

**TOUR NOTE OF SHRI RAM MUIVAH, IAS, SECRETARY, NEC &  
CHAIRMAN, NERLP TO SIKKIM w.e.f. 15<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2018.**

**15<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

Arrived at Darap village in West Sikkim on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at 10.30 PM as the flight Spice Jet from Guwahati to Pakyong was cancelled at the last moment and alternative flight was taken from Guwahati to Bagdogra. From Bagdogra to West Sikkim, travelled by surface and halted at the Daragaon Homestay for the night. It is run by a NERLP SHG Member Smt. Radha Devi Gurung.

**16<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

**1.0** The following day started with a briefing by Mrs. Chungchungla Bhutia, District Project Manager, NERLP, West Sikkim. The undersigned was accompanied by NERLP officials Messrs H. K. Hajong, Project Director, Paul Lokho, COO, Sisir Kumar Swain, PM (Admin), NERLP, L. Peter, PM (SG&CM), Subhram Goswami, APM (L&RM) and Ms. Roushon Rehmand, PM (Finance), NERLP and the State government officials of Sikkim Mr. D.T. Bhutia, State Coordinator, Ms. Chungchungla Bhutia, DPM, West Sikkim and DPMU staff in West Sikkim. The team went on a morning nature walk through the village to large cardamom fields to observe the harvesting and drying techniques of large cardamom capsules. Plantations of large cardamoms were seen along the way where the team discussed the variety, production and transplantations of large cardamom. The team participated in harvesting of large cardamom spikes and sorted the capsules from the spikes. Following that, the team observed the drying process in a traditional dryer (*bhatti*) and discussed the merits and demerits of modern *bhatti* over a traditional one. Returning from the fields, the team visited another homestay, Sukhim homestay which is also run by a SHG member and the indigenous items on display in the common room of the homestay.

**2.0** An interactive session was held with the SHGF members wherein the SHG members shared their experiences. Mrs. Sancha Maya Limboo, Member of Mangsewa SHG expressed her gratitude towards NERLP for uplifting the women from Darap





village. She made a comparison between the lives and experiences the women had before and after they joined SHGs. The women in the village were hesitant to come out of their homes before NERLP entered the village. They were not very keen to join SHGs because they were unsure of how it would help them. However, after SHG formations, they held regular meeting during which time, they did not just discuss money matters but social issues and how to overcome them. They started coming out to social programmes in dances, meetings like Gram Sabha and organized various programmes themselves. Social issues like domestic violence and alcoholism are addressed now by SHGs. Sancha Maya Limboo was very proud when she said, *"Earlier I had to rely totally on my husband even for one rupee. Now I have started my own business with help from SHG loans. My husband asks for financial help to me now and discusses monetary matters with me. That never used to happen earlier"*. Radha Gurung, member of Bhawani SHG and also the owner of Daragaon homestay requested for exposure trips for women entrepreneurs to other states to learn more about business around homestay development. PD, NERLP may take appropriate action.

**- Action : PD, NERLP**

**3.0** Visited an organic farm at Upper Bhaluthang village. An interactive session with Federation members from Gyalshing and Kaluk Block took place in the Federation office. Mrs. Dipti Gurung, member of Gyalshing Omchung Federation wanted to tell her story. She was a housewife who used to finish her household chores and watch TV series all day long. She had nothing to do as doing anything would require money. Her husband was the sole bread earner of the house and it was difficult to get by. After she joined her SHG, she started having money in her hands and she started with little. She had never stepped into a bank in her life and was very apprehensive at first but now she tells, the bank staffs recognizes her after so many visits now. She can do all the bank proceeding herself and also maintains the SHG and Federation books of records which are quite extensive. She have become a good manager of money and handles the household expenditure herself now. She started her business with SHG loans and now can afford good education for her children, help her husband with money and expand her business. Furthermore, she tells that she has started growing vegetables in





their land and she feels very happy when she sees that not even a single patch of her land is empty now. Another Federation member from Yargey SHG Federation of Kaluk Block, Mrs. Zangmo Bhutia shared her experience of being a member of an SHG to their federation becoming the proud owner of a goods carrier vehicle. They now supply vegetables to Gangtok market where they have established a vegetable outlet. **She also requested for a cold storage unit to store vegetables to increase the shelf life and reduce losses. Mrs. Chungchungla Bhutia, DPM also mentioned urgent requirement of a refrigerated van for transport of vegetable products of SHGs to Gangtok market.** The request for cold storage or Pack House and a refrigerated van was found reasonable. PD, NERLP may take appropriate action for issue of a Pack House and a refrigerated van to all NERLP districts where good quantity of vegetables are produced.

**- Action : PD, NERLP**

**4.0 The SHG members also jointly requested for extension of NERLP expressing the need for recently formed Producer Groups and Producer Organizations as they need lot of technical support as value chain and market linkages for enhancement of livelihood activities, and for commercial market.**

**- Action : PD, NERLP**

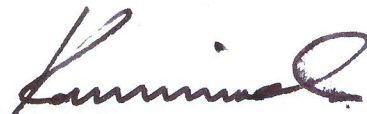
**5.0** In the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 visited NERLP in South District and had interaction with the members of the SHG progressive Sikkim Pragatishil Nari (SPN) cooperative society at Namchi. The newly registered (SPN) Society was doing an impressive job of producing processed turmeric powder, soap, pickles etc. with the brand name "Ramroo". SPN members made excellent PPT presentation. The self-confidence of the SHG Members deeply impressed the officials present. The success stories of the SHG of Sikkim was widely appreciated. In course of interaction with SHG members it was emerged that they badly needed an outlet for their produce at Siliguri town. The request was found reasonable. PD NERLP may take appropriate action.

**- Action : PD, NERLP**



**Rural Market Shed:** The team also inspected the newly constructed rural marketing sheds at Jaubari under Namchi Block, South Sikkim and the office building of SPN at Nandu Gaon, Jorethang Block. The members of SHG requested wire netting and shutter for the newly constructed rural marketing sheds. This may be considered by NERLP.

- Action : PD, NERLP



[ Ram Muivah ] IAS  
Secretary, NEC  
& Chairman, NERLP  
22.11.2018

No. NEC/SEC/TP/1/2016

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018

Copy for information / necessary action to:

1. OSD to Hon'ble MoS (i/c) MDoNER and Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NEC.
2. Secretary, MDoNER, Govt. of India, New Delhi
3. Project Director, NELP
4. NIC for uploading in the NEC website.









Rural Marketing Shed at Jaubari under Namchi Block, South Sikkim constructed by SHGs of NERLP.

