NEWSLETTER

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CEO Message

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

I am thrilled to share the remarkable achievements and impactful initiatives undertaken by the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) during the month of March 2024.

ISRN's participation in the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York exemplified our unwavering commitment to advocating for the Indian perspective of gender equality and women's empowerment on a global scale. At CSW68, ISRN, along with esteemed organisations like Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Bhartiya Stree Shakti and Dhristi and other fellow Indian Civil Society Organizations, actively participated in high-level talks and events during CSW68 with the goal of promoting gender equity and inclusive development. We promoted meaningful inclusion by elevating the voices of women from communities affected by disasters and conflicts, Indigenous people, and people with disabilities. Our efforts made a lasting impression on the meetings and struck a deep chord with the leaders and representatives. I am happy to share glimpses of the CSW68 session contained within this report.

Through our ongoing projects such as the MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Project in Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Tripura, continue to make significant strides in amplifying immunization coverage and supporting government immunization drives. We are proud to report the successful administration of 7,271 doses, ensuring that 163 children received full immunization and the provision of vital health services to communities in need. Furthermore, through our Uttam Schools Project initiatives, we have revitalized educational facilities such as installation of sanitary pad vending and incinerator machines, renovation of science labs and computer labs and safe drinking water facilities in 53+ schools, impacting the lives of over 12,000+ students and empowering 500+ teachers across multiple states. Our commitment to providing students with a conducive learning environment and modern resources underscores our dedication to fostering academic excellence and personal growth. In addition to our educational and healthcare initiatives, ISRN remains deeply committed to promoting sustainable agriculture and community development through the formation and promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Our efforts to mobilize farmers and expand our support network have led to successful participation of FPOs in trade fairs and melas, showcasing the organic, sustainable, and ethical procurement of agrarian products.

As we reflect on our journey, we see more than just physical transformations; we see dreams taking flight, futures being shaped, and communities empowered. With every initiative, we reaffirm our commitment to excellence, propelling our stakeholders towards a brighter future.

As we celebrate the festival of democracy and elections unfold in 7 phases across the country, I humbly appeal to our partners, as voluntary organizations, to encourage and ensure maximum participation of people in casting their votes. This is a fundamental right of every citizen of this country and will eventually pave the way for our nation to become fully developed by 2047, marking 100 years of independence. This aligns with the vision of Vikshit Bharat to foster inclusive socio-economic participation among all citizens.

I would also humbly request our member organisations to share their noteworthy achievements with ISRN so that we highlight them in our upcoming newsletters. Together, let us continue to accelerate progress, strengthen partnerships, and build a future where gender equality, education, and sustainable development are not just aspirations but tangible realities. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team members, partners, and supporters whose unwavering support and collective efforts have made these achievements possible.

Warm regards,
Santosh Gupta
CEO, Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN)

ISRN's Impactful Participation at CSW68: Advocating for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

01

From March 11th to 22nd, 2024, the United Nations Headquarters in New York became the epicenter of a global movement for gender equality as leaders, representatives, and advocates convened for the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68),



a landmark event that brought together a record number of world leaders, government representatives, and civil society actors united in a common purpose: advancing gender equality on a global scale. ISRN, alongside 15 fellow Indian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), actively participated in the CSW68.. ISRN CEO Mr. Santosh Gupta & Associate Director Mr. Ashish Mansharamani who joined global organizations in their call for meaningful inclusion of gender equity & family policy processes, for greater representation of women from disaster & conflict-affected areas, Indigenous women and women with disabilities. Over the course of two weeks, ISRN made profound strides in advocating for gender equity, women's empowerment, and inclusive development, leaving an indelible mark on the proceedings.





At the heart of ISRN's agenda was a fervent call for meaningful inclusion, echoing the aspirations of women from disaster and conflict-affected areas, Indigenous communities, and those with disabilities. Their advocacy reverberated through the halls of the UN, resonating with Heads of States, international representatives, and civil society organizations alike.



During the ten-day event, ISRN engaged in a myriad of activities, from high-level townhall discussions with UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Permanent Mission of India to the UN side event titled "Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Public and Private Commitments to Financing for Gender Equality" amongst other parallel Embassy of India at UN hosted events to uphold multi-stakeholder partnerships focused on advancing gender equality, human rights, and democracy.



During the 2 week period at the UN Headquarters, a pivotal moment arose when they also had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and the first woman to hold this office at New York. They had an insightful conversation on the progress of Women led Development in the last 10 years and how Indian CSO's together can lead from the front and present the best of our nation globally. Sitting in the foremost and historic headquarters building in the world, Amb. Kamboj spoke about traditional ethos and values of SEWA which can be shared in the most inspiring way beautifully with modern tech advancement of AI to represent the India Story.



Further reinforcing their diplomatic engagements, ISRN convened with the Hon'ble Consul General of India, Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, at the Consulate General of India in New York. Mr. Pradhan's impassioned advocacy for India's achievements inspired ISRN to strive for greater representation and recognition on the global stage. His graceful and fiercely passionate spirit about showcasing India's

achievements at the highest diplomatic forum, really inspired each delegate present. He is truly an iconic inspiration for young diplomats who want to serve India and what IFS stands for. He also introduced activities of the Consular Wings and also the Political, Cultural; Educational wings too shared details about their roles and guided delegates to a tour of the oldest consulate in New York since 1948



Central to ISRN's mission was their participation in a multi-stakeholder event titled "Men and Women are Not Competitors, They Are Complementary To Each Other!" held on 21st March at the UN Plaza, New York, USA by the 5 Indian CSO's present at CSW68, where ISRN CEO, Mr. Santosh Gupta also delivered a powerful speech on the diverse workings towards women-led development. As an active promoter of women's rights and gender justice in India, ISRN along with a team of representatives from 15 noted Indian CSOs has been engaged in in-depth discussions and effective evaluation of various facets related to women in today's changing world.

Mr. Santosh Gupta, CEO of ISRN, addressed the Indian Delegation at this CSW68 event. In his moving words, he highlighted the immense power that women wield as nurturing and enterprising individuals - striving relentlessly to balance life and aspirations of growth. His take on contemporary competition between men and women was refreshing and offered not just global perspectives of gender equality but also echoed the ethos of 'Nari Shakti' so deeply revered across India.





Another major highlight was the meeting with the President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), Mr. Liberato Bautista, and Mr. Santosh Gupta where they were able to make great headway in creating an expanded, democratic, and representative environment for more Indian CSOs at the UN, New York. UN CoNGO established in 1948 as an independent consultative body to the United Nations ECOSOC, encourages NGOs around the world to cooperate with the United Nations to promote and support its work and to draw civil society into an enduring partnership with the world body. Close to 40 CoNGO Substantive Committees (called NGO Committees) related to CoNGO in New York, Geneva, Vienna and regions

worldwide demonstrate its commitment to supporting the mission of the United Nations, systemwide. CoNGO has a membership of diverse NGOs working in consultation with the United Nations and in collaboration with each other. At the meeting, Mr. Gupta presented a strong case for increased collaboration and cooperation between Indian CSOs and the global community through the process of opening memberships for more NGOs and civil organisations across the UN platforms like ECOSOC. Mr. Gupta hopes to work together with UN CoNGO to democratise, expand and strengthen the organisational community of India with UNCoNGO as equal partners and responsible representatives.



On the International Day of Forests, Mr. Ashish Mansharamani attended and participated in a special session at the UN General Assembly on the topic Climate Change and Displacement of Women affected by forest fires. He gave his suggestions at the august gathering of SDG experts attending the session there from all around the globe.



On the sidelines of CSW68 approximately 270 side events were organized by UN Member States, intergovernmental organizations and UN entities; and more than 760 parallel events were organized by civil society and youth-led organizations as part of the NGO CSW68 Forum. At the closing ceremony, the outcome document: Agreed Conclusions was presented, which recognizes that women and girls living in poverty become primary 'shock absorbers' in times of crisis thus further efforts are needed to increase resources to address women's and girls' poverty.





Looking ahead, ISRN remains steadfast in its pursuit of gender equality, guided by the conviction that the scale of our ambitions must match the urgency of our actions. With renewed vigor and fortified partnerships, ISRN marches forward, echoing the resounding call for equality—for every woman, in every corner of the globe. The scale of our ambitions must match the scale of our responsibility to achieve equality for every woman and girl, in all their diversity, not in 300 years, not in 100 years, not in 50 years, but urgently—now. In solidarity, ISRN stands ready to accelerate progress, strengthen partnerships, and usher in a future where gender equality is not just a distant dream but a tangible reality—a reality shaped by collective action, shared aspirations, and unwavering resolve.

In the states of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura, the Indian Social Responsibility Network is working with USAID on MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project, to amplify the immunization coverage and government's immunization drive in Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura. Despite prevalent misconceptions and myths, the team achieved significant outreach by **engaging 13,742 individuals** through various community mobilization and awareness initiatives, such as Community/Group meetings, house-to-house visits, IPC, Miking, to name a few. So far, the team has successfully administered over **1.75 lakh doses of the COVID-19 vaccines** to eligible beneficiaries. Additionally, they have supported 185 RI session sites in the month of March'24, administering **7,271** doses and ensuring that **163** children received full immunization.



Success Story: Community Health Outreach At Nongthymmai UPHC- A Successful Health Camp In Lumpyngngad

NONGTHYMMAI URBAN PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE (UPHC) is located within the urban landscape of Shillong, falling under the jurisdiction of Myllem Urban. During discussions between the project team and the Medical Officer overseeing the facility, the necessity for a health camp in an area central to the facility's coverage was emphasized. Consequently, Lumpyngngad was identified as the ideal location for conducting the health camp.



In the weeks leading up to the scheduled health camp, extensive mobilization efforts were undertaken by the community health volunteers. They reached out to the Rangba Shnong (headmen/secretaries) of various localities, briefing them about the upcoming event and enlisting their support in disseminating information. Additionally, a formal letter was dispatched to the headmen by the medical officer to ensure widespread awareness.

On March 9th, 2024, the health camp was successfully conducted, drawing a footfall of over 60 individuals from approximately four different areas. Attendees benefited from a range of health services including routine checkups and blood pressure monitoring. Additionally 15 beneficiaries received RI services and 11 beneficiaries received COVID-19 vaccination services.



Success Story : Celebrating The First Ever Women's Day At Dihoma Village

Dihoma village is located in Kezocha circle of Kohima district in Nagaland, India. It is situated 18 kms. away from Sub-district headquarter Kezocha and 39 kms. away from the district headquarter Kohima. It has a total population of 1550, out of which male population comprises of 764 while female population comprises of 786, with about 271 houses in the village. Kohima is the nearest town to Dihoma for all major economic activities. People in Dihoma village actively engage themselves in plantation activities and they are also popularly known for cultivating oranges in huge quantities.

'Sekrenyi' is the most common festival among the many festivals celebrated by them. It is observed for ten days starting from 25 February every year. The objective of the festival is to renew and make oneself holy by cleansing the body, the soul of the village as a whole and to bring forth unity among all the communities.



Celebration of Women's Day was never held although the village observed most of the imperative events. However, with the initiative of ISRN Project staff, the village authority welcomed the program and for the first time, International Women's Day was celebrated on 8th March 2024 at Conference Hall, Govt. High School, Dihoma village. 62 participants gathered for the program. Lots of enthusiastic presentations were done; the womenfolk were all dressed up in their traditional attire which added beauty on the auspicious occasion. The program was very successful.



In addition, the women present in the program also pledged to get their children vaccinated. A statement from Secretary, Women Society Mrs. Menuvov Tsukhru stated that “Celebrating Women’s Day on this day has open lots of doors and educated them on the importance of women, this is the first ever celebration of Women’s Day and we would take it forward to celebrate in the years ahead too”.



Success Story- Promoting Community Health: Awareness And Health Camp In Jirania Block Of Tripura

In Majlishpur Panchayat area under the administration of Majlishpur Gram Panchayat, Jirania Block, West Tripura District, the M-RITE project team has been actively engaged in activities aimed at benefiting the local populace. Recognizing the necessity for a health camp within the village and responding to demands for increased awareness on routine immunization, the ISRN team in collaboration with Majlishpur Health & Wellness Centre Hall organized a Community Awareness & Health Camp on March 16, 2024.

The event saw the participation of parents, local residents, and health workers from the concerned areas. The discussions revolved around community awareness regarding routine immunization, emphasizing the importance of seeking advice and services from specialist doctors.

Dr. Anita Debbarma, RI Nodal Officer at Jirania Hospital, elaborated on the responsibilities of parents and the community concerning routine immunization of children. Highlighting the significance of timely vaccinations, she elucidated how adherence to the immunization schedule could protect children against twelve diseases through seven vaccinations within the first five years of life.



Following the discussions, health workers conducted health check-ups for men, women, and children, providing necessary counselling services. A total of 65 individuals benefited from the services provided during the camp, with 14 children receiving vaccinations according to the predetermined routine immunization schedule.

The event sparked enthusiasm throughout the area, with parents applauding the project team's initiative and expressing their desire for continued efforts in the future. This successful endeavour underscores the commitment to promoting community health and ensuring the well-being of the residents in Majlishpur Panchayat.



Embarking on a journey of educational transformation, ISRN proudly presents the Uttam Schools Initiative, a beacon of progress lighting up the educational landscape. With a legacy of over 8 years, this flagship program has revitalized 53+ schools, touched the lives of 12,000+ students, and empowered 500+ teachers across Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. In a bold stride towards sustainability and innovation, ISRN, in collaboration with esteemed partners Rahee Cares Group, Luminous Group, and Care Today Fund, has extended its transformative reach to the serene landscapes of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Together, we've fortified the educational foundations of 9 schools, fostering a culture of excellence and growth. The enhancements made in the School's educational facilities signify a commitment to providing students with a conducive learning environment that fosters academic excellence and personal growth. By investing in modern resources such as computer laboratories, safe drinking water facilities, sanitary pad machines, and state-of-the-art science labs, the school aims to empower students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in an increasingly competitive world.

Installation of a Sanitary Pad Vending Machine and Incinerator



ISRN's latest initiative at the Shri Mithlesh Sanatan Dharm Inter College, Kankhal, Haridwar, and Divya Bhart Siksha Mandir Pauri, Gharwal, Uttarakhand was the installation of a Sanitary Pad Vending Machine and Incinerator for safe disposal as well as the provision of 3000 Sanitary Napkins for students to ensure hygienic facilities. Going further than simply providing infrastructural facilities in Uttam Schools, ISRN believes it to be a responsibility to ensure a safe, hygienic and conducive environment for female students to complete their higher education and attain all their academic goals. Their brighter future directly spells development and growth for our nation. Making every girl student a recipient of sanitary facilities, and ensuring their well-being and physical safety are mere steps to keep our promise of a robust India 2024!



Computer Laboratory Enhancement:



The educational institution identified a need for a computer laboratory to augment students' access to contemporary learning resources. The lab was outfitted with state-of-the-art computer systems and software, facilitating the acquisition of essential computer competencies and knowledge among students. This strategic initiative aims to enhance students' employability prospects by equipping them with the requisite skills to thrive in the dynamic landscape of the 21st-century workforce.

Improvement of Drinking Water Facilities:

Upon assessment, it was found that the school's drinking water platforms were in dilapidated conditions, compromising students' access to safe drinking water. To address this issue, safe drinking water stations were installed, ensuring that students have access to clean and safe drinking water throughout the day. This initiative contributes to creating a conducive learning environment where students feel comfortable, healthy, and motivated to learn.

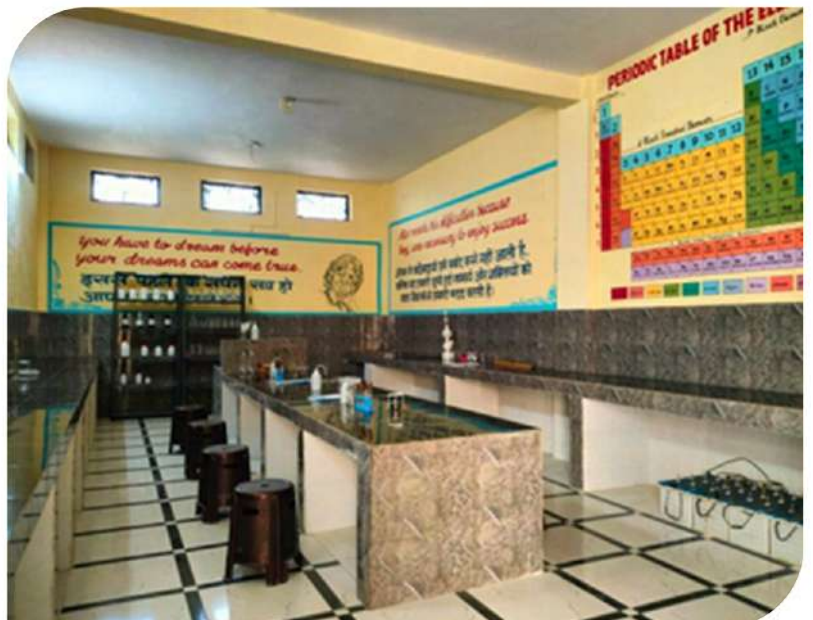


Establishment of a State-of-the-Art Science Laboratory:



Realizing the importance of practical training and scientific experimentation in fostering a deeper understanding of science subjects, a comprehensive science laboratory was established. The renovated science lab now features child-friendly interiors with modern amenities such as experiment platforms, water sinks, fixtures, electrical works, equipment, chemicals, and display racks for showcasing scientific projects. This initiative aims to not only improve students' understanding of scientific principles but also foster creativity, practical skills, and exploration of scientific interests.

As we reflect on our journey, we see more than just physical transformations. We see dreams taking flight, futures being shaped, and communities empowered. With every initiative, we reaffirm our commitment to excellence, propelling our students towards a limitless horizon of possibilities. We are striving to build a nation where every child's potential is nurtured, where education knows no bounds, and where the promise of tomorrow shines brighter than ever before. Together, let's create an India 2024, where every dream finds its wings.



Farmer Mobilization & expansion

ISRN has started an active mobilization and expansion of its FPO and farmer support network by inducting new farmers into its training and aid programs. From dedicated agrarian expert training sessions to ensuring access to targeted government grants and schemes, the FPOs promoted by ISRN are thriving as successful marketing and producer organisations.



ISRN Promoted FPOs at Trade Fair Mela

At a recent Trade Fair cum Mela organized jointly by the SFAC India, NABARD - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and Open Network For Digital Commerce (ONDC) at Dehradun, 3 FPOs promoted by ISRN and supported SFAC successfully participated and promoted their products! These 3 FPOs were, MileStone Bhumi Agro FPO Ltd, Sarahan Sirmour Krishak Utpadak Co. Ltd., and Shri Bhadraraj Sahaspur Farmer Producer Company Pvt Ltd.





At all the 35 ISRN-promoted FPOs, a comprehensive approach is taken to ensure that farmers achieve maximum efficiency in production and marketing; to attain maximum returns for their crops. Targeted exposure visits to such trade fairs aid in promoting organic, sustainable and ethical procurement of daily agrarian products for conscious consumers along with a wider market base for honest producers - creating an ecosystem of trust and sustainability.

Making of Holi colors



In anticipation of Holi, the vibrant festival of colors, the women of ISRN promoted FPO named Shri Mahasu Devta Farmer Producer Company Ltd.in Chakrata, Uttarakhand gathered together to prepare the hues that will adorn the festivities. With skilled hands and generations of knowledge passed down, they meticulously craft natural dyes from a myriad of sources, including flowers, turmeric, and leaves harvested from the surrounding forests. As they mix and blend, laughter and camaraderie fill the air, infusing each pigment with the spirit of unity and joy. This annual tradition not only celebrates the arrival of spring but also honors the rich cultural heritage and sustainable practices deeply rooted in the community

ISRN NGO CLINIC PODCAST

It's with immense pleasure that we bring you the third installment of the ISRN NGO Clinic Podcast series. As we embark on this journey once again, we can't help but reflect on the incredible experiences and inspiring conversations we've shared so far.

From exploring the vision of inclusivity with Nidhi Goyal to delving into the sparrow revival efforts with Jagat Kinkhabwala, each episode has been a testament to the power of collective action and unwavering dedication. The podcast has become a dynamic platform, shedding light on pressing crucial issues and celebrating the indomitable spirit of individuals effecting positive change. Through insightful conversations and ingenious solutions, we've echoed the pulse of progress, embodying the ethos of ISRN.

EPISODE 3: Rooted in Resilience- Peepal Baba's Journey into Greening India



In this latest episode, we continue our mission of amplifying voices and shining a light on impactful initiatives around the inspiring journey of Swami Prem Parivartan, also famously known as 'Peepal Baba', a true champion of tree conservation and environmental stewardship. Through captivating dialogue led by ISRN CEO, Mr. Santosh Gupta, we explore Peepal Baba's unwavering commitment to greening our planet and the profound impact of his work. From humble beginnings to monumental achievements, Peepal Baba's story is a testament to the power of resilience and collective action. Don't miss out on this enlightening conversation where we strive to catalyze societal development and echo the pulse of progress through our podcast. Watch the full episode [here!](#)

“Adenium plants & Purple Sunbirds – Curious Coexistence”



See how astonishingly Nature works in a sequential and disciplined way without hurting.

Amazing to see and enjoy the journeys of Adenium plant growing, flowering, seeds and selflessly sharing nectar, insects and the soft tissues with birds like Purple Sunbirds, Plain Prinia and more!

Similar ways other species of plants share pollen and nesting material with other species of birds which is common in nature.

Birds pluck and use tissues for making a soft finishing layer on the bed in the nest prior to laying eggs. This ritual is generally performed by females. Here the female collects and takes them to the nest to make the soft layer on the top. Mother happily performs her duty of laying the comfortable bed!

Plucking by Purple Sunbird is carried out in a tender and skilful way so that the plant does not harm or damage. This also helps plants to disperse the leftover seeds from the pod and help increase seed dispersal for germination, as if offering thanks by Purple Sunbird to the plant.

Mutual care for each other to increase the population of both, the Purple Sunbird and Adenium. Their lives coincides with meticulous and sequential timings of supporting new birth, nature has designed it that way.

Meaningful gardening, enjoying nature to see meticulously programmed designs, multiple processes and journey of life of plants and birds. Nature supports with elements like sun, wind, water its own role and facilitates survival of both plants and birds. Everyone would go on performing their own role dedicatedly given to them by ultimate nature.

Now await the chirping on arrival of new chicks. The population of Purple Sunbird will go up and make the surrounding more chirping with the songs. Nature will be richer with an increase in the number of both birds and flowers.

Whether one likes it or not but the predator birds depend on sunbirds too as their food and the food chain goes on. Nature is supreme!



All this behaviour depends on the timings and cohesive work of nature providing optimum temperature, energizing plants with sunlight; compost and water to enable the delivery of healthy flowers.

Healthy and bright colours, beautiful flowers attract the eyes of birds like Purple Sunbird with a designer beak which can reach inside the depth of the flower to eat both tiny insects and pollen. The beauty of the beak is that not all birds' beaks can reach inside.

Nature has designed the beak of birds to provide an exclusive food supply to maintain their life. The beak decides the type of food the bird can eat and that is how the cycle of nature is controlled and balances the population of all species of plants, birds, moths and insects and biodiversity in turn.

Their vibrant spring colours of all to gather, consisting of birds, plants, flowers and leaves make it a treat to watch!

Fortunate to enjoy the soulful journeys closely since years without fail in every season. Wait for the sequential journey and enjoy every stage soulfully. Nature gives many life lessons.

Moreover, the process will go on and on, year on year.

Rice-fish farming system in India is in urgent need of conservation and promotion

By Ashish Mansharamani - Associate Director

Rapid human population growth poses many challenges, especially food shortages, malnutrition, limited means of irrigation and shrinking land resources besides deteriorating environmental quality. Sustainable intensification of agricultural production systems is needed today to address the ever-increasing pressure on food and the environment.

Rice, an important food grain, roughly feeds 50 per cent of the world population. It has been identified as a major crop consuming vast chunks of available water resources while at the same time paddy fields emit large amount of the greenhouse gas, methane. Thus, solutions need to be sought to improve the management of rice production systems. Rice-fish farming constitutes a unique agro-landscape across the world, especially in tropical and sub-subtropical Asia.



It is no longer an agro-production practice but an agro-culture pattern. Co-culture of rice and aquatic creatures combining animal production (for example fish, shellfish, crab, shrimp and ducks) in paddy rice systems has been proposed as a technique to maximise the use of land and water resources to provide both grain and animal protein. Today, the impact of rice cultivation on the environment, including its effect on greenhouse gases (GHGs) emission, is a matter of concern for all of us. Global climate change is closely linked to agricultural production.

Two major GHGs from agricultural sectors are methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide. Methane emission depends on anaerobic degradation of organic complexes such as plant residues, organic matter and organic fertilisers under submerged conditions where there is a lack of oxygen. A total of 10-20 per cent of methane in the atmosphere comes from paddy fields. This is significant as the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of methane is 25 times more than that of carbon dioxide.

Research has shown that the rice-fish cultivation system is capable of lowering the emission of methane and other GHGs. Aquatic creatures especially bottom feeders (crabs and carps) disturb the soil layers by their movement or sometimes searching for food, and thus they influence the CH₄ production processes. Potentially, aquatic creatures increase diluted oxygen in field water and in soil, which shifts anaerobic digestion to aerobic digestion and helps to reduce CH₄ emissions. Recently, it has been estimated that methane emission from rice-fish cultivation system is 34.6 per cent less than that from a rice monoculture cultivation system.

The method of rice-fish is also beneficial to restore soil fertility and avoid soil degradation, which is a major global environmental issue. The rice-fish system requires only a small amount of pesticide and fertiliser as it is a low input system. The economic aspect of this system indicates that its adoption has led to an increase in economic efficiency of farmers. According to a report, in Bangladesh, the net income return from rice-fish culture was over 50 per cent greater than that from rice monoculture.

This method ties the aquaculture industry to the agricultural industry in a social way, which is not possible in the case of monoculture. A co-culture program provides a platform for farmers to find new ideas and share their knowledge and experience to develop the farming and aquaculture industries. With these benefits, farmers are willing to adopt the technology of co-culture as it improves their economic status and is encouraged to increase contacts among various stakeholders that provide or share useful skills and technical knowledge.

In India, agriculture is the lifeline of the Indian economy and contributes nearly one-fourth of total gross domestic product and sustains two-thirds of the population. This method of Rice-fish co-culture would definitely enhance farm production, reduce environmental degradation and improve the quality of life of farmers.

The total area of land available for rice cultivation in India is 43.5 million hectares (ha), out of which, an estimated 20 million ha is suitable for adoption of the rice-fish integration system mainly in rain-fed medium lands, waterlogged lands etc. However, only 0.23 million ha is currently under rice-fish culture. This low degree of adoption, exploitation and yield is primarily due to the introduction of high yielding rice varieties involving the use of pesticides that has really impeded the culture of rice-fish farming.

Rice yield is higher from co-culture system than monoculture, various studies have shown. Thus, achieving higher productivity from this underutilised high potential area is an immediate need.



The method of raising fish from the rice fields probably began with the beginning of rice cultivation itself in the North East, because the waterlogged rice fields create a natural habitat for fish. It is assumed that it was only the basic capture tool that emerged first.

Rice-fish farming in the region has an excellent future. Studies in Assam have shown that rice-fish cultivation is a viable, environmentally friendly, low-cost, low-risk additional economic activity with multiple benefits including increased income and increased fish availability for the rural farming community. The North East region of India is recognised as the most suitable zone for organic farming due to its negligible usage of chemical fertilisers, pesticides, and other chemicals. This present scenario presents an excellent opportunity to utilise vast tracts of rice fields to culture a variety of fishes to augment fish production in the region.

Rice-fish system in India is in urgent need of conservation and promotion. A full recognition of its multi-ecological functions must be achieved, such as its role in preserving biodiversity, protecting food security, enriching the soil and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. In light of the present situation of rice-fish farming in India, basic research on the rice-fish ecosystem should be emphasised, including research on basic techniques of rice-fish farming and technology required for engineering intervention. The policymakers should consider the problems of initial investment for poor rural communities and compensate them with farmer-friendly policies, easy loan schemes etc.

India's rich traditional primitive farming is as old as this dual-farming culture and fish and rice both are the staple food of India. As the above discussions clearly suggest, the agri-aqua co-culture system will be very helpful for the farming community and also safe for the environment. So with the next sowing season within sight, it's high time that the Indian central and state governments recognise the importance of this system. Along with reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, co-culture systems have beneficial effects on farm income and improving the livelihood of poor rural people and progressive farmers. Further development in this method in the agricultural sector is potentially profitable and environment-friendly.

ISRN believes that having a right to live in equality is something each human deserves and with support from people like you, we are transforming the lives of thousands of fellow citizens. We have held workshops and training sessions for more than 800 member organisations, fostering a symbolic growth system

We genuinely appreciate all of your help, love, and support for ISRN.

We humbly ask that you continue to provide us with support, advice, and invaluable assistance that will enable us to ensure that each and everyone is empowered to grow and flourish in their own unique way.

Please scan the QR code to donate towards these causes, as your small contribution will help maintain smiles on million faces.



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Contact no.: 011-4347 4545, +91-99991 09271
Email: info@isrn.in

**Address: A-85, Ground Floor, East of Kailash, New Delhi -
110065**